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T@F is Somerville's largest community theatre and part of the Massachusetts Community Theatre Corporation, a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation.

Our mission is to work together to provide a fun, friendly, and creative theater experience for cast, crew, and audience alike. We welcome volunteers at all levels of experience, without regard to race, color, religion, ethnicity, ancestry, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, national origin, body type, age, or disability. We encourage a supportive environment in which to work, play, grow, and explore new areas of the theatre arts. We offer affordable and eclectic performances to the community, aiming to surprise, delight, entertain, and educate our audiences.

As an all-volunteer organization, we depend on our audience for support. Please consider becoming a subscriber to T@F and supporting our work as a contributor.

SUBSCRIBER—For just \$50 you get free admission to all T@F shows for a full year.

CONTRIBUTOR—Support T@F with a tax-deductible donation that you can claim on your tax return.

Please see one of our staff to contribute today, or visit our website:

www.theatreatfirst.org

Thanks for supporting Theatre@First and the arts in Somerville!

BARE STAGE
BARE SOULS
BARE WORKS
BARE WORDS
BARE BONES
STAGED READINGS AT THEATRE@FIRST

The Housekeeper

written by Ginger Lazarus
directed by Elizabeth Hunter

Thursday, December 8th - Unity Somerville

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Betty Walker and Unity Church for sharing their space with us.
Our amazing team of house volunteers.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Who does the work in your family? While the balance is shifting somewhat, the answer in most heterosexual households is “the woman”. Women do the majority of cooking, cleaning, organization, scheduling, and parenting. Beyond all of that, we are slowly coming to recognize a separate category of household work: emotional labor.

Ginger Lazarus' beautiful script takes the well-worn trope of the Magical Housekeeper and not only uses it to explore the hidden complexity and often unrecognized value of this work, but then turns the trope on its head, shifting the housekeeper from a prop in the family's story to the central figure of this drama. Adelina is not merely facilitating the Freys' grief, but working through the challenges of her own life in the process.

It has been a privilege to work with Ginger and to have the chance to dig deeply into her finely constructed work. I am excited to welcome you into the Freys' household—it's ok if you bring your own ghosts.

Elizabeth Hunter

December 2016

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Restrooms are located on the entry level.

Please join us for a talkback session following the performance.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Sara Fernandez Burd (*Adelina*) has enjoyed getting to know Adelina and is sure she has a lot more to teach her beyond tonight's show. So much love and gratitude T@F for the beautiful opportunity, to family for their love and to everyone for their presence tonight!

Leslie Drescher (*Carson*) is excited to be back on stage, performing in such a lovely, touching play. She performed most recently with T@F as the concept *Revenge in The Spanish Tragedy* and as Gwendolen in last year's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She is also a part of the very addictive *Penumbra* Podcast. Leslie looks forward to appearing in our next mainstage production, *Tartuffe*, in February 2017.

Rebecca Greene (*Kaila*) is overjoyed to be working with T@F again! She has appeared previously as Myrrha in *Metamorphoses*, the General in *The Spanish Tragedy*, and most recently as Maria in *Love's Labour's Lost (in Space)*. Thanks to everyone involved in this production!

Elizabeth Hunter (*Director*) is the founding Artistic Director of T@F. She has previously directed thirteen mainstage shows, as well as *Clubfoot*, or *Tales from the Back of an Ambulance* for Bare Bones in 2011. Elizabeth's next directing project will be *The Magic Fire* in November 2017.

Ginger Lazarus (*Playwright*) is a Boston-based playwright and screenwriter. Her play *Burning* was produced in New York by Resonance Ensemble and received the 2013 Boston My Theatre Award for Best New Work for the Boston Playwrights' Theatre production. Other productions include *The Housekeeper*, *The Embryos* (Fresh Ink Theatre), and *Matter Familias* (Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 2004 IRNE nomination for Best New Play). Ginger holds a master's degree in playwriting from Boston University and teaches at University of Massachusetts Boston. She is a member of the Dramatist Guild and StageSource. For more information about her work, please visit www.gingerlazarus.com.

Jason Merrill (*Charlie*) has been with T@F since 2004; previously this year he appeared in *Metamorphoses* and the FirstWorks reading of *You're Killing Me Already*. Off stage roles include GNU C++ maintainer for Red Hat and Alice's Daddy.

Jess Viator (*Program Director*) has been working with T@F since 2009. Previously, she has directed the Bare Bones performances of Zinnie Harris' *The Wheel*, and Will Eno's *Tragedy: a Tragedy*, as well as *The Eagle and the Cactus* for FirstWorks. Next up, Jess will be directing for the One-Minute Play Festival, January 7-9.