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MEDIA GROUP

**WOMEN'S PROJECT THEATER
PRESENTS
THE WORLD PREMIERE OF**



WRITTEN BY PULITZER PRIZE NOMINEE
TANYA BARFIELD

DIRECTED BY TONY AWARD NOMINEE
LEIGH SILVERMAN

STARRING
REBECCA HENDERSON AND RACHAEL HOLMES

**FIVE-WEEK LIMITED ENGAGEMENT
FEBRUARY 17 – MARCH 22, 2015
AT NEW YORK CITY CENTER**

(New York, NY) **Women's Project Theater**, under the leadership of newly-appointed Producing Artistic Director **Lisa McNulty**, is pleased to present the World Premiere of **BRIGHT HALF LIFE** – a new play by Pulitzer Prize nominee **Tanya Barfield** and directed by Tony Award nominee **Leigh Silverman** – in a five-week limited engagement at New York City Center Stage II (131 W. 55th Street) from Tuesday, February 17 to March 22, 2015. Opening night is set for Wednesday, February 25.

Erica meets Vicki. Vicki marries Erica. Lives collide. Rewind. Pause. Fast forward. Starring **Rebecca Henderson** (*Appropriate Behavior*) and **Rachael Holmes** (*Ruined*), **BRIGHT HALF LIFE** is a kaleidoscopic new play about love, skydiving and the infinite moments that make a life together. Completing the creative team are Set Designer **Rachel Hauck** (*This Wide Night*), Costume Designer **Emily Rebholz** (*If/Then*), Lighting Designer **Jen Schriever** (*The Other Josh Cohen*) and Sound Designer **Bart Fasbender** (*Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*).

BRIGHT HALF LIFE marks the third collaboration between Barfield – described by the *Los Angeles Times* as an “unfailingly thought-provoking” playwright with “a vision that is both fearless and humane” – and Silverman, whose work on last season's *Violet* earned Tony Award nominations for Best Direction and Best Musical Revival. The duo previously partnered on the critically acclaimed plays *Blue Door* and *The Call*, the former earning Barfield a nomination for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize. **BRIGHT HALF LIFE** continues WP Theater's mission as the nation's oldest and largest company dedicated to developing, producing and promoting the work of theater artists who identify as women.

Tickets / Performance Schedule

The playing schedule for *Bright Half Life* is as follows: Tuesday- Friday at 7:30PM, Saturday at 2:30PM & 7:30PM, Sunday at 2:30PM. Tickets start at \$60 and can be purchased by calling CityTix at 212-581-1212, by visiting the Box Office at 131 West 55th Street in NYC, or online at WPTheater.org

BIOGRAPHIES

REBECCA HENDERSON (*Erica*) Select theatre: *The Wayside Motor Inn* (Signature); *Your Mother's Copy of the Kama Sutra* (Playwrights Horizons); *Too Much Too Much Too Many* (Roundabout Theatre Company); *The Whale* (Playwrights Horizons); *Le Brea* (Clubbed Thumb); *Red-Handed Otter* (Playwright's Realm); *Autumn Sonata* (Yale Rep); *The Collection* and *A Kind of Alaska* (Atlantic Theater Company); *Roadkill Confidential* (Clubbed Thumb); *The Retributionists* (Playwrights Horizons); *Spin*, *U.S. Drag*, and *Vengeance* (the stageFARM); *bobrauschenbergamerica* (American Repertory Theater). Film and Television: *Mistress America*, *True Story*, *Actresses*, *The Mend*, *Appropriate Behavior*, *Diving Normal*, *Compliance*, *East of Acadia*, *Meskada*, *Little Horses*, *A Lone Star State*, "The Impossibilities", "Wallflowers", "The Good Wife" and "Grand Theft Auto IV & V". MFA, Columbia University.

RACHAEL HOLMES (*Vicki*) just made her Yale Rep debut in the world premiere of *War* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (dir. Lileana Blain-Cruz). Her New York credits include *Ruined* directed by Kate Whoriskey (Manhattan Theatre Club); *Persephone's Cowboy: A Musical* directed by Alex Timbers, *365 Days/365 Plays* with directors Michael Greif, Leigh Silverman, and Hal Brooks (The Public Theater). Regional credits include: *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Broadway World nomination for Best Supporting Actress) directed by Jonathan Moscone (Alley Theatre); *Good People* directed by Kate Whoriskey (Huntington Theatre); *Ruined* (Helen Hayes Award for Best Ensemble) directed by Charles Randolph-Wright (Arena Stage); *The Book Club Play* directed by Molly Smith (Arena Stage); *Richard II* directed by Michael Kahn, *Julius Caesar* directed by David Paul (Shakespeare Theatre); and *Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet* directed by Timothy Douglas (Studio Theatre); She recorded *Lady Macbeth* and *Titania* for the Folger Shakespeare Library's Luminary Shakespeare App. Television: *The Mysteries of Laura*, *The Good Wife*, *Dirt*, as well as national commercials and voice-overs. She received her MFA from NYU and teaches at New Victory Theatre and New York Film Academy. rachael.biz

TANYA BARFIELD (Playwright). Tanya Barfield's *The Call* premiered last spring at Playwrights Horizons in co-production with Primary Stages and was a New York Times Critic's Pick. Her play *Blue Door* (South Coast Rep, Playwrights Horizons) was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Tanya wrote the book for the Theatreworks/USA children's musical, *Civil War: The First Black Regiment* which toured public schools regionally. Other work includes: Oscar-nominated director Alejandro Gonzalez Iñárritu's upcoming TV drama "One Percent"; *Feast* (co-writer, Young Vic/Royal Court) and *Of Equal Measure* (Center Theatre Group), *Chat* (New Dramatists' Playtime Festival), *The Quick* (New York Stage & Film). Short plays include: *Medallion* (WP Theater/Antigone Project), *Foul Play* (Royal Court Theatre, Cultural Center of Brazil), *The Wolves* and *Wanting North* (Guthrie Theatre Lab, named Best 10-Minute Play of 2003). A recipient of a Lilly Award, the inaugural Lilly Award Commission and a Helen Merrill Award, Tanya is a proud alumna of New Dramatists and a member of The Dramatist Guild Council.

LEIGH SILVERMAN (Director). Broadway: *Violet* (Tony nomination); *Chinglish*; *Well*. Off-Broadway: *American Hero* (2ST); *Kung Fu* (Signature Theatre); *The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence* (Playwrights Horizons); *The Call* (Playwrights Horizons); *The Madrid* (MTC); *Golden Child* (Signature Theatre); *No Place to Go* (Public Theater; Two River Theatre); *In the Wake* (Center Theatre Group/Berkeley Repertory Theatre and The Public Theater, Obie Award, Lortel nomination); *Go Back to Where You Are* (Playwrights Horizons, Obie Award); *From Up Here* (MTC, Drama Desk nomination); *Yellow Face* (Center Theatre Group/The Public Theater); *Coraline* (MCC/True Love); *Blue Door* (Playwrights Horizons); *Well* (The Public Theater; Huntington Theatre; ACT); *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* (Second Stage Theatre). Recent regional: *The Heidi Chronicles* (Guthrie Theater); *American Hero* (WTF); *Chinglish* (Goodman Theater, Jeff nomination; West Coast/Hong Kong tour).

WOMEN'S PROJECT THEATRE (WP Theatre) is the nation's oldest and largest theater company dedicated to developing, producing and promoting the work of theater artists who identify as women. WP Theater supports these artists and the world-class, groundbreaking work they create, and provides a platform where women's voices can be heard and celebrated on the American stage throughout their careers.

In service of that important mission, over the past 37 years WP has produced over 600 main stage productions and developmental projects, and published 11 anthologies of plays by women. WP has been the launching pad for many of our nation's most important female theater artists. Eve Ensler, María Irene Fornés, Katori Hall, Pam MacKinnon,

Lynn Nottage, Leigh Silverman and Anna Deveare Smith, among many, many others, all found early artistic homes here. No other producing institution in the country can claim this kind of ongoing history of advocacy and support for women in the theater, and we look ahead to the next generation of female artists who will also begin their careers here.

WP Theater accomplishes its mission through several fundamental programs: the WP Lab, a two-year mentorship and new play development program for women playwrights, directors, and producers; the Playwright In Residence commissioning program; the Developmental series; and the Main Stage series, which features a full season of Off-Broadway productions written and directed by extraordinary theater artists.

LISA McNULTY (Producing Artistic Director, The Women’s Project Theater). Lisa is in her first season as Producing Artistic Director of Women’s Project Theater. Lisa comes to WP from Manhattan Theatre Club, where she served as Artistic Line Producer for eight seasons, working on more than 30 productions both on and off Broadway, including plays by Lynn Nottage, Sarah Treem, Harvey Fierstein, and Tarell Alvin McCraney, among many, many others. Lisa has a long history with WP Theater. She was originally hired by the company’s founder, Julia Miles, as the Literary Manager from 1997-2000, where she dramaturged work by María Irene Fornés, Julie Hébert, and Karen Hartman, among others. In 2004, she returned to WP as its Associate Artistic Director where she served as the company’s casting director and literary manager and again ran WP’s Playwrights Lab. Her independent producing career includes projects with Sarah Ruhl, Todd Almond, and Lucy Thurber, all at I3P. Lisa has also served as the Producing Associate at the McCarter Theatre, acting as Line Producer on McCarter's mainstage, as well as developing McCarter’s commissioned short series.

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