

CASTING ANNOUNCED: **NICK GEHLFUSS, SHAWN HATOSY,
AMBER TAMBLYN AND ALICIA WITT** IN
TONY-NOMINATED BEST PLAY ***REASONS TO BE PRETTY***
BY **NEIL LABUTE** AT GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE
DIRECTED BY **RANDALL ARNEY**
JULY 29 TO AUGUST 31 IN THE GIL CATES THEATER

LOS ANGELES (June 26, 2014) – Nick Gehlfuss (*Shameless, The Newsroom*), Shawn Hatosy (*Southland, Reckless*), Amber Tamblyn (*Joan of Arcadia, Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*) and Alicia Witt (*Justified, 88 Minutes*) are cast in the Geffen Playhouse production of ***Reasons to Be Pretty***, nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play (2009).

Helmed by Geffen Playhouse Artistic Director Randall Arney, ***Reasons to Be Pretty*** will be performed in the Gil Cates Theater July 29 to August 31 with an opening night of August 6.

In ***Reasons to Be Pretty***, LaBute takes on our ongoing fixation with beauty and one man's inability to say the right thing – ever. When Greg makes an innocuous, off-handed remark about his girlfriend Steph, it triggers a battle by which their relationship will forever be defined. ***Reasons to Be Pretty*** continues a series that includes *The Shape of Things*, *Fat Pig* (produced at the Geffen in 2006) and *Reasons to Be Happy*, a sequel in which the same four characters appear and which premiered in June 2013 at MCC Theater.

Ben Brantley of *The New York Times* said of LaBute and ***Reasons to Be Pretty***, "... some of the freshest and most illuminating American dialogue to be heard anywhere these days." David Rooney in *Variety* wrote, "This is a thoughtful, mature play ... with a warming dose of compassion. The result is both absorbing and affecting. Always compelling." Michael Kuchwara in the Associated Press said, "... a more mature, more satisfying work about one man's decision to grow up ... his journey to adulthood is well worth your time."

LaBute has been previously represented at the Geffen with *Fat Pig* (2007), *Some Girl(s)* (2008), *Wrecks* (2010), *The Break of Noon* (2011) and *Miss Julie* (2013).

REASONS TO BE PRETTY

Written by Neil LaBute

Directed by Randall Arney

Cast:

Nick Gehlfuss as Kent

Shawn Hatosy as Greg

Amber Tamblyn as Steph

Alicia Witt as Carly

Previews: Tuesday, July 29 – Tuesday, August 5

Opening Night: Wednesday, August 6

Closing Night: Sunday, August 31

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

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

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are \$39-\$79 and are available in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, via phone at 310.208.5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.com.

LOCATION

The Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse
10866 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

NEIL LABUTE

(Playwright)

Theater includes: *Bash: Latter-Day Plays* (Douglas Fairbanks Theatre, Almeida Theatre); *The Shape of Things* (Almeida Theatre, Promenade Theatre); *The Distance from Here* (MCC Theatre, Almeida Theatre); *The Mercy Seat* (MCC Theatre, Almeida Theatre); *Filthy Talk for Troubled Times* (MCC Theatre); *Fat Pig* (MCC Theatre, Trafalgar Studios); *Autobahn* (MCC Theatre); *Some Girl(s)* (Gielgud Theatre, MCC Theatre); *This Is How It Goes* (Donmar Warehouse, The Public Theatre); *Land of the Dead/Helter Skelter* (Ensemble Studio Theatre, The Bush Theatre); *Wrecks* (Everyman Palace Theatre, The Public Theatre, The Bush Theatre); *In A Dark Dark House* (MCC Theatre, Almeida Theatre); *The Break of Noon* (MCC Theatre, Geffen Playhouse); *Reasons to Be Pretty* (MCC Theatre, Almeida Theatre); *In A Forest, Dark and Deep* (Vaudeville Theatre, Profiles Theatre); *The Heart of the Matter* (MCC Theatre); *Woyzeck* – adaptation (Schauspielhaus Zurich); *Things We Said Today* (Profiles Theatre, Sala Beckett); *The Furies/The New Testament/Romance* (59E59); *The Great War* (Ensemble Studio Theatre); *Taming of the Shrew* - additional scenes (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Short Ends* (Open Fist Theatre); *Lovely Head* (Spoleto Festival-Italy, Fringe Festival-Madrid, La Mama); *In the Beginning* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Theatre Row); *Miss Julie* – adaptation (Geffen Playhouse); *Reasons to Be Happy* (MCC Theatre); *Good Luck (In Farsi)* (59E59); *Over The River And Through The Woods* (Planet Connections Theatre Festivity);

Pick One (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Young Vic); *One Day Like This* (American Academy of Dramatic Arts) and upcoming productions of *Here We Go 'Round The Mulberry Bush* (59E59), *The Money Shot* (MCC Theatre) and *The Way We Get By* (Second Stage). Film includes: *In the Company of Men*; *Your Friends & Neighbors*; *Nurse Betty*; *Possession*; *The Shape of Things*; *The Wicker Man*; *Lakeview Terrace*; *Death at A Funeral*; *Some Girl(s)*; *Some Velvet Morning*; *Dirty Weekend*; *Tumble* (short); *After-School Special* (short); *Sexting* (short); *Denise* (short); *Double or Nothing* (short); *Bench Seat* (short); *Sweet Nothings* (short); *BFF* (short); *It's Okay* (short). Television includes: *Bash: Latter-Day Plays* (Showtime); *Full Circle* (Directv); *Ten X Ten* (Directv). Fiction includes: *Seconds of Pleasure* (Faber & Faber).

RANDALL ARNEY

(Director/Artistic Director)

Randall Arney has been a theater professional for over 30 years and has served as Artistic Director of the Geffen Playhouse since 1999. In addition to his artistic programming and oversight at the Geffen, Arney has helmed more than 10 productions for the theater, most recently *Slowgirl*, *American Buffalo*, *Superior Donuts*, *The Female of the Species*, *The Seafarer*, *Speed-the-Plow* and *All My Sons*. Arney is an ensemble member and former Artistic Director of Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre where his directing credits include: *Slowgirl*, *The Seafarer*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Death and the Maiden*, *Curse of the Starving Class*, *Killers* and *The Geography of Luck*, among others. Arney also directed Steppenwolf's world premiere of Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, as well as the subsequent national and international acclaimed productions. Mr. Arney's acting credits with Steppenwolf include *Born Yesterday*, *Ghost in the Machine*, *The Homecoming*, *Frank's Wild Years*, *You Can't Take it with You*, *Fool for Love*, *True West*, *Balm in Gilead* and *Coyote Ugly*. As the Artistic Director for Steppenwolf from 1987 to 1995, he oversaw the creation of a new state-of-the-art theater which is Steppenwolf's current home. Broadway transfers under his leadership include *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, *The Song of Jacob Zulu* (six Tony Award nominations) and *The Grapes of Wrath* (1990 Tony Award, Best Play). Mr. Arney has an MFA degree in Acting from Illinois State University and has taught master classes and workshops at UCLA, Steppenwolf, around the U.S. and in Tokyo.

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, General Manager Behnaz Ataee, Chief Development Officer Regina Miller and Co-Chairs of the Board Martha Henderson and Pamela Robinson Hollander. 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 www.geffenplayhouse.com.

MEDIA CONTACT

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