

VOICES FROM THE SILENCED

REVELATIONS FROM WOMEN
BEFORE ROE V. WADE



A benefit reading of the docu-play
By Victoria Rue & Martha Boesing
Directed by Zoya Kachadurian

Monday evening, October 21st

7:00 PM

at

PETER NORTON
**SYMPHONY
SPACE**

2537 Broadway (at 95th Street)
New York, NY 10025

Voices from the Silenced offers a deeply human portrayal of women who faced the dangers of illegal abortions and societal stigma in the era before 1975. Rue and Boesing expertly combine drama and documentary elements to create a powerful call to action to the ongoing fight for reproductive rights.

The reading of this one-act play will be followed by a discussion with the authors and experts currently dealing with the legal and medical battles surrounding reproductive rights.

Featuring *



Kathleen Chalfant



Tyne Daly



Marsha Mason

**additional casting to be announced soon - all talent appearances subject to availability*

This one-night event will be underwritten by donations and sponsors.

All proceeds from donations and ticket sales go to the
Center for Reproductive Rights and the **Abortion Coalition for Telemedicine Access (the ACT Group)**.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Voices from the Silenced, a compelling tribute to the resilience of women, by playwrights Victoria Rue and Martha Boesing, brings to light the personal stories of women who had abortions before the *Roe v. Wade* ruling. The play and the documentary it spawned are especially timely as the national debate on reproductive rights intensifies since the *Dobbs* decision, which has significantly restricted access to abortion in many states.

After the *Dobbs* decision which overturned *Roe v. Wade*, Victoria Rue was trying to decide what to do to help those young women who will now be subject to all the harassment and pain which women had to go through 55 years ago. As a life-long theater artist, the thing to do was to create a play. She contacted her old theater friend, Martha Boesing and together they solicited stories from women living in a nearby Senior Center about abortions they had pre-*Roe V. Wade*. The stories, so bravely told, many for the first time, moved Victoria and Martha deeply and became the spine of the play, with short scenes interwoven to bring the stories to theatrical life.

In the play, the readings at the Lectern are all presentations of the actual stories. The SCOTUS scene is created from actual quotes of the members of the Supreme Court. And now the play has been transformed into a very beautiful movie and accompanied by a short documentary about the story tellers themselves, both available for you to experience.

“Through *Voices from the Silenced*, we aim to honor the women whose stories have been overlooked for too long. By amplifying their voices, we hope to ignite empathy, understanding, and action in the ongoing fight for reproductive rights,” said Victoria Rue, film co-writer and director.

Martha Boesing, co-writer/co-director, added, “*Voices from the Silenced* is a testament to the power of storytelling in effecting social change. By confronting the harsh realities of the past, we address the challenges of the present and future. This play is not just a reflection of history but a call-to-action for a more just and equitable society.”

THE BENEFICIARIES

The Center for Reproductive Rights - is a global human rights organization of lawyers and advocates who ensure reproductive rights are protected in law as fundamental human rights for the dignity, equality, health, and well-being of every person. Since its founding in 1992, the Center’s game-changing litigation, legal policy, and advocacy work—combined with unparalleled expertise in constitutional, international, and comparative human rights law—has transformed how reproductive rights are understood by courts, governments, and human rights bodies. Through their work across five continents, they have played a critical role in securing legal victories before national courts, United Nations Committees, and regional human rights bodies on reproductive rights issues including access to life-saving obstetrics care, contraception, maternal health, and safe abortion services, as well as the prevention of forced sterilization and child marriage.

The Abortion Coalition for Telemedicine (ACT) - is the only nationwide advocacy organization working to proactively advance telemedicine abortion in all 50 states. By providing clinicians with the direct legal and technical support needed to operate an interstate telemedicine practice, we can close the abortion accessibility gap for all patients – regardless of their zip codes. ACT was founded in 2022 after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, resulting in 20 states severely limiting access to abortion and miscarriage-care. Co-founders Dr. Linda Prine, Dr. Maggie Carpenter, and Julie F. Kay, JD, are leaders in the reproductive freedom movement who have harnessed their collective medical and legal expertise to meet this moment with comprehensive support for the clinicians stepping up to provide telemedicine care for patients in abortion-hostile states.

THE TEAM

Martha Boesing (Co-Writer) has written over 40 produced plays, led workshops, and directed plays for theaters throughout the country. She was the co-Founder and Artistic Director of At the Foot of the Mountain Theater in Minneapolis (the longest running professional women's theater in the country) from 1974-84. She has won several national awards including an NEA, a Bush fellowship, and the Kennedy Center's Fund for New American playwrights. In the last several decades, she has created and directed plays with several theaters mostly in San Francisco and Minneapolis. In the sixties, she was a company member of Minneapolis' Firehouse Theater (an iconoclastic, experimental theater), and her work remains true to the ideological concerns of that time.

Victoria Rue, M.Div., Ph.D. (Co-Writer) ~ Victoria Rue, M.Div., Ph.D. is co-writer and director of the play *Voices from the Silenced*. She is lecturer emerita at San Jose State University in Comparative Religious Studies. She has written a book and numerous articles, her book is *Acting Religious: Theatre as Pedagogy in Religious Studies*. As a theatre writer/director of forty years her work has been seen in NYC, Los Angeles and San Francisco. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Bethlehem, Palestine. Victoria is also a Roman Catholic woman priest. Her current ministry is at Planned Parenthood where she escorts women into the clinic due to protestors who would have it otherwise.

Zoya Kachadurian (Director) *Voices From the Silenced* is the merger of Zoya Kachadurian's theater production and directing career, and her producing experience in television and corporate events. She recently directed a reading of *Wasabia* by Wendy Herlich which will have its premier next April at Centenary Stage Company., and has directed the world premiere of *Apple Season* at NJ REP. In Massachusetts, she directed *Stick Fly*, *The 39 Steps*, *An Inspector Calls*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Stones in His Pockets* and more at the Majestic Theater as well as readings of *The Dictator's Dentist* by Sonya Hayden at New Perspectives, and *Little Jimmy* by Jimmy Noonan. She directed a video of her award-winning theatrical production of *Georgia and Me*, by/with Sarah Ford (best solo show Midtown International Festival 2011). And new works at Estrogenius Festival, EST Festival. Member: Lincoln Center and EST Directors' Labs, and La Mama's International Directors' Symposium. She was also a producer on *One Life To Live* (ABC), production coordinator *Sesame Street* (PBS) and a writer, director, camera director and cue caller on corporate events. <https://www.Zoyazk.com>

Sarahbeth Grossman (Producer) is a Tony Award-nominated and Olivier Award-winning producer whose Broadway credits include *Indecent*, *An American in Paris* (also National Tour and West End), *Dames at Sea*, *Ann* and *Stick Fly*. Off-Broadway, Ms. Grossman produced the acclaimed comedy *The Irish Curse*, the New York premiere of *Ten Chimneys* and the 60th anniversary revival of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Sarahbeth was a producer on *From Broadway With Love: A Benefit Concert for Sandy Hook* and *From Broadway With Love: A Benefit Concert for Orlando* which were Broadway's response to the tragic shootings in Newtown and Orlando. Her film producing credits include the documentary "Midsummer at Newtown" and "Out To Sea." Prior to her work on and off Broadway, Ms. Grossman was the Executive Director of Global Brand Strategy and Business Development at Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment and Vice President of Marketing Communications at *Variety*.

Nina Keneally (Producer) Nina has produced Tony and Pulitzer Prize winning plays including *Driving Miss Daisy* and *The Last Night at Ballyhoo* as well as Sam Shepard's first Broadway show *Buried Child*. She was the lead producer on *Good Vibrations* the Beach Boys' musical and has worked on Broadway, off-Broadway and with regional theaters across the country with writers and artists including Morgan Freeman, Julie Harris, Paul Rudd, Judith Jamison, Bob Fosse, Gary Sinise, Horton Foote, Jon Robin Baitz and Thomas Keneally. Nina was the Managing Director of Stuart Ostrow's Musical Theatre Lab at the American Repertory Theatre at Harvard in Cambridge, MA. She has served on the Board of the Obie-awarding organization The New Group. She served as Secretary on the Board of New York Stage and Film for twelve years and is the past President of the Board of Connecticut Heritage Productions. Ms. Keneally has been a member of the League of American Theatres and Producers and served on the Board of Directors of the Off-Broadway League of Producers. She has served as Vice President of the Board of the Syracuse University Alumni. Nina founded and operates the internet-sensation business NEEDAMOM.

NewYorkRep (Co-producer) - develops and produces new plays and musicals that inspire and compel social change by telling stories that expose our humanity. By illuminating social and ethical questions through art, we strive to create provocative theater that promotes empathy, compassion, and inclusion. In order to increase access to the stories we tell, NewYorkRep, produces content across artistic mediums. Our work has been a Critics Pick of The New York Times, praised in the Los Angeles Times and often noted in The Huffington Post. Our productions have been produced across the country and in London and Sydney. NewYorkRep is a 501(c)(3) organization. www.newyorkrep.org

LDK Productions (General Management) - is a NYC-based theatrical general management and production firm founded in 2007 by Lisa Dozier Shacket. Select recent credits: *Cellino V. Barnes*, *The Life and Slimes of Marc Summers*, *White Rose: The Musical*, *The Night of the Iguana* (2024 Off Broadway revival), Patrick Olson's *Emergence: Things Are Not As They Seem*, Anthony Rapp's *Without You*, *Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground*, *Little Girl Blue*, *Katsura Sunshine's Rakugo*, *Be More Chill*, the immersive theatrical adaptation of the film *Sideways*, *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur*, *A Letter to Harvey Milk*. www.LDKProductions.com

Susanne Tighe - Boneau/Bryan-Brown (Press) - has been with Boneau/Bryan-Brown since 1991. Current productions include *SLX*, *BOOP!* and *ALI*. Past shows include *A Behanding in Spokane*, *A View From the Bridge*, *An American in Paris*, *Anna Christie*, *David Byrne's American Utopia*, *Days of Wine and Roses*, *Footloose*, *42nd Street* revival, *God of Carnage*, *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* with Matthew Broderick, *Jersey Boys*, *Lonesome West*, *No Man's Land & Waiting for Godot*, *Our Country's Good*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *The King and I*, *The Music Man*, *The Present* with Cate Blanchett, *The Who's Tommy* (original and 2024 revival), *Titanic*, and the Off-Broadway productions of *The Tricky Part* and *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*. She also represents the Atlantic Theatre Company. The first Broadway show she ever saw was *Deathtrap* and the first Broadway show she ever worked on was *Sherlock's Last Case* with Frank Langella.

Janine Lee Papio - Think Big Picture (Marketing)

Daryl Eisenberg (Casting) - is a Casting Director and Owner of Eisenberg Casting. Daryl has owned and operated her own casting office since 2004. Casting for theatre, film, television, and new media. Highlights include...NYC Theater: *Gettin' The Band Back Together* (Broadway); *Bedlam*, WP Theatre, *Baghdaddy*, *Cherry Lane's Mentor Project*, *Altar Boyz*, and more. Regional/Other: Florida Georgia Line's *May We All* (TPAC), *Heartbreak Hotel* (Broadway in Chicago), *Dallas Theater Center*, *Folger Theatre*, *Cape Cod Theatre Project*, *WaterTower Theatre*, *Norwegian Cruise Line*, *Ivoryton Playhouse*, *Tenors of Rock*, *Wheelhouse Theatre Co*, countless NYMF/Fringe. Film: *The Cathedral* (MUBI), *Menorah in the Middle* (Hulu), *The MisEducation of Bindu* (Peacock), *Shadows* (HBO), *Angry Neighbors* (Lionsgate), *Hands That Bind*, *Project Pay Day*, *Kendra and Beth*. Podcasts/New Media: Both seasons of the critically acclaimed series "Limetown," "The Callisto Protocol: Helix Station," "Shipworm," "City of Ghosts", "Falling in Love With Mr. Dellamort," "Verdict." As a casting associate and assistant, Daryl has worked in the offices of some of the greats in NY casting. Daryl is the chair of the Somerset County Film Commission and is a former Watchung Borough Councilmember. She was awarded the 2021 Eleanor Roosevelt Volunteer Service Award by the Somerset County Federation of Democratic Women. Daryl was listed in the Insider 100: Millennial Power List and is a recipient of the Somerset County Business Partnership Top 40 Under 40 Award. Daryl has taught at schools and institutions around the country. She holds a BFA from Tisch School of The Arts/New York University and Playwrights Horizons Theater School. Member of Casting Society of America. [@DarylEisenbergKnegten](https://www.instagram.com/DarylEisenbergKnegten)