

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**MARYLAND ENSEMBLE THEATRE**

**Presents**

**RAPTURE, BLISTER, BURN**

***Pulitzer Prize Finalist***

**By Gina Gionfriddo**

**April 6th - April 29th, 2018**

**FREDERICK, MD (March 12, 2018) - Maryland Ensemble Theatre (MET)** presents ***Rapture, Blister, Burn***, an edgy, clever comedy that presents an unflinching and often hilarious look at gender politics in the wake of 20th-century feminist ideals. Written by **Gina Gionfriddo** (*Becky Shaw, Law and Order*), *Rapture, Blister, Burn* addresses the lengths some go to in order to achieve that elusive goal of happiness.

After graduate school, former roommates Catherine and Gwen chose polar opposite paths. Catherine built a career as an academic, while Gwen built a home with her husband and children. Decades later, each woman covets the other's life, culminating in an intriguing, yet dangerous, experiment: a life swap. Will the grass really be greener on the other side? *Rapture, Blister Burn* offers varying perspectives of feminist ideals through the voices of its cross-generational cast of female characters. **Director Suzanne Beal** is excited to bring this masterpiece to life. "I am especially thrilled to be directing this timely play," Beal shares. "Not only does it resonate with today's #metoo Movement, but it resonates with me personally. I came of age during the height of the Women's Movement. We were drunk on the possibility of female power. When we woke up, we realized how difficult it would be for women to *have it all*. The play hilariously yet poignantly explores that dilemma."

Suzanne Beal leads our team of **Eric Berninghausen** set design, costume design by **Stephanie Hyder**, **Mike Brown** on lighting design, sound design by **Thom Huenger** and **Lia Seltzer** on props. The production stage manager is **Rachel Smith**, with assistant stage manager **Maria Laird** and dramaturg **Em Perper**.

The cast bringing this play to life includes **Laura Stark** as Catherine, **Gené Fouché** as Gwen, **Ron Ward** as Don, **Madeline Reinhold** as Avery, and **Carol Randolph** as Alice.

*Rapture, Blister, Burn* opens on **Friday, April 6th** and runs through **April 29, every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.** (with **8 p.m.** performances on **Thursdays, April 19th and 26th**) and

**Sundays April 15th, 22nd and 29th at 3 p.m.** Please note: All proceeds from Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> will benefit the Women's Giving Circle. Tickets continue under our special 20th Season Celebration pricing of \$20. Tickets may be purchased by phone at (301) 694-4744, online at marylandensemble.org or in person at the MET box office.

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**RATING/AGE APPROPRIATE/WARNINGS:** Suggested age 15 years and up

**HOW IT BEGAN:** Premiering Off-Broadway at Playwrights Horizons in June 2012, *Rapture*, *Blister*, *Burn* went on to be performed at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, California in August 2013. Within the same year, the play was selected as a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

**WHEN**

Pay-what-you-will Preview on April 5 at 8pm

Opening Night Friday, April 6 at 8pm

Saturday, April 7 at 8pm

Friday, April 13 at 8pm

Saturday, April 14 at 8pm

Sunday, April 15 at 3pm (proceeds will be donated to the Women's Giving Circle)

Thursday, April 19 at 8pm

Friday, April 20 at 8pm

Saturday, April 21 at 8pm

Sunday, April 22 at 3pm

Thursday, April 26 at 8pm

Friday, April 27 at 8pm

Saturday, April 28 at 8pm

Sunday, April 29 at 3pm

**WHERE:** Maryland Ensemble Theatre, 31 W. Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21701

**TICKET PRICES:** All tickets \$20! Special pricing for local college and high school students - call for details.

**BOX OFFICE:** 301-694-4744 or marylandensemble.org or at the MET (Tuesday - Thursday 10am - 3pm, Friday 11am - 3pm and 1 hour before each show.)

**PRODUCTION TEAM**

**DIRECTOR:** Suzanne Beal

**STAGE MANAGER:** Rachel Smith

**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER:** Maria Laird

**SET DESIGN:** Eric Berninghausen

COSTUME DESIGN: Stephanie Hyder

LIGHTING DESIGN: Mike Brown

SOUND DESIGN: Thom Huenger

PROPS: Lia Seltzer

DRAMATURG: Em Perper

**CAST**

Catherine Croll: Laura Stark

Gwen Harper: Gené Fouché

Don Harper: Ron Ward

Avery: Madeline Reinhold

Alice Croll: Carol Randolph

**MARYLAND ENSEMBLE THEATRE MISSION:** Maryland Ensemble Theatre (MET) is dedicated to the creation and production of extraordinary theatre art through the combined voices of a diverse ensemble of professional resident artists who are influential leaders in the community and visionaries in the art of theatre.