



NEWS RELEASE

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'Night, Mother Performance Focuses on Women and Work

Loyola University Production to Benefit Caroline Center

The Spotlight Players at Loyola University Maryland will present a benefit performance for Caroline Center of Marsha Norman's award-winning play, *'Night, Mother* on January 17 – 19, 2014.

Friday night's performance at 7 p.m. will be followed by a guided discussion by Loyola faculty and Caroline Center staff on the play's themes and their relevance to contemporary issues surrounding women and work; and, several poems from Caroline Center's new publication, *What It Takes*, will be presented for the first time. *'Night, Mother* also will be performed on Saturday, January 18, at 2 p.m. and on Sunday, January 19, at 5 p. m.

All performances will be held in the Blackbox Theater at the university. A \$10 donation is requested. Tickets may be purchased at the Loyola Box Office and through Ticketmaster.

'Night, Mother is a powerful and thought-provoking drama that takes place all in an evening where Jessie (Jessie Cates) announces to her mother (Thelma "Mama" Cates) that she will be dead by morning because she plans to take her life before the sun is up. Jessie who is divorced and concerned about past bouts of epilepsy, finds herself increasingly alienated from family, friends, meaningful work, and

life. Her mother, a simple country woman who often does not see the world as it is, has hopes that Jessie will come out of her depression because she has come to rely upon her since the death of her husband to take care of all her needs. As the play moves steadily toward its disturbing, but inevitable, conclusion, the scenes shed light on the nature of happiness and unhappiness and the complex factors that contribute to leading a meaningful life.

In 1983, *Night, Mother* was the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. On Broadway, *Night, Mother* was nominated for 4 Tony Awards, including the award for Best Play, Best Actress in a Play, and Best Director. The 1986 film version of *Night, Mother* starred Sissy Spacek as “Jessie” and Anne Bancroft as “Mama,” for which Ms. Bancroft received a Golden Globe nomination.

Caroline Center educates unemployed and underemployed women in Baltimore for careers with potential for advancement. Inspired by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Caroline Center’s holistic approach empowers each woman to reach the fullness of her potential thus creating a future of hope for herself and her family.

Loyola University Maryland is a Jesuit, Catholic university committed to the educational and spiritual traditions of the Society of Jesus and the development of the whole person. Accordingly, the University inspires students to learn, lead, and serve in a diverse and changing world.

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