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### Milford writer makes theatrical debut with one-woman play

Frank Juliano, Staff Writer

Published 10:50 p.m., Sunday, October 9, 2011

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Cindy Wolfe Boynton, left of Milford, worked with fellow Housatonic Community College adjunct professor Jan Mason, right of Kingstown, NY, to refine her play writing skills for her first play, "The Right Time to Say I Love You". Photo: Brian A. Pounds / Connecticut Post | [Buy This Photo](#)



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MILFORD -- Throughout her journalism career, **Cindy Wolfe Boynton** has been telling people's stories.

Now, she will share her own family drama when her one-woman play, "Right Time to **Say I Love You**" opens off-Broadway later this month, with Boynton as the star.

The 40-minute play will open the **United Solo Theater Festival** with an Oct. 20 performance at 7:30 p.m. at **Theater Row** on 42nd St. in Manhattan. The monthlong festival will present 77 new works from playwrights all over the world. Boynton attended several performances at the 2010 festival, and decided to try her hand at writing a play.

"I was at this point in my life, I guess I'm having a mid-life crisis at 43, where I wanted to try to do something creative and new," Boynton said. "One of the reasons I'm proud of the play is because it gives a strong voice to two populations not often heard from -- Parkinson's patients and those who lare for them.

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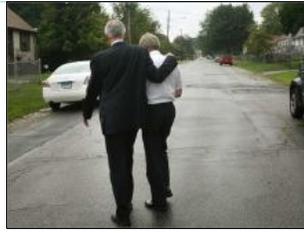
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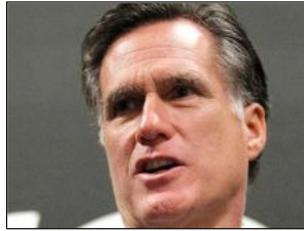


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"It also powerfully and poignantly, but not in a complaining way, illustrates the emotional and physical struggles of those of us in the Sandwich Generation, the 20 million Americans, like me, sandwiched and pulled between the needs of their kids and elderly parents."

Boynton's play takes place in the pre-dawn hours when she is at home in bed and her father calls to tell her about a sudden health crisis involving her mother.

"We recorded my father's voice, it is him that you hear on the (on-stage) answering machine," the Milford woman said. A photo of her mother is on the bedside table, Boynton said, but her mother is too ill to attend the performance.

A freelance writer who has been a frequent contributor to *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe* and several magazines, she knew about how to tell a story, though she found writing for the stage quite a different discipline.

"I had to embellish some things for dramatic reasons, and plays are not structured as a straight narrative. You need to have a dramatic reversal, so that what the audience thinks will happen doesn't," Boynton said.

It took her about a year to write the play; it was accepted in April. Then Boynton was off on her next challenge. Noting that most writers also were planning to perform their works, she decided to study acting.

"I'd been in a play before. It was in the eighth grade at *Meadowside School*, so both the play and me as an actress will be having a world premiere," she said.

If playwriting is different than news reporting, acting has been different than anything else Boynton has tried. "It isn't just knowing the words, it's using your body to express the emotions you are trying to convey," she said. "It is difficult to do. I'm not exactly playing myself, but a character named Cindy who has had similar experiences to what I've had."

Familiarity with the material will help Boynton create a believable character on stage, said *Jan Mason*, a theater arts adjunct at *Housatonic Community College*. Boynton teaches journalism and creative writing at HCC. Mason began helping her last spring.

"I've done a lot of new play development and I gave her feedback on where her writing didn't match her intentions," Mason said. "It's an actor's job to make it look easy, but putting yourself in someone else's shoes is an actor's biggest challenge. In that sense, Cindy won't have that to deal with."

Boynton has been working with director and acting coach *Reno Venturi* three times a week at Venturi's Hamden studio, The Actor's Gym, to hone her performance. Venturi will also direct her play. A second performance will be staged Nov. 19 at the Stage Left Studio in New York; Boynton plans to perform it in Connecticut next year.

Jonathan Rauch, a contributing editor to *The Atlantic*, read the play and gave Boynton's script a rave review, saying " `Right Time to Say I Love You' captures the doubt and pain and conflict at the caregiver's defining hour, late at night when the phone rings for the umpteenth time, and you're at your limit, and love pulls one way and sanity another."

Ted Boynton is also supportive of his wife's latest creative venture.

"Cindy is always coming up with what I think are crazy ideas that turn out to be something good. The fact that she's performing on Broadway is unbelievable, but not that surprising.



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When she sets her mind to something, there's no stopping her. "

For information, visit the show's Facebook page or [www.righttimetosay.com](http://www.righttimetosay.com). Tickets are available through [Telecharge](#) or the festival box office at 212-239-6200.

Reach [Frank Juliano](#) at 203-520-6986 or [fjuliano@ctpost.com](mailto:fjuliano@ctpost.com) Follow him at <http://twitter.com/FrankJuliano> or [blog.connpost.com/juliano](http://blog.connpost.com/juliano)

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