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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 20, 2015**

**smART Ventures grant brings theater performance to seniors in Seattle**



*Seniors at Horizon House on Capitol Hill watch opening scene of 'A String,' an original play.*

**SEATTLE** - Tuesday, residents at Horizon House on Capitol Hill received a touring performance of 'A String,' an original play performed by Silver Kite's Intergenerational Theater Company. The performance was made possible through a smART Ventures grant from the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture.

Rebecca Crichton, the Executive Director at Northwest Center for Creative Aging coordinates the programming at Horizon House. "The residents were engaged and touched by the vulnerability of the performers," said Crichton. "These are real people sharing their own lives and the residents were very happy to have it here [at Horizon House]."

In addition to Horizon House, Silver Kite will use the grant funding to put on three more performances of 'A String' at assisted living facilities and senior centers in Seattle. 'A String' will be performed at Southeast Seattle Senior Center on August 27 at 12:30 p.m., Ballard Senior Center on August 27 at 6:30 p.m. and Merrill Gardens Northgate date to be determined. These performances are open to the public, email [info@silverkite.us](mailto:info@silverkite.us) for more information.

This grant shows that small investments can make a large impact to promote arts and culture in the community. Annie Holden from The Office said so far in 2015 smART Ventures grants have funded 46 programs in Seattle. "These grants foster arts and culture in the community by encouraging innovation and widening cultural participation, particularly by individuals, organizations and communities that may not qualify for other funding programs," Holden said.

In 'A String' the cast of six intergenerational women ages 16 to 73 explore the connections, and binds of relationships and building legacies. The piece uses life stories and personal experiences from the cast of women as inspiration for the scenes, dance pieces, music and poetry in the show.



*In the play, the actresses share life stories relating to body image, relationships and legacy.*

Director of the piece, and founder of Silver Kite, Jen Kulik, Ph.D said, "The performance explores how a string can tie us to our past, connect us to each other, and invite us to explore new possibilities."

The grant funding from The Seattle Office of Art & Culture offset costs for these four performances, yet the cast of 'A String' will schedule performances through February of 2016. Performances can be booked by emailing [liz@silverkite.us](mailto:liz@silverkite.us).

**About Silver Kite Community Arts**

Silver Kite believes arts change lives, and uses life stories, creative play and visual arts to help others share experiences, foster empathy, boost self-esteem and strengthen community connections. Silver Kite creates intergenerational arts programs and arts programs for seniors, students and communities, worldwide. Learn more at [www.silverkite.us](http://www.silverkite.us)

**About Seattle Office of Art & Culture**

The Office of Arts & Culture envisions a city driven by creativity that provides the opportunity for everyone to engage in diverse arts and cultural experiences. The Office is supported by the 16-member Seattle Arts Commission, citizen volunteers appointed by the mayor and City Council. Find out more at [seattle.gov/arts](http://seattle.gov/arts) Follow @SeaOfficeofArts or [facebook.com/SeattleArts](https://facebook.com/SeattleArts)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2015

**Community premiere of play by cast of Intergenerational Women**

**SEATTLE** - Silver Kite Community Arts presents 'A String,' an original play devised by an intergenerational cast of six women, ages 15 to 74, on June 12 and 13. This family friendly show explores the connections, and binds, of the body, relationships and building legacy. "The performance explores how "a string" can tie us to our past, connect us to each other, and invite us to explore new possibilities," said Jen Kulik, Ph.D., director of 'A String' and founder of Silver Kite.

The piece uses life stories and personal experiences from the cast of women to inspire the scenes, dance pieces, music and poetry in the show. "Using personal stories brings forth a fluid combination of vulnerability, innocence and wisdom from us," said Jane Klassen, the eldest cast member. The use of life stories provides the audience authentic characters and perspectives to connect to.

To create the show the cast started with brainstorming exercises on the word "string." Once the cast agreed on three common themes (legacy, body, relationships), each person told stories related to these themes. They then played with the stories, and based on the performances generated during rehearsal, they selected which stories to include. The stories inspired movement, poetry and even the writing of an original song to add to the performance.

"This collaboration with skilled and talented women is a great learning opportunity. It's exciting, confidence building, and humbling," Klassen said.

"The production fulfills Silver Kite's mission," said Kulik. "It models intergenerational connections, and encourages connections to the audience through the communication of common life experiences people can relate to." Kulik has over 20

years of experience creating art programming to facilitate collaboration between youth and seniors. Through these collaborations, seniors and students see the common ground in their own life experiences and foster empathy for one another. Thus, 'A String,' and the company of performers behind it, offers another avenue for Silver Kite to share the value of life stories with the Seattle community.

Performances are June 12 at 7:30 p.m., and June 13 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at George Center for Community in Lake City. After each performance, audience members are invited to join the cast for an interactive storytelling workshop. In this workshop, participants will learn many of the tools the cast used to turn their life stories into inspiration for performance art.

Tickets for 'A String' are \$10 general admission if bought in advance, or \$15 at the door. Discounted tickets offered for students and seniors. Silver Kite partnered with local business Brown Paper Tickets to offer presale tickets at: [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1592102](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1592102).

After its premiere at George, 'A String' will tour to local retirement communities, libraries, schools, and community centers in the months of June and July. The director and cast of A String want to share the important messages of this show with a variety of audiences around the area. Interested organizations may still apply to host a performance of 'A String' on Silver Kite's website, [www.silverkite.us/events](http://www.silverkite.us/events).

### **About Silver Kite Community Arts**

Silver Kite specializes in intergenerational arts programs and arts programs for seniors, students and communities. Founded by Jen Kulik, Ph.D, on the belief that arts change lives, Silver Kite uses life stories, creative play and visual arts to share experiences. Individualized curriculum is created for each client to foster empathy, boost self-esteem, and strengthen connections to self, and communities, worldwide. Additionally, Silver Kite hosts a variety of events and in-house performances for community members. Learn more: [www.silverkite.us](http://www.silverkite.us)

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## Media Alert

### **Original Play premieres for community, written and performed by six women**

June 3, 2015

'A String' is an original play written and performed by Silver Kite Community Arts Intergenerational Theater company, a cast of six women ages 15 to 74. The women used life stories and experience to inspire the scenes, movement, music and poetry throughout the piece. This show explores connections, and binds, of the body, relationships and legacy, common themes the women found in their own stories.

**What:** Premiere of 'A String' for community members

**Who:** Silver Kite's Intergenerational Theater Company

**When:** June 12 at 7:30 p.m. and June 13 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** George Center for Community  
2212 NE 125<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle

#### **Other details:**

Show runs 60 minutes. No intermission.

Audience members are invited to join the cast after each performance for an interactive storytelling workshop. Participants will learn tools to turn stories into inspiration for performance art.

#### **Media: (Please credit to use)**

##### **Cast Interview Video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTaNkiST80M>

##### **Rehearsal Photos:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/shqrqufk2g04ef3djAAB6rmpl25BOK1XH1GTXQalja?dl=0>

#### **Press Contact:**

Please contact Jen Kulik to reserve press tickets by June 11.

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