NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release Contact: David Jordan Harris

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**Rimon Salon Lifts up the Spirit and Legacy of Etty Hillesum**

**Minneapolis—**The *Rimon* Artist Salon series presents *Conversations with Etty* on Sunday, December 8, 2013, 2 p.m., at the JSB Tek Box in downtown Minneapolis in the Cowles Center for Dance (528 Hennepin Avenue, 2nd floor). Actor Susan Stein will perform excerpts from her one-woman play *Etty*, based on the diaries and letters of Etty Hillesum, a young Dutch Jewish woman in the early 1940s, whose intensely searching words reach out from their historical moment into ours. Theater director Carolyn Levy joins Stein onstage for a dialogue about how live theater can create potent communal experiences in spaces ranging from traditional theaters to prisons. Admission is $10 ($5 for students). Tickets may be reserved by contacting the *Rimon* office at 952-381-3449 or online at [www.rimonMN.org](http://www.rimonMN.org).

Using only Etty Hillesum’s words to construct the play, Susan Stein’s adaptation transports its audience into the year 1943 when Etty Hillesum is about to be deported out of Holland. Hillesum’s words and insights allow audiences of an astonishing range of backgrounds to see the power of hope in the most extreme circumstances. Susan Stein will be performing the piece and teaching about Etty Hillesum during a month-long residency in the Twin Cities, made possible by a Project Support grant provided by *Rimon:* The Minnesota Jewish Arts Council. Venues include the Shakopee, Ramsey County, and Stillwater correctional facilities; St. Catherine University; the St. Paul JCC and Temple Israel.

**Susan Stein is an actor, teacher, and playwright. She has been performing *Etty* in theaters, prisons, and universities throughout the United States and in Europe for the past several years. Previously Susan appeared in Arthur Miller’s *American Clock*, directed by Austin Pendleton at HB Playwrights Foundation, and was seen at Luna Stage in Bathsheeba Doran’s *A Parent’s Evening*. Susan studied acting at NYU Graduate School and SUNY Purchase and was on the faculty of Princeton Day School for twelve years teaching playwriting, Shakespeare, and acting.**

**Carolyn Levy** is a freelance director who has worked in the Twin Cities for more than 30 years. The primary focus of her work is theatre and social change. She is also a theater professor at Hamline University. She directed a part of *Murderess* for Theatre Unbound. Her work at the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company includes: *Women’s Minyan*, *The Triangle Factory Fire Project*, *The Action Against Sol Schumann*, *Shadow of the Valley*, *Rose*, *Lovers and Traitors: The Killing of the Rosenbergs*, *The King of the Kosher Grocers*, *Never the Sinner*, and *The Chosen*. Carolyn was the Artistic Director and co-founder of the Women’s Theatre Project. She directed *Going to St. Ives* and *The Left Hand Singing* at Park Square Theatre. Her Hamline credits include *The Trojan* Women, *The Laramie Project, for colored girls…, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Waiting for Godot, The Colored Museum,* and *Whose Life Is It Anyway?*  She was the creator and co-author of *Until Someone Wakes Up*, a play about date rape that is performed all over the country.

The 2013-14 *Rimon* Artist Salon Series, sponsored by *Rimon: The Minnesota Jewish Arts Council*, presents cutting edge interactive dialogues that delve into important and provocative issues facing our society and examines the critical role the arts play in understanding our world. The Artist Salon Series is funded in part by the Tychman Shapiro Gallery of the Sabes JCC and by the Jewish Community Relations Council.

*Rimon* is an initiative of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation. It has been selected for the third year in a row by Slingshot, a nationally recognized resource guide for Jewish innovation, as one of the fifty most innovative Jewish non-profits in North America.

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