

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADD'L INFO: <http://www.shadylaneproductions.org/SICK>

TICKETS: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/164372>

New play chronicles Seattle actress's odyssey through medical industrial complex

Sick tells the true story of veteran local performer Elizabeth Kenny's journey to the psych ward and back

Sick, written and performed by Elizabeth Kenny

Collaboratively created with John Kazanjian

Directed by John Kazanjian

Produced by Shady Lane Productions at New City Theater

April 8 – 30, 2011, Thursday – Saturday, 8 PM

Press Night: Friday, April 8 at 8 PM

(Press tickets also available Saturday, April 9 at 8 PM)

(Seattle) – Elizabeth Kenny was a healthy thirty-two year-old woman who went to the doctor for a common ailment. A year and a half later, she was being escorted by hospital orderlies to a coffee shop along with the rest of the level 5 patients from the psych ward.

Sick, a new performance written and performed by Seattle monologist Elizabeth Kenny, and collaboratively created with New City Theater Artistic Director John Kazanjian, explores a patient's two-year odyssey inside the most advanced healthcare system in the world—an odyssey that almost killed her. It investigates how treatment by well-meaning, sophisticated practitioners for a common gynecological issue plunged her into a downward spiral through the complex medical and mental health establishments. It examines the ways that the intricate threads woven between healthcare providers, pharmaceutical makers, insurance companies, and medical educators unknowingly conspire to undermine patient care. **This is the story of everyone trying hard to get it right...but getting it wrong anyway.**

Without sentimentality or polemics, *Sick* chronicles Kenny's heroic struggle to pull herself back from a precipice, and bravely exposes the forces that conspired to push her there.

Elizabeth Kenny is well known to Seattle theatre audiences, having performed at New City Theater, Seattle Rep, The Empty Space Theatre, and ACT Theatre, amongst numerous others. In 2004, Elizabeth received a Seattle Times Footlight Award for her "quietly electrifying" performance in New City Theater's production of Neil Labute's *Bash* under the direction of John Kazanjian. **When she presented the story of *Sick* to the students and doctors at Harvard Medical School, they lauded it as "one of the most informative and affecting Grand Rounds" they'd ever experienced.** *Seattle Weekly* called a workshop production of *Sick* "harrowing, fearless, and oddly fun."

Much more than just a personal tale, *Sick* challenges theatrical convention. Inspired by chance

operation—a poetic technique of generating text independent of the author’s will—Kenny and Kazanjian have devised a method that deconstructs and randomizes the story. Kenny will be joined onstage by Tina Kunz Rowley, who will act as a sort of accompanist, guiding Elizabeth—and the audience—through a fractured version of her tale that perfectly mirrors Elizabeth’s own experience of disconnection and displacement.

Tickets for *Sick*: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/164372>

\$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, group discounts available

Pay-What-You-Can performance: Monday, April 11 at 8:00 PM

Press Night: Friday, April 8 at 8:00 PM

Press seats also available Saturday, April 9 at 8:00 PM

NEW CITY THEATER

1404 18th Ave

Seattle, WA 98122

Sick is produced by Shady Lane Productions as part of New City Theater’s Resident Artist program.
The development of *Sick* was supported by a City Artist grant from the Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs.

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