

RAPTURE, BLISTER, BURN

STARRING THE ORIGINAL NEW YORK CAST OPENS AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

**Written by Gina Gionfriddo and helmed by Peter DuBois;
Running through September 22**

LOS ANGELES, August 22, 2013 – The Geffen Playhouse presents the Playwrights Horizons production of **Rapture, Blister, Burn** featuring 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*) – in the Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse, is now running through September 22, 2013.

The Playwrights Horizon production, in its West Coast premiere, is 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 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*.

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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* (LAByringth Theater Company/The Public Theater); and *The Power of Duff* with Greg Kinnear (New York Stage and Film).

Opening night festivities for *Rapture, Blister, Burn* will be sponsored by Napa Valley Grille, Audi of America, Malibu Family Wines and *Los Angeles* magazine. A post-show reception will be at Napa Valley Grille.

Special events during the run include the Geffen's **Signature Series** for no additional cost to ticket-holders. These evenings include:

Talk Back Tuesdays – August 27 & Sept 3, 10, 17, 2013

Enjoy complimentary Peet's Coffee & Tea before the show in the Gil Cates Theater lobby starting at 7:00 pm and dig deeper into plot, characters and themes with Geffen artists post-performance. It's interactive, intellectual and thought-provoking.

Girls Night Out – August 29, 2013

It's a globally accepted piece of pop-culture that girls just wanna have fun, and this Signature Series was designed with that in mind; although of course, gentlemen are welcome to join as well. This exclusive after-party held at the Geffen Playhouse will welcome back a fashionable favorite of ours, Cayetano Legacy Collection! Shop statement necklaces with an exclusive look at never - before - seen styles plus Krol Vodka signature cocktails, a Purity Organics tasting bar, delicious buffets, Girls Night Out photo booth plus a Pixi Beauty and Luna take-away gift!

Lounge Fridays – Sept 6 & 13, 2013

Ease into your weekend with an enticing cultural happy hour, hosted by LAArtsOnline.com! Enjoy tray-passed OGIO Prosecco, a delicious Italian Prosecco that is both a style of life and the life of the party! Plus sparkling cider & other delicious sparkling beverages in the Gil Cates Theater lobby during this festive, pre-show reception.

Wine Down Sundays – Aug 25 & Sept 1, 8, 15, 22, 2013

Complimentary pre-show wine sampling in the Gil Cates Theater lobby courtesy of Austrian winery Weingut Markus Huber and 100.3 FM The Sound. Huber wines combine unique provenance and character that display unmistakable clarity and fruit styles. So Wine Down Austrian style and ponder the performance with a glass of Gruner Veltliner or Zweigelt from this award winning winery.

For more information in regards to each of these signature evenings please view:
www.geffenplayhouse.com/rbbevents

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

Written by Gina Gionfriddo

Directed by Peter DuBois

Opening Night: Wednesday, August 21, 2013

Closing Night: Sunday, September 22, 2013

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Cast

Amy Brenneman as *Catherine*
 Beth Dixon as *Alice*
 Virginia Kull as *Avery*
 Kellie Overbey as *Gwen*
 Lee Tergesen as *Don*

Performance Schedule

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

Ticket Info

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

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 Playwrights 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, Your Friends and Neighbors, Casper, The Jane Austen Book Club, Daylight, Nine Lives, Mother and Child*, the upcoming *Look of Love* and the upcoming *Words and Pictures* opposite Clive Owen. Amy stars in the new drama *The Leftovers* on HBO.

BETH DIXON (ALICE)

Broadway: *Major Barbara, Wrong Mountain, Royal Family* (w/s Rosemary Harris). Off- Broadway: *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: *Infinitely Polar Bear, Non-Stop, Zero Hour, 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, "Q.E.D.", Judgment at Nuremberg, Present Laughter* and Steppenwolf Theatre Company's *Buried Child*. Numerous off- Broadway includes most recently Page 73's *Sleeping Rough* (Drama Desk nom) and *The Savannah Disputation* (Lortel nomination) Notable film & TV: *30 Rock, Sweet and Lowdown, Outbreak, The Good Wife, Law & Order*,

Unforgettable, *The Job*, *The Stand* and the upcoming *The Girl in the Book*. Also a writer, Kellie's screenplay *That's What She Said* (directed by Carrie Preston) premiered at the Sundance Film Festival 2012 and is available on Netflix. 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 six 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 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 Horizons.

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 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 stageFARM). 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 is currently working on a new play commission from Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles.

PETER DuBOIS (Director)

New York Stage and Film: *The Power of Duff*. Playwrights Horizons: *Rapture, Blister, Burn*. West End/London: *All New People*. Almeida Theatre: *Becky Shaw*. Roundabout Theater Company: *Sons of the Prophet*. Second Stage: *Becky Shaw*, *Trust*, *All New People*. Public Theater/NYSF: *Measure for Pleasure*, *Richard II*, *Mom How Did You Meet the Beatles* and *Biro*. LAByrinth Theater Company/Public Theater: *Jack Goes Boating* and *View From 151st Street*. Also: American Conservatory Theater, Trinity Repertory Company, Humana Festival of New Plays, Manchester Opera House, Kings Theater Glasgow. Associate Producer, Public Theater/ NYSF (2003-2005) Resident Director, Public Theater/NYSF (2005-2008), Artistic Director, Perseverance Theater Company, Juneau, Alaska. (1997-2003). Peter is in his sixth season as the Artistic Director of the Huntington Theatre Company in Boston. Peter's 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 the *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.