

WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS SERIES 2013

Being Illya Kuryakin by Mary Ethel Schmidt

Wednesday, April 10 at 7:30 PM

A cast of eccentric and hilarious characters from Mary's past fifty years help her step into her future.

About the playwright:



Mary Ethel Schmidt received her MFA from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, where she was the recipient of the Levin Scholarship for three years. In New York City she studied at the Classic Stage Company, was a founding member of the Metropolitan Playhouse and worked at the Director's Company, where she received a Revson Fellowship to study directing and then continued on as Associate Artistic Director. While in New York, Schmidt was member of the Associate Faculty at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, where she taught acting and directed over 50 productions. She has acted in and directed numerous productions in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, including several projects with the Centenary Stage Company. An accomplished playwright, her plays have been performed in New York City, Seattle, and Kansas City. Internationally she has studied at the National theatre, directed the Swedish Premiere of Nicky Silver's *Raised in Captivity* and performed *The Belle of Amherst* and *Wenceslas Square* in Vilnius, Lithuania. She is a member of Actors Equity Association and The Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers.

Can't Complain by Christine Evans

Wednesday, April 17 at 7:30 PM

Rita plots her escape from the hospital with the help of her elderly Irish roommate Iris, her granddaughter Jansis, and her cat's new best friend, the Devil.

About the playwright:



Christine Evans' plays have been produced and awarded in Australia, the US and the UK. Selected production highlights include *Trojan Barbie* at the ART, the Garage Theater, Playbox Theatre (UK) and Charing Cross Theatre (UK); *Weightless*, *Mothergun* and *All Souls' Day* at Perishable Theatre; *Slow Falling Bird* at Crowded Fire, and in Australia, *My Vicious Angel* at Belvoir St. Theatre, Vitalstatistix, and the Adelaide International Festival of the Arts. Her plays are published by Samuel French (*Trojan Barbie*) Smith and Kraus (*Best Monologues*, 2010) and Theater Forum. NoPassport publishes her anthology, *War Plays*, in 2013.

Honors include a Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center Award, a Fulbright Award, Perishable's International Women's Playwriting Competition, the Jane Chambers Playwriting Award, Plays for the 21st Century Award, the Rella Lossy Playwright Award and the 2009 and 2013 Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA) Playwriting Fellowship. Evans is a Resident Artist at HERE (NY) and a Core Member of the Playwrights' Center. She holds an M.F.A. and Ph.D. from Brown and joined the Georgetown Department of Performing Arts faculty in 2012. Her newest piece, *You Are Dead. You Are Here.* received an Australia Council on the Arts New Work award and will premiere at HERE in June, 2013. <http://www.christine-evans-playwright.com>

The Bigsley Project by Catherine Castellani

Wednesday, April 24 at 7:30 PM

A comic romp through a company's struggle to stay alive in an exec-eat-exec world.

About the playwright:



Catherine Castellani is a playwright and worker bee who writes comedies about work, love, work, ambition, work, and the terrors of spelling in the English language. She is an active member of Abingdon Theatre Company's playwrights group, and the Dramatists Guild. When she can spare time from work, she works at wonderful places like the MacDowell Colony and the Ucross Foundation. Her short work includes *Teammies* (aWe Creative PlayFun 2012), *The Thirteenth Floor* (aWe Creative PlayFun 2012), *Mercurial* (staged reading to benefit Abingdon Theatre Company, 2010); the Heidman finalists *WORK* (Actors Theatre o Louisville The Tens Apprentice Festival 2006, City Shorts at Miami's City Theatre 2006, and the Obsessions and Compulsions Festival, Chicago 2007), *Gestation*, and *Organization Man*. Full-lengths include *Profit* (Eclectic Theatre Company, Los Angeles, 1999), *Ashira 69: Superheroines Collide* (House of Candles, New York, 1997; LaTea, New York, 1998; *Sacred Fools' Crime Scene Series*, Los Angeles, 1998-1999), and *The Overheard Music* (benefit reading for National Audio Theatre Festival, New York, 2002). She also writes for radio (*Marlboro Angel*, KOPN 1995 and *Rain* WBGO 2000) and Theatre for Young Audiences (*There Is No E in Ski* and *The Silent Ones*, Turtle Shell Productions 8-Minute Madness Festival, New York, 2011), and a monologue from *The PermianExtinction* in the upcoming Applause publication "Monologues for Kids." Catherine is a member of The Dramatists Guild and is represented by Anne Reingold, The Marton Agency.