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Salida Theater Project Presents the play *Still Alice* in Honor of Alzheimer's Awareness Month (June)

A poignant and uplifting staged reading about identity, memory, and what endures — June 20–22 at A Church

SALIDA, CO — In recognition of Alzheimer's Awareness Month in June, Salida Theater Project presents a special staged reading of ***Still Alice***, adapted by Christine Mary Dunford from Lisa Genova's acclaimed novel. Performances will be held **June 20 and 21 at 7 PM** and **June 22 at 3 PM** at **A Church** (419 D St) — with a post-show panel discussion following Sunday's matinee.

Still Alice tells the story of **Alice Howland**, a Harvard linguistics professor at the height of her career, who receives a diagnosis of early-onset Alzheimer's disease.

This is not a story about loss alone — it's about holding on to identity, connection, and meaning as memory fades and the familiar becomes unfamiliar.

A powerful theatrical element of the play is the presence of **Herself** —who voices Alice's inner thoughts and feelings, offering audiences a rare and intimate window into her internal experience. As the disease progresses, Alice and Herself move through grief, resilience, and even moments of humor and grace together

"This is not a play about dying from Alzheimer's — it's about living with it," says Jan Justis, director of the production. "It's personal for me. My mother had Alzheimer's, and our family experienced the loss and pain of gradually losing her."

Justis brings a unique perspective to the production. In addition to her theater work, she teaches a movement class for individuals with Parkinson's disease and other

neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's. She's deeply committed to helping people remain active, expressive and engaged even while facing illness.

While Alzheimer's affects over 6 million Americans, the story of *Still Alice* speaks to everyone. Nearly 1 in 5 adults has a family member living with the disease. It disproportionately affects women, and early-onset cases can begin in a person's 50s — sometimes even earlier. But more than a clinical portrait, this play explores what it means to remain yourself — and be seen — in the face of profound change.

Surprisingly, the story is also filled with warmth and moments of joy — from the comfort of shared conversation to the delight of ice cream. Audiences can expect not just reflection, but also laughter, family connection, and a sense of community.

Cast includes Aggie Alvez, Dylan Benoit, Justin Critelli, Liz Dunn, Devon Jencks, Bill Rogers, and Ximena Wheeler

Post-Show Panel Discussion — Sunday, June 22, following the 3PM performance

After the final performance, join us for a community conversation about Alzheimer's, caregiving, and the themes explored in the play. Sunday attendees are welcome to stay for the panel, and those who attended on Friday or Saturday are invited to return and take part in the discussion.

Our panel includes:

- **Samar Fay** – Salida resident whose spouse is living with Alzheimer's
- **Jan Justis** – director, *Still Alice*
- **Mary McConathy, RN** – whose late husband lived with Alzheimer's
- **Dr. Yvonne Rollins, MD** – Board Certified Neurologist, Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center

Still Alice will be performed at **A Church**, home of **Salida Theater Project**, the venue's resident theater company.

For tickets and more information, visit connect@salidatheaterproject.com

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