

THE ORIGINAL NEW YORK CAST
 AMY BRENNEMAN, BETH DIXON,
 VIRGINIA KULL, KELLIE OVERBEY
 AND LEE TERGESEN
 SET FOR THE WEST COAST PREMIERE OF
RAPTURE, BLISTER, BURN
 BY GINA GIONFRIDDO

Production helmed by PETER DuBOIS

*Opening Night - Wednesday, August 21
 in the Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse*

LOS ANGELES, June 19, 2013 – The original New York cast -- **Amy Brenneman** (*Judging Amy, NYPD Blue, Private Practice*), **Beth Dixon**, **Virginia Kull**, **Kellie Overbey** and **Lee Tergesen** (*Monster, Wayne's World, Weird Science*) – are set for the West Coast premiere of ***Rapture, Blister, Burn***, written by Gina Gionfriddo, in the Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse, opening Wednesday, August 21, 2013 (previews begin August 13).

The Geffen Playhouse presents the Playwrights Horizons production of ***Rapture, Blister, Burn*** – directed by Peter DuBois (Artistic Director for the Huntington Theatre Company which just won the 2013 Regional Theatre Tony Award). The comedy was a finalist for the 2012 Pulitzer Prize; playwright Gionfriddo was also a finalist in 2009 for *Becky Shaw*.

Rapture, Blister, Burn tackles feminism's foibles in what *The New York Post* called a "wonderful new show. It's fun!" *The Huffington Post* said it is "piercingly sharp, roaringly funny comedy on the effect of Internet porn on gender politics, the women's movement and way-post-feminism, and the fate of Western civilization." *Variety* said ***Rapture*** is full of "sharp dialogue and smart ideas – lots of fun and full of insights."

Three generations of women share their raucous and refreshing approaches to navigating work, love and family. Rock star academic Catherine envies her friend Gwen who finds her domestic responsibilities less than satisfying. Meanwhile the witty and wry student Avery wonders whether she has more in common with Catherine's aging mother than any of today's modern feminists. This new comedy takes a sharp look at how women, and men, find happiness and conquer disappointment.

Playwright Gionfriddo said about her play, "I don't want to say too much about what happens in this play, but age and generation loom large. My [previous] play, *Becky Shaw*, feels to me a play about years 30-35; it's still possible to launch a career or start a family, but you need to hurry up. ***Rapture, Blister, Burn*** feels like a play about years 40-45. Big, unfulfilled dreams are still possible, but they're statistically less likely. If you're going to take a big leap and remake yourself, you have to do it now."

The New York Times said, "Immensely funny, rich in new perspectives ... heady with sharp-witted dialogue about the particularities of women's experience (there's a joke about pornography and Google maps — believe it or not — that's worth the ticket price alone), ***Rapture*** more largely illuminates how hard it can be to forge both a satisfying career and a fulfilling personal life in an era that seems to demand

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superhuman achievement from everyone. Under the finely honed direction of Peter DuBois, the cast brings Ms. Gionfriddo's characters to fully felt life."

Gina Gionfriddo's other plays include *After Ashley* (Humana Festival and Off Broadway at the Vineyard Theatre) and *US Drag* (Off Broadway by the stageFRAM). She has received an Obie Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, The Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, an Outer Critics Circle Award, The Helen Merrill Award for Emerging Playwrights, and an American Theatre Critics Association/Steinberg citation. She has written for the television dramas *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, *Cold Case*, *Borgia*, and *House of Cards*.

Director Peter DuBois is in his fifth season as Artistic Director at the Huntington Theatre Company, which just won the 2013 Regional Theatre Tony Award. His directing credits there include the world premieres of Evan M. Wiener's *Captors*, Stephen Karam's *Sons of the Prophet*, Bob Glaudini's *Vengeance is the Lord's* and David Grimm's *The Miracle at Naples*, the regional premiere of Gina Gionfriddo's *Becky Shaw* and Craig Lucas' *Prelude to a Kiss*. His West End/London credits include *All New People* with Zach Braff (Duke of York's Theatre) and *Becky Shaw* (Almolda Theatre). His New York credits include *Rapture*, *Blister*, *Burn* (Playwrights Horizons); *Sons of the Prophet* (Roundabout Theatre Company); *Modern Terrorism*, *Becky Shaw*, *Trust* with Sutton Foster, and *All New People* (Second Stage Theatre); *Measure for Pleasure*, *Richard III* with Peter Dinklage, *Morn*, *How Did You Meet the Beatles?* and *Biro* (The Public Theater/NYSF); *Jack Goes Boating* with Philip Seymour Hoffman and *The View From 151st Street* (LAByrnth Theater Company/The Public Theater); and *The Power of Duff* with Greg Kinnear (New York Stage and Film).

Rapture, Blister, Burn begins previews in the Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse on Tuesday, August 13, with the official opening on Wednesday, August 21. Tickets are available in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, via phone at 310-208-5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.com.

The Geffen Playhouse presents the Playwrights Horizons Production of
RAPTURE, BLISTER, BURN

Written by Gina Gionfriddo

Directed by Peter DuBois

Preview Performances: Tuesday, August 13 to Tuesday, August 20, 2013

Opening Night: Wednesday, August 21, 2013

Closing Night: Sunday, September 22, 2013

Cast

Amy Brenneman as *Catherine*

Beth Dixon as *Alice*

Virginia Kull as *Avery*

Kellie Overbey as *Gwen*

Lee Tergesen as *Don*

Performance Schedule

Monday	No performances
Tuesday – Friday	8:00pm
Saturday	3:00pm; 8:00pm
Sunday	2:00pm; 7:00pm

Ticket Info

Ticket prices currently range from \$39 to \$64 for preview performances and from \$39 to \$79 for the regular run. Tickets are available in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, via phone at 310-208-5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.com.

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Biographies

AMY BRENNEMAN (CATHERINE) Theater credits include: Cornerstone Theater (Juliet, Clytemnestra, Natasha in *Three Sisters*), CSC Rep, Lincoln Center, LA Theater Works, South Coast Rep, Yale Rep (title role in Brecht's *St Joan of the Stockyard*) and most recently *Rapture Blister Burn* at Playwright's Horizons where she originated the role of Catherine Croll. Amy created, executive produced, and starred in *Judging Amy* (3 Golden Globe nominations, 3 Emmy nominations, SAG nomination, People's Choice nomination, Producer's Guild nomination, two TV Guide awards). Other TV: *NYPD Blue* (SAG Award, 2 Emmy nominations), *Frasier* (episode won an Emmy award for writing) and most recently starred as Dr. Violet Turner for six seasons on *Private Practice*. Amy wrote and starred in *Mouth Wide Open* at the American Repertory Theater, and directed the documentary *The Way the World Should Be* about special education in America. Films include: *Heat*, *Friends and Neighbors*, *Casper*, *The Jane Austen Book Club*, *Daylight*, *Nine Lives*, *Mother and Child*, the upcoming *Look of Love* opposite Ed Harris and *Words and Pictures* with Juliette Binoche and Clive Owen.

BETH DIXON (ALICE)

Broadway: *Major Barbara*, *Wrong Mountain*, *Royal Family* (w/ Rosemary Harris). Off-B'way: *Wings*, *Vieux Carre*, *the Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Mary Stuart*, *Endpapers*, *Terese Raquin*, *Booth is Back*, *America Dreaming*, *Unbound* and *The Grille Room*. Regional: *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *On Golden Pond*, *Three Tall Women*, *Tartuffe*, *All My Sons*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Vincent in Brixton*, *The Constant Wife*, *Fuddy Meers*, *King Lear*, etc. Film and Television: *Off-Ramp*, *Ballad of the Sad Café*, *Dark Tides*, *Storm of the Century*, *Queen*, *Law & Order*, *Law & Order Criminal Intent* and *Game Change*.

VIRGINIA KULL (AVERY)

Broadway: *The Heiress*, *Man and Boy*, *Dividing the Estate*, *Old Acquaintance*. Off-Broadway: *Rapture Blister Burn*, *Assistance* (Playwrights Horizons); *Sex Lives of Our Parents* (Second Stage); *The Orphans' Home Cycle* (Signature Theatre); *Dividing the Estate* (Primary Stages); *Theophilus North*, *The Breadwinner* (Keen Company). Regional: *The Orphans' Home Cycle*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Dividing the Estate* (Hartford Stage); *A View from the Bridge*, *Death of a Salesman* (Arena Stage); *The Tempest* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *Our Town* (Geva Theatre); *The Dining Room* (Dorset Theatre Festival); *A Doll's House* (NC Stage); *As You Like It* (Dallas Shakespeare Festival). TV: *Boardwalk Empire*, *The Following*, *Nurse Jackie*, *The Good Wife*, *Person of Interest*, *Law & Order SVU*. Training: Meadows School of the Arts at SMU.

KELLIE OVERBEY (GWEN)

Broadway: *The Coast of Utopia*, *Twentieth Century*, *QED*, *Judgment at Nuremberg*, *Present Laughter* and *Buried Child*. Numerous Off-Broadway includes most recently Keen Company's *Lemon Sky*. Notable film & TV: *Sweet and Lowdown*, *Outbreak*, *Unforgettable*, *The Good Wife*, *Law & Order*, *The Job* and *The Stand*. Also a writer, Kellie wrote the screenplay for the film *That's What She Said* (directed by Carrie Preston) which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival 2012 and will be distributed by Phase 4 Films this fall. Plays: *Girl Talk*, *Once Around the Sun* and *My Wife's Coat* (Samuel French).

LEE TERGESEN (DON)

Lee Tergesen will next be seen starring in the Independent Film: *Desert Cathedral*. Tergesen also recently starred in *No One Lives* as well as *The Collection*. Other selected film credits include *Monster* opposite Charlize Theron, *The Forgotten* with Julianne Moore, *Wayne's World*, *Red Tails*, *Shaft*, *Point Break*, *Silver Tongues* and *Helena From The Wedding*. Tergesen has also been very busy in television as a Series Regular on the ABC drama, *Red Widow*. Probably best known for his starring role as Tobias Beecher for 6 seasons on the acclaimed HBO series, *Oz*, he has also starred in HBO's Emmy Award winning mini-series *Generation Kill* and *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. Additional television credits include BBC America's *Copper*, Showtime's *The Big C*, CBS's *Criminal Minds* and *The New Adventures of Old Christine* and Fox's *House*. This coming television season, Tergesen can be seen on the A&E's series, *Longmire*. Tergesen's theatrical credits include *Good Boys and True* at Second Stage Theatre, *The Foreigner* at The Laura Pels Theater, *The Exonerated* at The Bleeker Street Theater and the New York production of *Rapture, Blister, Burn* at Playwrights Horizon.

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GINA GIONFRIDDO (Playwright)

Gina Gionfriddo was a 2012 Pulitzer Prize finalist for *Rapture, Blister, Burn* (commissioned by and premiered at Playwrights Horizons) and a 2009 finalist for *Becky Shaw*, which the Huntington produced in 2010. *Becky Shaw* had its world premiere at Actors Theatre of Louisville's Humana Festival of New American Plays and its New York premiere Off Broadway at Second Stage Theatre. Ms. Gionfriddo's other plays include *After Ashley* (Humana Festival and Off Broadway at the Vineyard Theatre) and *US Drag* (Off Broadway by the stageFRAM). She has received an Obie Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, The Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, an Outer Critics Circle Award, The Helen Merrill Award for Emerging Playwrights, and an American Theatre Critics Association/Steinberg citation. She has written for the television dramas *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, *Cold Case*, *Borgia*, and *House of Cards*. Ms. Gionfriddo has contributed essays on rock music to the literary journal *The Believer* and short fiction to *Canteen*. She attended the MFA playwriting program at Brown University where she studied with Paula Vogel and began her long, happy collaboration with Mr. DuBois. She is currently working on a new play commission from Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles.

PETER DuBOIS (Director)

Peter DuBois is in his fifth season as Artistic Director at the Huntington where his directing credits include the world premieres of Evan M. Wiener's *Captors*, Stephen Karam's *Sons of the Prophet*, Bob Glardini's *Vengeance is the Lord's* and David Grimm's *The Miracle at Naples*, the regional premiere of Gina Gionfriddo's *Becky Shaw* and Craig Lucas' *Prelude to a Kiss*. His West End/London credits include *All New People* with Zach Braff (Duke of York's Theatre) and *Becky Shaw* (Almolda Theatre). His New York credits include *Rapture, Blister, Burn* (Playwrights Horizons); *Sons of the Prophet* (Roundabout Theatre Company); *Modern Terrorism, Becky Shaw, Trust* with Sutton Foster, and *All New People* (Second Stage Theatre); *Measure for Pleasure, Richard III* with Peter Dinklage, *Morn, How Did You Meet the Beatles?* and *Biro* (The Public Theater/NYSF); *Jack Goes Boating* with Philip Seymour Hoffman and *The View From 151st Street* (LAByrnth Theater Company/The Public Theater); and *The Power of Duff* with Greg Kinnear (New York Stage and Film). Regional US and UK credits include productions at American Conservatory Theater, Trinity Repertory Company, Humana Festival of New Plays, Manchester Opera House and Kings Theater Glasgow. Before arriving at the Huntington, he served for five years as associate producer and resident director at The Public Theater, preceded by five as artistic director of the Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, Alaska. Prior to his work at Perseverance, Mr. DuBois lived and worked in the Czech Republic where he co-founded Asylum, a multi-national squat theatre in Prague. His productions have been on the annual top ten lists of *The New York Times*, *Time Out*, *New York Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Newsday*, *Variety*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The Evening Standard*, and *Improper Bostonian*.

ABOUT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

The Geffen Playhouse has been a hub of the Los Angeles theater scene since opening its doors in 1995. Noted for its intimacy and celebrated for its world-renowned mix of classic and contemporary plays, provocative new works and second productions, the Geffen Playhouse continues to present a body of work that has garnered national recognition. Named in honor of entertainment mogul and philanthropist David Geffen, who made the initial donation to the theater, the company was founded by Gilbert Cates, and is currently helmed by Artistic Director Randall Arney, Managing Director Ken Novice and Chairman of the Board Frank Mancuso. Proudly associated with UCLA, the Geffen Playhouse welcomes an audience of more than 130,000 each year, and maintains an extensive education and outreach program, designed to engage young people and the community at large in the arts. For more information, please visit geffenplayhouse.com.

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