

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Tuesday, March 6, 2018

MEDIA CONTACT – Michael Duncan Smith | 617-923-7060 x8205 | michaelsmith@newrep.org

NEW REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS
THE BAKELITE MASTERPIECE

BY KATE CAYLEY
DIRECTED BY JIM PETOSA
MARCH 17-APRIL 8, 2018

[WATERTOWN] New Repertory Theatre presents *The Bakelite Masterpiece*, March 17-April 8, 2018 in the MainStage Theater at the Mosesian Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA. Tickets are \$37-\$67 and may be purchased by calling the New Rep Box Office at 617-923-8487 or visiting newrep.org. Student, senior, and group discounts are available.

The press opening will be on Monday, March 19 at 7:30pm.

“*The Bakelite Masterpiece* is a compelling new work based on the true story of art forger Han van Meegeren,” says Artistic Director Jim Petosa. “The play deftly explores the idea that if an artist such as Van Meegeren can so perfectly mimic the brilliance of a painter such as Vermeer, does that then also make him a brilliant artist? A truly fascinating and deeply psychological play that we’re very excited to share with our audiences this season.”

“New Rep is thrilled to present this dynamic new play with two of the Boston-area’s finest performers,” says Managing Director Harriet Sheets. “We’re pleased to welcome back Laura Latreille, who was last seen here in the fourth and final instalment of Richard Nelson’s Apple Family plays, *Regular Singing*. And certainly no stranger to the New Rep stage, Benjamin Evett has delighted our audiences and has been a New Rep favorite in some of our most critically acclaimed productions. From *Amadeus* to *Assassins*, to last season’s *Good* and his solo, limited run of *Albatross*, Ben has been a true friend of our theatre, and we’re pleased to see him back on our stages once again.”

About THE BAKELITE MASTERPIECE

At the end of World War II, artist Han van Meegeren sits in a prison cell accused of selling a long-lost Vermeer to the Nazis, a crime tantamount to treason. Van Meegeren contends that the painting was a forgery, which he skillfully produced and aged with a special treatment of the plastic known as Bakelite. Now he must create another masterpiece in front of his jailer, art historian Geert Piller, to save his life. *The Bakelite Masterpiece* is a dynamic and compelling Boston-area premiere from playwright Kate Cayley.

New Rep's Mission

New Repertory Theatre produces plays that speak powerfully to the vital ideas of our time.

What we do:

- Through the passion and electricity of live theater performed to the highest standards of excellence, New Rep seeks to spark community conversations on crucial contemporary issues.
- Our work expands and challenges the human spirit of both artists and audiences. We present world premieres, contemporary plays and classic works in several intimate settings. Our productions are designed to be accessible to all. We are committed to education and enrichment for learners of all ages, with a special dedication to the creation of innovative in-school programming and outreach to underserved audiences. We embrace theater as the basis for enduring connections with our community and as a springboard for meaningful civic engagement.
- New Rep is an active advocate for the arts and a major voice in the national dialogue defining the role of theater in our culture.

About NEW REPERTORY THEATRE

New Repertory Theatre is the award-winning, professional theatre company in residence at the Mosesian Center for the Arts in Watertown, MA. For over 30 years, New Rep has been a leader of self-produced theatre in greater Boston, producing contemporary and classic dramas, comedies, and musicals in both the 340-seat MainStage Theater and the 90-seat BlackBox Theater. Annually, New Rep serves over 40,000 patrons, including 2,000 season subscribers. In addition to its mainstage productions, New Rep produces Next Voices, a program dedicated to developing new plays with playwrights through staged readings and world premiere production. Under its Lifelong Enrichment Arts Programs (LEAP), New Rep also produces its Classic Repertory Company, Page To Stage, Insider Experiences, and Spotlight Symposium Series.

Artistic Bios

BENJAMIN EVETT* (Han van Meegeren) returns to New Repertory Theatre after performing in *Good, Broken Glass, Assassins, On the Verge, Camelot* (2014 IRNE Award, Best Actor in a Musical), *Amadeus, Cherry Docs, Opus, Indulgences, A Christmas Carol, Quills, A Girl's War,* and *Jerusalem*, and directing *RENT*. He recently won the Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Solo Performance 2015 for *Albatross* with The Poets' Theatre, where he is also Executive Director. He has appeared in *Freud's Last Session* and *God of Carnage* (co-produced with Arizona Theatre Company and San Jose Rep). He was a member of the ART Resident Acting Company from 1993 to 2003, performing in over 50 productions including *Waiting for Godot, The Bacchae, Phedre,* and *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. He has performed at Missouri Rep, Virginia Stage Company, Alley Theatre, Taiwan National Theatre, and Moscow Art Theatre. He is Founding Artistic Director of Actors' Shakespeare Project, where he played Coriolanus, Hamlet, Petruchio, Edmund, and Caliban.

LAURA LATREILLE* (Geert Piller) returns to New Repertory Theatre after performing in *Regular Singing*. Credits include *The Nest* (Denver Center of the Performing Arts); *That Hopey Changey Thing, Sorry, Of Mice and Men,* and *The Unbleached American* (Greater Boston Stage Company); *Sweet and Sad* (Gloucester Stage); and *The Trials of Gertrude Moody* and *Utility Monster* (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater). Regional credits include *Ryan Landry's M* and *Mauritius* (Huntington Theatre Company); *God Of Carnage* and *Four Places* (Merrimack Repertory Theatre); *Time Stands Still* (2012 Improper Bostonian Best Female Performance Award), *Dear Elizabeth,* and *The Understudy* (Lyric Stage Company); *Fat Pig* and *The Shape Of Things* (Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Actress, SpeakEasy Stage Company); *The Sussman Variations* and *The Glider* (Boston Playwrights' Theatre); *The Blowin of Baile Gall* (Vineyard Playhouse); *Signs of Trouble* and *Shel Shocked* (Market Theatre); *Bash and Sin* (Coyote Theatre); and *The Bottom of the Sky* (Cape Repertory Theatre). Off-Broadway credits include *Love Song* (59E59); and *The Elephant Play* (Playwright's Collective). She has also participated in creating new works with The Lark, New Dramatists, Theatre Masters, Women's Project and Productions, Playwright's Collective, Huntington Theatre Company, and the Denver Center's New Play Summit. She received an MFA from Brandeis University and is currently a faculty member in the Theatre Department at Suffolk University.

JIM PETOSA (Director/Artistic Director) joined New Repertory Theatre as an award-winning theatre artist, educator, and leader in 2012. He has served as Director of the School of Theatre, College of Fine

Arts, at Boston University since 2002, and Artistic Director of Maryland's Olney Theatre Center for the Arts and its National Players educational touring company (1994-2012). While at Boston University, he established the Boston Center for American Performance (BCAP), the professional production extension of the Boston University School of Theatre, in 2008. Throughout the Northeast, Mr. Petosa has directed for numerous institutions, including *Lonely Planet*, *Statements After and Arrest Under the Immorality Act*, *Ideation* (IRNE Nomination), *The Gift Horse*, *Brecht on Brecht*, *Good*, *Freud's Last Session*, *The Testament of Mary*, *Broken Glass*, *Assassins*, *On the Verge*, *The Elephant Man* (IRNE Nomination), *Amadeus*, *Three Viewings*, *The Last Five Years*, and *Opus* at New Rep. In Boston, his work was nominated for two IRNE awards for *A Question of Mercy* (BCAP). He has served as one of three artistic leaders for the Potomac Theatre Project (PTP/NYC) since 1987. In Maryland, his work earned over 25 Helen Hayes Award nominations as well as the award for outstanding direction of a musical for *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well...* His production of *Look! We Have Come Through!* was nominated for the Charles MacArthur Award for outstanding new play, and he earned the Montgomery County Executive's Excellence in the Arts and Humanities Award for Outstanding Artist/Scholar. A member of Actors' Equity Association, Mr. Petosa has served on the executive board of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, and currently serves on the Board of Directors for StageSource. Originally from New Jersey, he was educated at The Catholic University of America and resides in Quincy.

KATE CAYLEY (Playwright) is a fiction writer, playwright, and poet. Her short story collection, *How You Were Born*, won the 2015 Trillium Book Award and was a finalist for the Governor General's Award and the ReLit Award. Her first collection of poetry, *When This World Comes to an End*, was shortlisted for the ReLit Award, and her young adult novel, *The Hangman in the Mirror*, won the Goeffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction. She is the co-founder and artistic director of Stranger Theatre, and has co-created, directed and written eight plays with the company; her work with Stranger Theatre has been seen in Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York City and Istanbul. She was a playwright-in-residence at Tarragon Theatre from 2009-2017, and has written two plays for Tarragon, *After Akhmatova*, and *The Bakelite Masterpiece*, which was subsequently produced in the US by The Berkshire Theatre Group (Stockbridge, MA) in fall 2016. She is a frequent collaborator with immersive theatre company Zuppa Theatre, with two commissions from the company: *The Archive of Missing Things* and *This Is Nowhere*. Her short stories, poems and essays have appeared in a wide variety of magazines, and in *The O. Henry Prize Stories 2017*. She will be Writer-in-Residence at McMaster University for the 2018-19 academic year, and lives in Toronto with her partner and their three children.

THE BAKELITE MASTERPIECE at a glance

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Company: | New Repertory Theatre | |
| Artistic Director: | Jim Petosa | |
| Managing Director: | Harriet Sheets | |
| Production: | <i>The Bakelite Masterpiece</i> | |
| Venue: | MainStage Theater Mosesian Center for the Arts 321 Arsenal Street Watertown, MA 02472 | |
| Playwright: | Katy Cayley | |
| Director: | Jim Petosa ∞ | |
| Cast: | Benjamin Evett* Laura Latreille* | Han van Meegeren Geert Piller |
| Production Team: | Cristina Todesco ° Molly Trainer° Scott Pinkney° Dewey Dellay Brian M. Robillard* | Scenic Designer Costume Designer Lighting Designer Sound Designer Stage Manager |

∞ Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

* Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA)

° Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| Performance Schedule: | Saturday, March 17, 8:00pm | Preview |
| | Sunday, March 18, 4:00pm | Preview |
| | Monday, March 19, 7:30pm | Opening |

Thursday, March 22, 7:30pm
Friday, March 23, 8:00pm
Saturday, March 24, 8:00pm
Sunday, March 25, 2:00pm Symposium
Sunday, March 25, 7:30pm

Wednesday, March 28, 7:30pm
Thursday, March 29, 7:30pm
Friday, March 30, 8:00pm
Saturday, March 31, 3:00pm
Saturday, March 31, 8:00pm
Sunday, April 1, 2:00pm Talkback

Thursday, April 5, 2:00pm Talkback
Thursday, April 5, 7:30pm Talkback
Friday, April 6, 8:00pm
Saturday, April 7, 3:00pm
Saturday, April 7, 8:00pm Talkback
Sunday, April 8, 2:00pm Talkback

Tickets: \$37-\$67. Student, senior, and group discounts available.
Telephone: 617-923-8487, Online: newrep.org
In Person: 12pm to 5pm, Tues-Sun
Mosesian Center for the Arts
321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA 02472

Parking: Free, six-level parking garage next to the
Mosesian Center for the Arts

Public Transportation: #70 or #70A bus to the School Street stop from
Central Square Station, Red Line



RESILIENCE

2017-2018 SEASON

JIM PETOSA
artistic director

HARRIET SHEETS
managing director

MOSESIAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS
321 Arsenal Street
Watertown, MA 02472
617-923-8487 BOX OFFICE
newrep.org

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
400 Talcott Avenue
Building 131, 2nd Floor
Watertown, MA 02472
617-923-7060 BUSINESS
617-923-7625 FACSIMILE

Accessibility:

Wheelchair Accessible, T-Coil/Hearing Loop,
Large-Print and Braille Programs Available

Season Sponsors:

WGBH
Massachusetts Cultural Council
NCGIT
Branch Line

For Media Inquiries:

Michael Duncan Smith | Marketing & PR Director
617-923-7060 x8205 | michaelsmith@newrep.org

###