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For Media Inquiries, Please Contact
Michael Eichler 619-282-8856, eichlerplays@gmail.com

Meet Me in the Dark World Premiere Debuts in Portland
Salt and Sage Productions opens show at Shoebox Theatre March 2

PORTLAND, ORE – Friendship, betrayal and poverty are revealed with a little bit of pop music in *Meet me in the Dark*, the newest work from playwright Michael Eichler. Salt and Sage Productions launch the world premiere March 2-19 at the Shoebox Theater. Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest serves as production partner for the show. Tickets are \$18, available at <https://www.artful.ly/salt-and-sage-productions>.

Andi flourishes at high school while Eleanor yearns to escape. Their mothers, Brooke and Joan struggle with single parenting and securing sufficient employment. The girls are set together on a collision course when a chance encounter between the struggling mothers inspire them to devise a plan wherein Brooke financially profits for having Andi boost Eleanor’s wavering confidence. The scheme goes awry as Andi and Eleanor’s friendship deepens and develops into a mutual attraction.

Eichler approached Salt and Sage Productions about producing the play due to the company’s focus on female-centric shows and Portland’s welcoming atmosphere toward new work. The San Diego-based playwright has a strong background in community organizing and was able to contribute to the production process.

“Michael’s voice is unique and very sophisticated for a beginning dramatist,” said Director Asae Dean. “I love the audacity of what he is playing with in *Meet Me in the Dark*: grounding a story in two parent child relationships to work through broader observations of how income inequality plays out on the ground.”

In an effort to discuss theatre in the broader media landscape and the basics of how theatre is made, Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest arranged a talk-back for girls in the program along with cast and production staff. Eichler arranged the local partnership.

Dean selected three new performers and one she had an established strong relationships with for this world premiere. Melanie Moseley (Joan) was in Dean’s production of *How I Learned to Drive* and *Twelve Dates of Christmas*. Nora Pearson who plays Eleanor, the show’s protagonist, is herself a senior in high school. Kiah Hart who plays Andi is a newcomer to the Portland theater scene while Melissa Whitney (Brooke) will be familiar to anyone who frequents the Shoebox as she was a core member of Northwest Classical.

“It feels right that the actresses playing the daughters are new and that the moms are familiar faces,” said Dean. “It mirrors how age operates in the world with parents having the benefit and burden of history. With these ladies it is all benefit, though, both radiate kindness. These moms make some major mistakes however those mistakes come from wanting a better life for their daughters and the audience will be able to see that easily, it’s choices and circumstances not character driving their problematic decisions.”

The Shoebox Theater is at 2110 SE 10th Ave., Portland, OR, 97214

Production Dates March 2-19, Thurs-Sat 7:30 pm, Sundays 2 pm

Opening Night Sat. March 2, 7:30 pm

Cast Joan - Melanie Moseley, Brooke- Melissa Whitney, Andi - Kiah Hart, Eleanor - Nora Pearson

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