



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Friday, February 9, 2018

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

NEW REPERTORY THEATRE AND BOSTON CENTER FOR
AMERICAN PERFORMANCE PRESENT A NATIONAL NEW PLAY
NETWORK ROLLING WORLD PREMIERE OF
RIPE FRENZY

WRITTEN BY JENNIFER BARCLAY
DIRECTED BY BRIDGET KATHLEEN O'LEARY
FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 11, 2018

A BOSTON UNIVERSITY NEW PLAY INITIATIVE PRODUCTION

[WATERTOWN] New Repertory Theatre and Boston Center for American Performance (BCAP) present *Ripe Frenzy*, performed February 24-March 11, 2018 at the Boston University College of Fine Arts Studio ONE, 855 Commonwealth Ave, Boston. Tickets may be purchased by calling the New Rep Box Office at 617-923-8487 or visiting newrep.org.

The press opening will be on Monday, February 26 at 7:30pm.

"In New Rep's Statements of Survival Series, we chose plays that would resonate firmly with the social and political times in which we are now living," says New Rep and BCAP Artistic Director Jim Petosa. "It is sobering to present a work like *Ripe Frenzy* at a time when tragedies, such as the one depicted in the play, have become so normalized in our society. The power behind this new work, however, comes from its ability to examine a shocking event from multiple angles, weaving the story through the lives of three women and their children, and allowing us a unique glimpse at how a community functions in the wake of tragedy. New Rep and Boston Center for American Performance are pleased to partner once again to present this remarkable National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere from playwright Jennifer Barclay."

About RIPE FRENZY

Winner of the National New Play Network's 2016 Smith Prize for Political Theatre, this National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere brings us to Tavitown, New York, where a recent tragedy has rocked the community to its core. Narrator and town historian, Zoe, recounts the days leading up to the incident, as the



high school prepares for the semi-annual production of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*. Jennifer Barclay's *Ripe Frenzy* is a stunning new play about community in the wake of unspeakable devastation.

Ripe Frenzy was commissioned by a grant from the National New Play Network, with funding from The Smith Prize for New Plays.

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.

About BOSTON CENTER FOR AMERICAN PERFORMANCE

Boston Center for American Performance (BCAP) serves as the professional production extension of the Boston University College of Fine Arts School of Theatre. Expanding the definition of the College as an



“artistic home,” BCAP is designed to foster significant interaction between members of the professional performing arts world and the College. BCAP employs professional artists to collaborate directly with student artists in a way that encourages intergenerational learning not only through the forging of strong teacher/student relationships, but through the creation of artistic collaborations between artists of differing levels of experience. It is the College’s conviction that such collaborations will have a profound impact on the College’s educational mission, become a significant source of inspiration for the creation of new work and/or new approaches to existing work, and provide the College with a professional extension of its expanding and diverse aesthetic.

Artistic Bios

REILLY ANSPAUGH (Hadley/Bethany) makes her Boston Center for American Performance and New Repertory Theatre debut. Recent area credits include *Talley & Son*, *Our Town*, and *Mad Forest* (Boston University School of Theatre). An improviser and comedy writer, she can be seen performing improv with Spontaneous Combustion, as well as writing for and performing with HeadGum’s Jake and Amir in their YouTube sketch series. She is a BFA Acting candidate in her final semester at Boston University School of Theatre. She holds a certificate in Classical Acting from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, having studied Shakespeare and Restoration Comedy. In March, Reilly will complete her Senior Acting Thesis. reillyanspauh.com @reillyanspauh.

VERONIKA DUERR* (Zoe) makes her Boston Center for American Performance and New Repertory Theatre debut. Recent credits include *Men On Boats* (SpeakEasy Stage Company); *Going to See the Kid*, *45 Plays for 45 Presidents*, and *Home of the Brave* (Merrimack Repertory Theatre). Regional credits includes *BOB* and *A Life in Five Acts* (GEVA Theatre); *The Tall Girls* and *Spoonlake Blues* (Alliance Theatre); *Twelfth Night* and *Cymbeline* (Atlanta Shakespeare Company); and *Venus in Fur* (Actor’s Express). Veronika received an MFA from Savannah College of Art and Design. Originally from Atlanta, she currently resides in Lowell. Upcoming projects include her one woman show *Glockenspeilbavariasexpartygoodbye* in May (Central Square Theater) and the birth of her daughter in June.

STACY FISCHER* (Miriam) makes her Boston Center for American Performance debut and returns to New Repertory Theatre after performing in *A Christmas Carol*, *Fool For Love*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, and *My Name is Rachel Corrie*. Recent Boston area credits include *Franklin* (Boston Playwrights’ Theatre); *Miss Julie*, *The Kritik*, and *The River* (Harbor Stage Company); *Luna Gale* (Greater Boston Stage Company); and *Necessary Monsters* (SpeakEasy Stage Company). Stacy has performed in numerous theatres in the



Boston area including Central Square Theater, Gloucester Stage, Huntington Theatre Company, Lyric Stage Company, North Shore Music Theatre, and Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater. She is the recipient of an Elliot Norton Award for Best Actress for her role in *Hysteria* (Nora Theatre). Stacy is a graduate of Emerson College, and is a founding member of Harbor Stage Company in Wellfleet, MA.

HENRY B. GARDNER (Matt/Bryan James McNamara) makes his Boston Center for American Performance and New Repertory Theatre debut. Boston credits include *Las Meninas* (Boston University). Off-Broadway credits include *The Last Days of Vincent Van Gogh* (Chernuchin Theatre). Regional credits include *Twelfth Night* (Colonial Theatre, RI); and *Into the Woods* (Oscar Schindler Performing Arts Center, NJ). Henry was born and raised in West Orange, NJ and has trained at the Stella Adler Conservatory in New York City. He currently lives in Boston while he is pursuing a BFA in Acting from Boston University. henrybgardner.com

SAMANTHA RICHERT* (Felicia) makes her Boston Center for American Performance debut and returns to New Repertory Theatre after designing fight choreography for *Scenes from an Adultery*. Boston credits include *Hold These Truths*, *City of Angels*, and *Becky's New Car* (Lyric Stage Company); *Elemeno Pea* (Boston Playwrights' Theatre); *The Tempest* (Actors' Shakespeare Project); *Lucky Stiff* (Greater Boston Stage Company); *Ryan Landry's 'M'* (Huntington Theatre Company); *Jesus Christ It's Christmas!*, and *Snow White and the Seven Bottoms* (Gold Dust Orphans); and *The How and the Why* (Nora Theatre). Samantha is an adjunct faculty member in the Northeastern University Theatre Department, and has taught acting and stage combat workshops for Greater Boston Stage's Young Company, Wheelock Family Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre, Newton North and South High Schools, and Canton High School. She has also choreographed fights for Greater Boston Stage Company, Fresh Ink Theatre, and The Hub Theatre Company. Samantha received her MFA from Brandeis University. samantharichert.com

BRIDGET KATHLEEN O'LEARY (Director/New Rep Associate Artistic Director) joined New Rep in 2008. Most recently, she has directed New Rep's productions of *Blackberry Winter*, *Scenes from an Adultery*, *Muckrakers*, *Pattern of Life*, *Lungs*, *Fully Committed*, *Collected Stories*, *DollHouse*, *boom*, *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*, and *Fool for Love*. Other directing credits include *Grand Concourse* (SpeakEasy Stage Company); *Othello* (Actors' Shakespeare Project); *The Flick* (Gloucester Stage); *Mud Blue Sky* (Bridge Rep); *Reconsidering Hanna(h)* and *The Devil's Teacup* (Boston Playwrights' Theatre); *The Other Place* (Nora Theatre and Underground Railway Theater); and *Recent Tragic Events* and *Aunt Dan and Lemon* (Whistler in the Dark). In 2007, she assisted Artistic Director Wendy C. Goldberg at the National Playwrights' Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center and worked as an assistant on new plays by Rebecca Gilman and



Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa. Before moving to Boston, Bridget worked in Washington, DC with the Olney Theatre Center, Theater Alliance, Cherry Red Productions, Charter Theater, Studio Theatre Second Stage, and Phoenix Theatre DC, of which she was a founding member. She is the Chair of the Literary Committee for the National New Play Network and a member of the New England New Play Alliance. Bridget received her MFA in Directing at Boston University.

JENNIFER BARCLAY (Playwright) is a Chicago-bred actor and playwright. Recently, she relocated to Washington, DC to join the faculty at the University of Maryland. Jennifer is currently a member of Center Stage's inaugural Playwrights Collective, and was previously the 2009-2010 Shank Playwright in Residence at South Coast Repertory. She has been awarded the Samuel Goldwyn Writing Award, Mary Margaret Linn Theatre Award, the Pinter Review Gold Medal Prize for Drama, Best Female Dramatic Solo at the San Francisco Fringe, and the second Prize for the Kennedy Center's 2008 National Science Playwriting Award. Jennifer has been granted playwriting residencies at The Hawthornden International Writers Retreat in Scotland and The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Jennifer's plays have been produced by La Jolla Playhouse, Teatro Vista, Remy Bumppo, The International Theatre of Vienna, Collaboraction); Red Tape, Mary-Arrchie Theatre Company, Downstairs Cabaret, The Source Festival, Looking Glass, Son of Semele, Redcat, Moving Arts, the University of Maryland, the San Francisco Fringe Festival, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and UC San Diego's Baldwin Festival of New Plays. Jennifer has written the screenplay adaptations for *The Human Capacity* and *Freedom, NY*, the original screenplays *The Fontaines*, *Prank*, and *The Right Track*, and the TV pilot *Flesh & Blood*. Jennifer received a BS in Theatre from Northwestern University and MFA in Playwriting from UC San Diego.

RIPE FRENZY at a glance

Companies: New Repertory Theatre and Boston Center for American Performance

New Rep & BCAP Artistic Director: Jim Petosa

New Rep Managing Director: Harriet Sheets

BCAP Managing Director: Liz Mazar Phillips

Production: *Ripe Frenzy*



Boston Center for American Performance

Venue: Studio ONE | Boston University
855 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215

Playwright: Jennifer Barclay

Director: Bridget Kathleen O’Leary

Cast:	Reilly Anspaugh	Hadley/Bethany
	Veronika Duerr*	Zoe
	Stacy Fischer*	Miriam
	Henry B. Gardner	Matt/Bryan James Mcnamara
	Samantha Richert*	Felicia

Production Team:	Afsoon Pajoufar	Scenic Designer
	Annalynn Luu	Costume Designer
	David Orlando	Lighting Designer
	David Reiffel**	Sound Designer
	Jared Mezzocchi**	Projection Designer
	Renee E. Yancey*	Stage Manager
	Eric J. Simon	Assistant Stage Manager

* Denotes member of Actors’ Equity Association (AEA)

** Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829

Performance:	Saturday, February 24 at 8:00pm	Preview
	Sunday, February 25 at 4:00pm	Preview/Talkback
	Monday, February 26 at 7:30pm	Opening
	Thursday, March 1 at 7:30pm	
	Friday, March 2 at 8:00pm	
	Saturday, March 3 at 3:00pm	Talkback
	Saturday, March 3 at 8:00pm	
	Sunday, March 4 at 2:00pm	



Boston Center for American Performance

Wednesday, March 7 at 7:30pm

Talkback

Thursday, March 8 at 7:30pm

Friday, March 9 at 8:00pm

Saturday, March 10 at 3:00pm

Talkback

Saturday, March 10 at 8:00pm

Sunday, March 11 at 2:00pm

Tickets:

\$18-35. 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:

Agganis Arena Parking Garage, 925 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston

More information at agganisarena.com/plan-your-visit/parking

Public Transportation:

Green Line B to Boston University West

57/57A bus inbound to St. Paul Street, outbound to Buick Street

Accessibility:

Wheelchair Accessible

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

###