

Becoming

Dr. Ruth

an unexpected journey



by Mark St. Germain

Directed by Ken Butler

Starring
Alice Springer as Dr. Ruth



Black Box Theatre

377 North Main Street
Mansfield, MA 02048

508-339-2822

MMAS.ORG

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"A lesson taught with humor is a lesson retained."

- Ruth K. Westheimer

It is such a great joy to bring this production back to the MMAS Stage with Alice Springer as Dr. Ruth. I first heard of this play from Alice back in the summer of 2013, and it was very difficult to get permissions to produce the play because the rights were not publicly available.

In our search for permission, we stumbled upon a connection to Dr. Ruth's personal assistant and began a dialogue about the play and our desire to present it. Then in the fall of 2015, the rights became available, we applied and the show was scheduled for March of 2016 here at the Black Box Theater. We reached back to Dr. Ruth's assistant in hope that we might be able to talk with or meet her as part of our preparation for the show. It was a long shot, a month went by and then an email came stating that Dr. Ruth would love to meet us for lunch at the iconic Sardis restaurant in New York City. I forwarded the email to Alice and her first reaction was that this must be some elaborate hoax I was playing on her. I chuckled assuring her it was real and in fact at that very moment I was online checking out hotels in Times Square.

Meeting Dr. Ruth was such an amazing experience. She was generous with her time and shared many personal stories and back stories that would surely help Alice capture her essence for our up-coming production. I hope you enjoy the show as much as we do. The life story of Dr Ruth is truly inspirational.

Enjoy life, be thankful, and always be ready to say Yes to the possible.

KEN BUTLER, Director
Becoming Dr. Ruth



presents

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an unexpected journey

Written by
Mark St. Germain

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Ken Butler



Becoming Dr. Ruth is presented as published with special arrangement with Dramatists Play Services Inc., New York.

World Premiere, June 30, 2013 at Barrington Stage Company, Pittsfield MA
Julianne Boyd (Artistic Director); Tristan Wilson (Managing Director)

Originally produced Off-Broadway by Michael Alden, Stefany Bergson,
Rodger Hess, Jamie deRoy, Pat Flicker Addiss, Beam Reach
Entertainment/Elyse Mirto, LFI Group.

Associate Producers: Matt Jared, Lawrence D Poster/Merrill A. Stone

Original projections design by Brian Prather and Daniel Brodie

The Mass Music & Arts Society (MMAS)
is supported in part by grants from



UP NEXT AT



Black Box Theatre

A Broadway Christmas



Stage Direction by Jennifer Mischley

Music Direction by Kevin Mischley

Come revisit an MMAS favorite: our musical revue of holiday film classics and Broadway shows. We're bringing back your favorite selections from past productions. It's a rumpus holiday party that is fun for the whole family.

December 11 at 8 PM

December 12 at 2 PM

LIVE STREAMED PERFORMANCES

Tickets at <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/mmas>

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer *Alice Springer*

SETTING:

All action takes place in Dr. Ruth's apartment in Washington Heights, New York

TIME:

June 9th 1997

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Black Box Theatre
Season Event

A Ghost Story of Christmas



based on
A Christmas Carol
by Charles Dickens

Starring Gary Poholek

In this 20th Anniversary special event, Gary Poholek narrates, performs and not only brings to life the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future, but the spirit of Charles Dickens himself.

December 18 & 19 at 8 PM
December 20 at 2 PM

LIVE STREAMED PERFORMANCES

Tickets at <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/mmas>

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Artistic DirectorDori Bryan-Ployer

DirectorKen Butler
Sound Design.....Bruce Webster
Lighting DesignKen Butler
CameramanSteve Ide
PostproductionSteve Ide
Publicity & Marketing.....Ken Butler
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Cast and Crew



Alice Springer (Dr. Ruth) — Alice Springer is excited to reprise her role as Dr. Ruth at the new MMAS theatre. Alice has performed at MMAS many times as well as at many other New England theatre groups. Some of her favorite roles are Doris in *Cemetery Club*; Sister Robert Anne in *Nunsense*; Momma in *Bye Bye Birdie*; Attorney Cunningham in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*; Bea in *Food Chain*; Miss Hannigan in *Annie*; Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*; Grandma Kurnitz in *Lost in Yonkers*; and Commissioner Doyle in *Annie Warbucks*, for which she won an EMACT DASH award for Best Actress. Alice taught English in Brockton for many years and directed their Drama Club. She has taught Theatre classes at MMAS for children and adults. Until the pandemic, she was working in an aftercare program in Sharon, where she lives. Alice can also be seen collaborating and turning pages at the piano for her musician-author husband Mel and walking their two rescue dogs.



Ken Butler (Director) — Ken Butler is the founder and Executive Director of MMAS. A graduate of Franklin Pierce University, Ken has performed off-Broadway in New York City and as a screen actor and has been a regular anthem singer for the Boston Red Sox. His favorite stage roles include Don Quixote in *Man Of La Mancha*, Tony in *West Side Story*, McMurphy in *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*. Since founding MMAS Ken has worked on-stage and off, as director, set builder, set painter, lighting designer and technical director - as he puts it - he is the chief cook and bottle washer doing what ever it takes for the show to go on.



Dr. Ruth Westheimer — Dr. Ruth pioneered speaking frankly about sexual matters on the radio with her program, *Sexually Speaking*. It began in September of 1980 as a fifteen minute, taped show that aired Sundays after midnight on WYNY-FM (NBC) in New

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On



Cast and Crew

York. One year later it became a live, two-hour show airing at 10 PM on Sundays, on which Dr. Ruth, as she became known, answered call-in questions from listeners. This wildly successful show aired for more than 10 years. Soon it became part of a communications network to distribute Dr. Westheimer's expertise which has included television, books, newspapers, games and home videos.



Mark St. Germain (Playwright) - Mark St. Germain has written the plays *Freud's Last Session* and *Camping with Henry and Tom* (Outer Critics Circle and Lucille Lortel awards), *Out of Gas on Lover's Leap* and *Forgiving Typhoid Mary* (Time Magazine "Year's Ten Best"), all published by Samuel French and Dramatists Play Service. With Randy Courts, he has written the musicals *The Gifts of the Magi*, *Johnny Pye* and *the Foolkiller* (winner of an AT&T "New Plays for the Nineties Award") and *Jack's Holiday* at Playwrights Horizons. Mark's musical *Stand By Your Man*, *The Tammy Wynette Story* was created for Nashville's Ryman Theatre. He was Writer and Creative Consultant for *The Cosby Show* and co-wrote the screenplay for Carroll Ballard's Warner Brothers film *Duma*. Mark directed and co-produced the documentary *My Dog, An Un-conditional Love Story* featuring Richard Gere, Glenn Close, Lasse Hallstrom, Isaac Mizrahi, Edward Albee and many others.



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2020-2021 MMAS Season Contributions

During this unprecedented time, The Mass Music and Arts Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the individuals, foundations, corporations, and institutions whose gifts help strengthen the Society's activities each year. MMAS would greatly appreciate your support to keep our community strong and help us mitigate expenses created by these current circumstances. Thank you in advance. We all will get through this and we hope to see you in the Black Box soon.

Our Annual Campaign supports our season & programs.

All donations to our annual campaign are tax-deductible.

Please consider a donation to support our programming!

MMAS is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization.



About the Mass Music and Arts Society

A quarter century ago, eight friends formed a non-profit (501 (c)(3)) organization to support the arts and artists. Today, their brainstorm has grown into a thriving arts organization – the Mass Music & Arts Society, Black Box Theater & Morini Gallery (MMAS) – recognized throughout Southeastern Massachusetts.

With an annual operating budget of just over \$500,000, MMAS attracts about 10,000 audience members, patrons and performers from New Hampshire to Rhode Island and Cape Cod. Audiences come to MMAS because they know they will see exceptional productions in the intimate 76-seat Black Box Theater for a fraction of the cost of a ticket in Boston or Providence. MMAS is also home to the Morini Art Gallery which offers exhibitions of works by local and regional artists. The recent addition of the MMAS Arts Academy motivates learners ages 4+, of all abilities, interests, and incomes to participate in our comprehensive performing arts programs and experience the transformative life skills that creative engagement inspires.

The Mansfield Music & Arts Society recently signed an agreement to own 888 South Main St. across from the Xfinity Center. A 250-seat theater and art gallery on three acres on the Norton Reservoir is the vision of the new Arts Center at Great Woods. The nonprofit arts organization plans to renovate and expand the site to continue offering its theatrical productions, exhibits, arts classes and musical performances.

MMAS is a volunteer organization; our actors, and technicians are all volunteers; as is everyone who works the ticket office and concession area for every performance. Each year, volunteers give almost 30,000 hours to MMAS.



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The MMAS Academy



OUR MISSION: Changing lives through the arts, one student at a time.

The MMAS Academy is extremely proud of their dedicated and talented faculty. Our diverse teachers are committed to lifelong learning while bringing a wealth of skill, experience, passion, and joy to their students and classrooms.

Imagine life **without** the *Arts*

Neither can we.



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