



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2017

CONTACT: Lesley Greene, Lesley@kitchentheatre.org / (607) 272-0403

PHOTOS AND OTHER MEDIA: kitchentheatre.org/media.html#brighthalfife

OPENING: Thursday, March 8, 7:30pm. RSVP to lesley@kitchentheatre.org

A STORY ABOUT LOVE, LIFE, GROWING TOGETHER AND GROWING APART: BRIGHT HALF LIFE BY TANYA BARFIELD CONTINUES THE KITCHEN THEATRE COMPANY SEASON PREVIEWS BEGIN MARCH 4TH

"BRIGHT HALF LIFE, a sixty-five minute chronicle of a deeply committed lesbian relationship, is contemporary as a play could be but the theme is classic and timeless. Legal gay marriage has occupied merely a nanosecond of our existence, but the presentation of the highs and lows of coupledness, as exemplified in this piece, defy the ages."
—*The Huffington Post*

(ITHACA) – Kitchen Theatre Company continues its 2017-2018 Season with the regional premiere of *Bright Half Life* by Tanya Barfield, a love story that follows Erica and Vicky over the course of a nearly five decades long relationship. Performances of *Bright Half Life* begin at the Kitchen Theatre Company in The Percy Browning Performance Space on March 4 and run through March 18.

Erica and Vicky meet as co-workers, but soon they are much more than that to each other. The play takes us through the highs and lows of dating, marriage, and children, and it asks us to think about the way we remember our lives and what it means to be alive and in love. Barfield imbues her characters with a remarkable and universal humanity, inviting us to reflect upon our own relationships as we travel with Erica and Vicky through theirs.

"Bright Half Life is a universal and timeless story about both the gifts and challenges of partnership. After producing an early reading of this play a few years ago, I knew if I ever had my own theatre this would be the type of story I'd want to put on. Vicky and Erica's story is simple, theatrical, poetic, and deeply truthful." says Kitchen Theatre Company's Producing Artistic Director M. Bevin O'Gara.

Vicky is played by **Shannon Tyo**, seen earlier this season as Ginny in *Smart People*. She is joined by another NYC actor, **Jennifer Bareilles**, making her Kitchen Theatre Company debut. **Sara Lampert Hoover**, director of eighteen previous productions at the Kitchen Theatre, directs. Scenic and lighting design is by **Tyler M. Perry**, sound design is by **Sergey Levitskiy**, and costume design is by **Lisa Boquist**. The production stage manager is **Jennifer Schilansky**. **Brendan Komala** is providing technical direction.

Special events for *Bright Half Life* include Pay What You Can Nights on March 4 and 6, Actors' Forum discussions after the show on March 9 and 16, and a Student Mixer on Wednesday March 7. On Sunday, March 11, there will be a special pre-show reception and post-show panel in conjunction with Hospicare & Palliative Care Services. For more events and information, visit kitchentheatre.org.

The Show Sponsor for *Bright Half Life* is PPM HOMES. The Media Sponsor is SYRACUSE NEW TIMES.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

TANYA BARFIELD (*Playwright*): Tanya Barfield's *THE CALL* premiered at Playwrights Horizons in co-production with Primary Stages. Her play *BLUE DOOR* was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and AUDELCO Award and was seen at numerous theaters around the country. Her play *OF EQUAL MEASURE* played at Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles and was nominated for an NAACP Image Award. Short plays include: *MEDALLION* (Women's Project/Antigone Project), *FOUL PLAY* (Royal Court Theatre, Cultural Center Bank of Brazil), *THE WOLVES* and *WANTING NORTH* (Guthrie Theatre Lab, published in: Best 10-Minute Plays of 2003). Tanya wrote the book for the Theatreworks/USA children's musical, *CIVIL WAR: THE FIRST BLACK REGIMENT* which toured public schools around the country. Barfield has been a recipient of a 2013 Lilly Award and the first inaugural Lilly Award Commission, a 2003 Helen Merrill Award for Emerging Playwrights, a 2005 Honorable Mention for the Kesselring Prize for Drama, a 2006 Lark Play Development/NYSCA grant and she has twice been a Finalist for the Princess Grace Award. She is a proud alumna of New Dramatists and a member of The Dramatist Guild Council.

SARA LAMPERT HOOVER (*Director*): I am honored to be a part of M. Bevin O'Gara's first season at KTC. Upcoming: *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* at Bridge Street Theater in Catskill, NY. Past KTC productions: *Throw Pitchfork* by Alexander Thomas, *Precious Nonsense*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Dancing Lessons*, *Black Pearl Sings!* (Kitchen Theatre Co/Geva), *Neat*, *The Tricky Part*, *I Become a Guitar*, *Souvenir* - 2008 SALT Award "Best Summer Production", *The Clean House*, *Tony & The Soprano*, *Yellowman*, *Precious Nonsense*, *The Syringa Tree*, *A Servant of Two Masters*, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, *Pretty Fire*, and *Molly Sweeney*. At Vermont Stage Co: *Three Days of Rain*, *Doubt*, *I Am My Own Wife*. Other production credits: *Falsettos*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Proof*, *4 by Beckett*, *Merton of the Movies*, *Side Man*, *The Insect Comedy*, and *The Gnadiges Fraulein*. Assistant directing credits: *Sight Unseen* (Manhattan Theatre Club, Daniel Sullivan, Director) and *The Dybbuk* (Syracuse Stage, Barbara Damashek, Director). Member: SDC.

TYLER M. PERRY (*Scenic & Lighting Designer*) a NYC-based lighting and scenic designer, received Kitchen Theatre Company's 2013-14 Norma Fire Emerging Artist award. KTC favorites: *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Soup Comes Last*, *I and You*, *Thin Walls*, *The House*, *Venus in Fur*, *Opus*, *Slashes of Light*, *What I Thought I Knew*, *The Motherf**ker with the Hat*, *The Whipping Man*, *Frankie and Johnny in... Lune*, among others. NYC: *Miss Saigon* (2017 revival Assistant); *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* (National Tour, Assistant); *Jessica* (Sanguine Theatre Company); *The Wild Party*, *The Adding Machine*, *A Man of No Importance* (b-side Productions). Regional: *A Doll's House*, *This Verse Business*, *Trick or Treat* (Northern Stage); *25th Annual...Spelling Bee* (Florida Rep); *Avenue Q* (2016 RI BroadwayWorld award winner), *Damn Yankees* (Ocean State Theatre Co.); *Annie*, *The Fantasticks*, *Hairspray*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Hope Summer Repertory Theatre); *Urinetown*, *The 39 Steps*, *Stage Kiss*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, *Into the Woods* (Cider Mill Playhouse). Web & TV: NBC Sports, Fox Sports 1, ABC, Bravo TV, AOPA Live, and Monumental Sports Network. BFA Ithaca College. Member: United Scenic Artists Local 829. tylermperrydesign.com

SERGEY LEVITSKIY (*Sound Design*) is an interdisciplinary artist, composer, and musician based in Ithaca, NY. His theater design involvement began in 2016 when he worked on The Cherry Arts productions of *Bitter Banquet* and *The Snow Queen*. He recently composed original music and sound design for Kitchen Theatre's productions of *Sex with Strangers* and *Throw Pitchfork* and Cherry Arts productions of *Winter Animals*, *Nothing to Do with Love*, *Rule of*

Thumb, and *What Happens Next* (video and sound design). He performed live music for the Cherry Arts' plays in *Four Plays - 100 years* at the Kitchen Theatre and for Cornell's *Locally Grown Dance 2018*.

LISA BOQUIST (*Costume Design*) has designed and coordinated costumes for a number of previous productions at Kitchen Theatre Company, including: *Precious Nonsense*, *Thin Walls*, *A Body of Water*, *Lungs*, *Black Pearl Sings!*, *Heroes*, *The Motherf**ker with the Hat*, *The Whipping Man*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Irma Vep*, *Red Light Winter*, *Broke-ology* and *Waiting For Spring*. Other favorite designs at the Kitchen include *Mary's Wedding*, *Bed and Sofa*, *Last Train To Nibroc*, *I Become A Guitar*, and *Nine Parts Of Desire*. She runs her own studio, where she designs and constructs prototypes, mascots and custom clothing for film and public appearances. She has been the Textiles Coordinator and Design Associate for MacKenzie-Childs, Ltd., and presently runs the costume shop at Cornell University. There she is responsible for training students in all aspects of costume construction, and has designed costumes for: *Picasso At The Lapin Agile*, *Beat Box Bard*, *Bedroom Farce*, and *Drama, Dance And The Disco Of Desire*, among others.

JENNIFER BAREILLES (*Erica*) is thrilled to make her Kitchen Theatre debut with *Bright Half Life*. Favorite productions include *Trial* (THML), *Maybe Tomorrow* (The Poet Acts - New York Fringe Festival winner), *Proof* (Expression Productions, San Francisco) & *Match* (Expression Productions, San Francisco). She can currently be seen in the film *The Light of the Moon*, winner of the Adrienne Shelly Award, in select theaters and on stage weekly at the People's Improv Theater with the House Team "The Studio System."

SHANNON TYO* (*Vicky*) Off-Broadway: *Kentucky*, *Bikeman: A 9/11 Play*, *Dear Edwina*. Favorite regional credits include *The White Snake* (Old Globe, San Diego), *Miss Saigon* (Pioneer Theatre Co, Music Theatre of Wichita, Cape Fear Regional), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Northern Stage, Tuacahn PAC, Pioneer Theatre Co), and *Broadway Bounty Hunter* (Barrington Stage). BFA Syracuse University.

*member, Actors' Equity Association

SPONSORS

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PRODUCTION INFORMATION AND CALENDAR

WHEN

March 4 - 18, 2018

Tuesday preview performance at 7:00 PM
Wednesday & Thursday evening performances at 7:30 PM
Friday & Saturday evenings at 8:00 PM
Sunday matinee performances at 4:00 PM
Thursday matinee performance at 2:00 PM

MARCH 4-MARCH 18

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
  4 4:00pm	5	  6 7:00pm	 7 7:30pm	 8 7:30pm	 9 8:00pm	10 8:00pm
11 4:00pm	12	13	14 7:30pm	15 2pm / 7:30pm	 16 8:00pm	17 8:00pm
18 4:00pm	 PREVIEW  OPENING  ACTORS' FORUM  PAY WHAT YOU CAN					



SPONSOR



MEDIA SPONSOR

Opening: Thursday, March 8, 7:30pm. RSVP to Lesley Greene at lesley@kitchentheatre.org

Pay What You Can Nights: Sunday, March 4 and Tuesday, March 6.

Preview Talkbacks: Led by members of the Kitchen Theatre staff after Preview performances. Free with a ticket to the show.

Actors' Forum: Participating cast members answer questions from the audience. Hosted by Lee Rayburn of WHCU. March 9 and 16 following the 8PM performances.

WHERE

Kitchen Theatre Company
417 W. State/MLK, Jr. St. Ithaca, NY 14850

HOW

Subscriptions Available from \$111

Single Tickets Available from \$15 to \$45. \$20 Student Tickets available at every performance.

- Online at kitchentheatre.org/tickets.html
- By phone at (607) 272-0570
- In person Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM at the Kitchen offices (409 W. State St.) and Saturday-Sunday, 12:00-4:00 PM at the theater (417 W. State St.)

ABOUT THE KITCHEN THEATRE COMPANY

Bold, intimate, engaging... Kitchen Theatre Company (KTC), now in its 27th season, is downtown Ithaca's critically acclaimed and nationally recognized year-round professional theater company, specializing in regional and world premiere plays. KTC's intimate 99-seat theater is in a beautifully renovated, LEED-certified building in the West End neighborhood of downtown Ithaca, New York. KTC is the first not-for-profit recipient of the David R. Strong Memorial "Small Business of the Year" Award from the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce and receives public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, and the Tompkins County Tourism Program. The Kitchen Theatre Company also receives general operating support from the Shubert Foundation.

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