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Play With Your Food Announces Upcoming Season at Greenwich Arts Council

"We're excited to launch our third season in Greenwich," exclaimed Nancy Diamond, producer of Play With Your Food, the popular lunchtime theatre series. "The audience at the Greenwich Arts Council has been so receptive."

On Wednesday, January 23 & Thursday the 24th, the Greenwich Arts Council will host the first of a three-program Play With Your Food series. A buffet lunch catered at 12 noon by Greenwich Avenue's Meli Melo will open the event; professional actors reading one-act plays by Neil Simon, Arthur Miller and local playwright Rosemary Foley will follow. A brief discussion with the actors concludes the presentation at 1:30pm.

To prepare for the season, Artistic Director Carole Schweid spent countless hours reading plays. "We present 12 -15 new one-acts each season, so as soon as we finish our last program in the spring, we start reading plays for the following year. It's a challenge, as our choices need to reflect the well-read and sophisticated Greenwich audiences." In January's play selections, Neil Simon's *The Audition* follows a young girl's quest for her first acting role; an elderly man struggles with the arrival of the Statue of Liberty in Miller's poignant *Grandpa and the Statue*; and comic playwright Foley explores the salvation of a marriage in *Leaving Her*. "All the plays we present have heart," Schweid continued, "and should stick with you long after you've gone back to your day."

Play With Your Food has been a staple at lunchtime in Westport since 2003. After three sold-out seasons there, the producers sought to expand to other Fairfield County towns. Enter GAC Executive Director Frank Juliano, who knew Schweid from long ago at the Public Theatre in NYC. "I heard a voice outside my office one day," explained Juliano, "and I said 'is that Carole Schweid??' I couldn't believe she was here in Connecticut." Juliano was looking for a theatre program to complement the

Arts Council's year-round arts calendar. He added, "The Greenwich Arts Council is a place where the community gathers to see really fine art. Play With Your Food fits the bill."

Play With Your Food will be back at the Greenwich Arts Council on February 13 & 14 presenting *Game Theory* by Pete Sagal; *Miss You* by David Auburn and *Beirut Rocks* by Israel Horovitz. Lunch will be provided by Garelick and Herbs. On April 2 & 3, lunch by Bruckner's Good-To-Go will be followed by Albi Gorn's *It's About Forgiveness, I Didn't Know You Could Cook* (Rich Orloff) and another Rosemary Foley favorite *Ophelia's Mother*. The Greenwich series is sponsored by Pat Kery Fine Arts, Inc.

All shows run from 12 noon to 1:30pm. Paid reservations are required. Tickets are \$40, \$38 for Greenwich Arts Council members, and can be ordered by calling 203.259.1036 (Tue - Sat, noon - 5pm), or online at www.playwithyourfood.org. For additional information, please call Lynn Saltz, 203-222-8971 or log on to www.greenwicharts.org.

The Greenwich Arts Council promotes the arts by nurturing artists and building audiences, bringing the arts to the community and the community to the arts.

(caption for photo 1 : Arthur Miller's *Grandpa and The Statue* will be presented by PWYF at the Greenwich Arts Council on January 23 & 24; photo 2: PWYF Producer Nancy Diamond with GAC Executive Director, Frank Juliano)