



The Wilbury Theatre Group

Wilbury Group opens season with New England premiere of "Best New American Play", *Detroit*

PROVIDENCE, RI- The Wilbury Theatre Group proudly announces the opening of their 2013-14 season as the theatre company in residence at Providence's historic Southside Cultural Center with the **New England premiere of Lisa D'Amour's *Detroit***, an incendiary comedy that takes a timely and hilarious new look at the collapse of America's middle class and the rapidly crumbling economic ladder.

A finalist for the 2012 Pulitzer Prize and the prestigious **Susan Smith Blackburn Award**, and **winner of the 2013 Obie Award for Best New American Play**, *Detroit* was featured on **Top Ten lists** by *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, and *Time Magazine* as among the best new plays of 2012.

"With the city of Detroit continuing to make headlines as the largest municipal bankruptcy in US history, Lisa D'Amour's autopsy of our current American moment couldn't be more timely," says **Wilbury Artistic Director Josh Short**. "D'Amour humanizes the story behind our economy and in the tradition of great playwrights such as Harold Pinter and Edward Albee before her, D'Amour finds the twisted humor within the tragedy, confronting us with the fears and anxieties that come from losing our grip on our increasingly unstable lives of 'quiet desperation'."

Josh Short directs **Melissa Penick, David Rabinow, Alexandra Lawrence***, **David Tessier**, and **Richard Noble** in the play that Charles Isherwood of *The New York Times* says is "**disturbing and bracingly funny, ...a smart, tart critique of the country's fraying social fabric, this scary-funny comedy speaks to the fractious, frightened American moment more perceptively than any play ever seen on a New York stage.**"

True to the Wilbury Group's commitment to providing audiences with a unique theatrical experience of the most cutting-edge productions, director Short and the design team have transformed their historic Broad Street theater into a suburban paradise, with set designer Eugene Mckeown and tech director Justin Carroll overseeing the creation of the backyards of two actual-size homes. Audiences are invited to enter through a lobby that has been converted to the interior of one of the homes into the backyard, with additional design contributing to the full immersion of audiences into the space by lighting designer Steve Mclellan (*Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*), projection/sfx designer Michael Commendatore (*The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*), costume designer Sylvi Re (*The Threepenny Opera*), and Wilbury Group resident sound designer Cyrus Leddy.

***DETROIT* runs September 19, 2013 to October 5, 2013, with performances Thursday thru Saturday at 7:30pm. Sunday September 22 is Pay-What-You-Can. Tickets are \$15-\$20 and are available at (401) 400-7100 or online at www.thewilburygroup.org.**



The Wilbury Theatre Group

DETROIT SYNOPSIS

Recently laid off, Ben starts an e-business from his suburban home while his wife, Mary, keeps up with the Joneses. But when mysterious new neighbors Sharon and Kenny arrive, the façade of their upwardly mobile lives begins to crack. Soon they find themselves increasingly pulled towards their wild new friends-to incendiary effect.

Originally commissioned by Chicago's prestigious **Steppenwolf Theatre** before moving to off-Broadway for a critically acclaimed run starring David Schwimmer and Amy Ryan, this **Pulitzer Prize Finalist** and one of *The New York Times* **top 10 plays of 2012** is an explosive dark comedy that brilliantly captures our economic moment.

ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION

DETROIT by **Lisa D'Amour**

Directed by **Josh Short**

Costume Design by **Sylvi Re**

Sound Design by **Cyrus Leddy**

Lighting Design by **Steve Mclellan**

Set Design by **Eugene Mckeown**

Projection/SFX Design by **Michael Commendatore**

Technical Direction by **Justin Carroll**

Stage Management by **Seth Finkle***

CAST

Mary.....**Melissa Penick**

Ben.....**David Rabinow**

Sharon..**Alexandra Lawrence***

Kenny...**David Tessier**

Frank....**Richard Noble**

**Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*

CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES

September

Thursday, September 19 7:30pm PREVIEW

Friday, September 20 7:30pm PREVIEW

Saturday, September 21 7:30pm PREVIEW

Sunday, September 22 7:30pm PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN

Monday, September 23 7:30pm PRESS OPENING

Thursday, September 26 7:30pm

Friday, September 27 7:30pm

Saturday, September 28 7:30pm



The Wilbury Theatre Group
October
Thursday, October 3 7:30pm
Friday, October 4, 7:30pm
Saturday, October 5 7:30pm

ABOUT *DETROIT* PLAYWRIGHT LISA D'AMOUR

Obie Award-winning playwright Lisa D'Amour is the **Playwright At Large** in the Theatre Arts & Performance Studies dept. at **Brown University in Providence RI**, and one half of PearlDamour, an **OBIE Award-winning** interdisciplinary performance company she runs with Katie Pearl. Lisa's plays have been produced by theaters across the U.S., including the Women's Project, Clubbed Thumb, Theatre of a Two-Headed Calf, New Georges (all in NYC), Salvage Vanguard Theater (Austin, TX), Catastrophic Theatre (Houston, TX), ArtSpot Productions (New Orleans, LA) and Children's Theater Company (Minneapolis, MN). Lisa collaborates on site-specific performances. In 2008, Lisa created a performance for visual artist SWOON's "Swimming Cities of Switchback Sea," a flotilla of six boats created from salvaged materials that navigated the Hudson River, performing in riverfront parks from Troy, NY to New York City. Lisa's play *DETROIT*, originally produced by Steppenwolf Theater Company, **won the 2013 Obie Award for Best New American Play** and was a finalist for both the **Pulitzer Prize for Drama** and the prestigious **Susan Smith Blackburn Prize**. In 2008, she was awarded the **Alpert Award for the Arts** in theater and in 2011 she received the **Steinberg Playwright Award**. Lisa received her MFA in playwriting from the University of Texas at Austin and is a New Dramatists alumni. She lives with her husband, composer Brendan Connelly, in Brooklyn and New Orleans. www.lisadamour.com

ABOUT THE WILBURY THEATRE GROUP

Founded in 2010, The Wilbury Group is an ever-evolving collaboration of artists committed to presenting the public with the highest quality professional theatre. Founded on the belief that quality theatre should be an affordable and accessible means of enrichment to the community; The Wilburys strive to create contemporary works that will simultaneously engage, inspire, and provoke-thought among audiences.

The Wilbury Theatre Group is the official resident theatre company in the historic Trinity Square Theater at the Southside Cultural Center, 393 Broad Street Providence. **Visit us online for more about our 2013-14 season, or find out how you can get involved at www.thewilburygroup.org.**

###