

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
Tuesday, March 10, 2009  
CONTACT: Patrick Finlon, PR Director  
315-443-2636 or [pjfinlon@syr.edu](mailto:pjfinlon@syr.edu)



*Syracuse University Department of Drama Presents*

### *Boy Gets Girl*

A Contemporary Thriller about Love and Obsession



By Rebecca Gilman  
Directed by Marie Kemp

**ARTHUR STORCH THEATRE at SYRACUSE STAGE**  
Opens: March 20, 2009      Closes: March 29, 2009

(SYRACUSE, NY)—When hard-working magazine journalist Theresa goes on a blind date with Tony, she is a little apprehensive about being out with a total stranger in New York City. Be prepared to feel the walls close in, as infatuation takes a sinister turn towards obsession in *Boy Gets Girl* by Rebecca Gilman, Pulitzer Prize finalist and recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship. Directed by Marie Kemp, Assistant Professor in the Department of Drama, *Boy Gets Girl* will be presented by the Department of Drama in The College of Visual and Performing Arts at Syracuse University, March 20 to March 29. Tickets are available at 315-443-3275 or by visiting <http://vpa.syr.edu/drama>.

*Boy Gets Girl* provides a scary insight into the world of a stalker's victim, exploring how such a situation swiftly consumes one's life. As paranoia and frustration take control of Theresa's orderly world, she sees little hope of eluding Tony's persistence. A suspenseful play with themes of sexism and self-examination, Gilman's *Boy Gets Girl* will call into question society's idea of the romantic pursuit.

"I've always been drawn to plays that both challenge and entertain. Gilman's play is at turns thriller and treatise, thought provoking and disturbing," said Director Marie Kemp. Making a link to today's technologically connected society, Kemp continued: "I am fascinated by and fearful of the social 'norms' of today. Are people so fearful of today's 'techno isolation' that they obsessively use technology to stay connected? Where is the line between connection, obsession and control?"

The inspiration for *Boy Gets Girl* came courtesy of an article in *The New York Times*, about women who were victimized by men who were policemen. The safety tips for stalking victims, as listed in a sidebar, were subsequently interwoven into the play. *Boy Gets Girl* was originally produced by The Goodman Theatre in Chicago on March 13, 2000.

Award-winning playwright Rebecca Gilman has tackled several controversial topics in her plays. "I do like to think of myself as a 'provocateur,' said Gilman in an interview with *Detours* magazine. Acknowledging the heavy nature of her chosen topics, Gilman notes that she subscribes to the Mary Poppins 'spoonful of sugar' philosophy of incorporating humor to lighten the situations. "I think that a lot of the subjects I explore could make for some pretty relentless drama. I think that audiences simply get worn out if they're not given room to breathe. The proper amount of laughter can diffuse the tension in a play and allow the audience to get ready for the next idea or conflict."

*TIME* Magazine hailed *Boy Gets Girl* as the "#1 Play of 2000" and *Variety* called it "a suspenseful tale about the unraveling of a woman's sense of security in the urban jungle. It certainly will touch a tender nerve with anybody who's ever squirmed through a creepy blind date." *American Theatre* declared, "The play is as creepy as it is well-made, by turns funny and frightening and dramatic, and it makes for a suspenseful, thought-provoking evening of theatre."

## SYNOPSIS

As a writer for *The World* magazine in New York, Theresa Bedell finds little time for dating and relationships. When she is set up on a blind date, she hesitantly accepts and is introduced to a slightly awkward computer technician, Tony. Unwittingly accepting a second date, Tony's effusive nature puts Theresa off and she attempts to politely excuse herself. Ignoring the rejection, Tony inundates Theresa with flowers and voicemail messages, and unexpectedly surprises her at work. What begins as innocent flattery quickly escalates into threats to Theresa's personal life as the messages become increasingly aggressive.

Theresa is forced to explain Tony's pursuit of her to her colleagues, who insist she turn to the police. The resulting restraining order only temporarily staves off Tony's advances, leaving Theresa in constant fear, and leading to a frightening, unsettling conclusion.

## PLAYWRIGHT

Rebecca Gilman was born in Trussville, Alabama, attended Middlebury College, is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern College in Birmingham, Alabama, and earned a Master of Fine Arts from the Iowa Playwrights Workshop at the University of Iowa in 1991. Her other plays include *Dollhouse*, *Spinning Into Butter*, *Blue Surge* (all of which premiered at Chicago's Goodman Theatre), and *The Glory of Living*. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Prince Prize for Commissioning New Work, the Roger L. Steven Award from the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays, the *Evening Standard* Award for Most Promising Playwright, and the George Devine Award. She was also named a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2001 for *The Glory of Living*. *Chicago Tribune* Arts Critic Chris Jones has said of Gilman that "she writes plays with such intriguing plots that the audience finds itself hungry for what is going to happen next."

## DIRECTOR

Marie Kemp has been a faculty member in Musical Theatre at SU Drama for 17 years. She has performed and directed in the arenas of musical theatre, opera and cabaret. She delights in having a hand in the growth of the SU Department of Drama, and the young artists entering this amazing, demanding, insane profession.

## CAST

**Neal Andrus** (u/s Les Kennkat) is a senior Acting major from Binghamton, NY. **Carly Augenstein** (Harriet) is a sophomore Musical Theatre major from Marion, OH. **Gabriela Fernandez** (Madeleine Beck) is a transfer sophomore Acting major from San Juan, PR. **Jacob Heimer** (Mercer) is a junior Acting major from Connecticut. **Craig MacDonald** (Les Kennkat) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Drama from Ithaca, NY. **Sarah Neslusan** (Theresa Bedell) is a sophomore Acting major from Webster, MA. **Danny Skinner** (Howard Siegel) is a sophomore Acting major from Dallas, TX. **James Weirich** (Tony) is a junior Acting major from New Jersey.

## TICKETS

Tickets for the Syracuse University Department of Drama's production of *Boy Gets Girl* are \$15 for adults and \$13 for students and seniors. \$7 rush tickets are available at the door, one hour before curtain. March 25 is "Pay What You Can Night" for valid SU ID cardholders (minimum \$1). For tickets and more information, contact the Department of Drama box office at 315-443-3275 or visit <http://vpa.syr.edu/drama>.

## VPA AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

VPA is committed to the education of cultural leaders who will engage and inspire audiences through performance, visual art, design, scholarship and commentary. It provides the tools for self-discovery and risk-taking in an environment that thrives on critical thought and action.

Fact Sheet  
*Syracuse University Department of Drama Presents*

## **Boy Gets Girl**

A Contemporary Thriller about Love and Obsession

By Rebecca Gilman  
Directed by Marie Kemp

**ARTHUR STORCH THEATRE at SYRACUSE STAGE**  
Opens: March 20, 2009                      Closes: March 29, 2009

### **Designers:**

Lauren Levesque (Scenic Designer)  
Jennifer Murray (Costume Designer)  
Christine E. Bernat (Lighting Designer)  
Katherine Walters (Sound Designer)

**Stage Manager:** Stephanie Holmes

### **Cast:**

Neal Andrus (u/s Les Kennkat)  
Carly Augenstein (Harriet)  
Gabriela Fernandez (Madeleine Beck)  
Jacob Heimer (Mercer)  
Craig MacDonald (Les Kennkat)  
Sarah Neslusan (Theresa Bedell)  
Danny Skinner (Howard Siegel)  
James Weirich (Tony)

### **Performances: March 20-29**

March 20 - 8 p.m.  
March 21 - 8 p.m.  
March 22 - 2 p.m.  
March 25 - 8 p.m.  
March 26 - 8 p.m.  
March 27 - 8 p.m.  
March 28 - 2 p.m.  
March 28 - 8 p.m.  
March 29 - 2 p.m.

Ticket are \$15 for adults and \$13 for students and seniors.  
\$7 rush tickets available at the door, one hour before curtain.  
March 25 is "Pay What You Can Night" for valid SU ID holders (minimum \$1).  
For tickets and more information, call 315-443-3275  
or visit <http://vpa.syr.edu/drama>.

###