



THEATRE/ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MANIC PIXIE PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH PLAYGROUND
AND SYMMETRY THEATRE COMPANY PREMIERES
KATIE MAY'S *ABOMINABLE*
AT 20TH PLAYGROUND FESTIVAL OF NEW WORKS
JUNE 6-JULY 9, 2016 AT THICK HOUSE, SAN FRANCISCO**

ALL-FESTIVAL PASSES START AT \$80

SAN FRANCISCO, (April 25, 2016) – Manic Pixie Productions in association with PlayGround and Symmetry Theatre Company are proud to present the world premiere of **ABOMINABLE or The Misappropriation of Beverly Onion by Forces Beyond Her Control** by Katie May, June 6-July 9, at Thick House as part of the 20th annual PlayGround Festival of New Works (<http://playground-sf.org/festival>). Previews are June 6 & 7 and Opening is June 8. *Abominable* tells the story of Beverly Onion, the world's loneliest mortician's assistant (and Star Wars fan) who finds herself the subject of a wager between the forces of Fate and Luck. Over the course of her hero's journey, from the basement of Hortaman's Funeral Home to a Star Wars convention to the mountains of Tibet, Beverly tries to reclaim control over her life and seeks to understand her deep connection to the mythical Abominable Snowman. May's *Abominable* was originally commissioned and developed as part of the 2013 PlayGround Festival. It was further developed last October as part of the Lark Playwrights' Week in NYC. Directed by Chloe Bronzan, the premiere features Lisa Morse, Amy Resnick, Nican Robinson, Chad Deverman, Gwen Loeb, and Steven Westdahl (an Equity-approved project). Tickets are \$25-\$45 and All-Festival Passes start at just \$80. For tickets and more information, visit <http://playground-sf.org/abominable>.

Katie May's (Playwright) plays include *Abominable* (PlayGround Commission, Lark Playwrights' Week selection, O'Neill National Playwrights Conference Semi-Finalist), *Manic Pixie Dream Girl* (fringeNYC, A.C.T. Costume Shop), *Black Sheep Gospel* (Great Plains Theater Conference), *A History of Freaks*, among others. Her short play *Rapunzel's Etymology of Zero* (Best of PlayGround Festival, 2011) is being made into an animated short film scheduled for release in spring, 2015. May holds an MFA in Playwriting from Arizona State University.

Chloe Bronzan (Director) is the co-founder and Artistic Director of Symmetry Theatre Company. For Symmetry, she has directed Lauren Gunderson's *Emilie*, Julia Cho's *The Language Archive*, and Diana Amsterdam's *Carnival Round the Central Figure*. Her Bay Area acting credits include: *The Glass Menagerie*, *Turn of the Screw*, and *Lolita Roadtrip* (San Jose Stage Company); Encore Theater's world premiere of Adam Bock's *Thursday; Back of the Throat* (Thick Description/Golden Thread); and *The Women* (Center Rep.).

Jim Kleinmann (Dramaturg/Co-Producer) co-founded PlayGround in 1994 and has served as Artistic Director since 1996. For PlayGround, he has provided artistic and administrative leadership for the past

twenty seasons, developing PlayGround’s unique array of new playwright and new play incubator programs, including Monday Night PlayGround, the Best of PlayGround Festival, the full-length play Commissioning Initiative, the New Play Production Fund, and most recently the PlayGround Film Festival. During his tenure, he has directed more than 150 short plays by some of the Bay Area’s best new playwrights, including Lauren Yee, Geetha Reddy, Aaron Loeb, Trevor Allen, and Garret Jon Groenveld, among others, and has commissioned and developed over 61 full-length plays by these writers. Kleinmann is a veteran arts administrator with more than twenty years of experience, including stints leading Traveling Jewish Theatre, Smuin Ballet and Berkeley Symphony. He is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

Manic Pixie Productions (Producer) premiered Katie May’s *Manic Pixie Dream Girl* at the A.C.T. Costume Shop in 2013 and subsequently at the New York International Fringe Festival. MPP has also developed Katie May’s animated short film, *Rapunzel’s Etymology of Zero*, adapted from and based on May’s short play of the same name, originally developed for the Best of PlayGround.

PlayGround (Co-Producer), the Bay Area’s leading playwright incubator, provides unique development opportunities for the Bay Area’s best new playwrights, including the monthly Monday Night PlayGround staged reading series, [PlayGround Festival of New Works](#), Best of PlayGround, full-length play commissions and support for the production of new plays by local playwrights through the New Play Production Fund and, PlayGround’s newest initiative, the PlayGround Film Festival. To date, PlayGround has supported nearly 200 local playwrights in the development and staging of over 750 original short plays and 61 new full-length plays, including more than eighteen that have since premiered in the Bay Area and around the country. PlayGround alumni have gone on to win local, national and international honors for their short and full-length work, including recognition at the O’Neill National Playwrights Conference, Humana Festival, Sundance Festival, the Lark, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Internationalists Playwriting Prize, and New York International Fringe Festival, among others. More information at <http://PlayGround-sf.org>.

Symmetry Theatre Company’s (Co-Producer) mission is to create professionally produced theatre that will excite, stimulate and challenge our audiences. The plays we choose will always have at least as many female characters as male, and in any given show there will always be at least as many Equity contracts given to women as to men. In addition we will produce plays that acknowledge that women’s stories are as important as men’s and in so doing we will hope to bring about further awareness to the public and the theatre community at large of the need for more “balance on the boards.”

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: Manic Pixie Productions in association with PlayGround and Symmetry Theatre Company present the world premiere of ABOMINABLE by Katie May, directed by Chloe Bronzan, and featuring Lisa Morse, Amy Resnick, Nican Robinson, Chad Deverman, Gwen Loeb, and Steven Westdahl.

WHERE: Thick House , 1695 18th Street, San Francisco, CA

WHEN: June 6-July 9, 2016

Monday, June 6, 8pm (First Preview)

Tuesday, June 7, 8pm (Second Preview)

Wednesday, June 8, 8pm (Press Night/Opening)

Monday, June 20, 8pm

Thursday, June 23, 8pm

Friday, June 24, 8pm

Saturday, June 25, 2pm

Saturday, July 2, 8pm

Sunday, July 3, 2pm

Sunday, July 3, 7pm

Friday, July 8, 8pm

Saturday, July 9, 2pm

Saturday, July 9, 8pm (Closing)

TICKETS: \$25-\$45. All-Festival Passes (including one priority seating ticket to each festival event, including *Abominable*, *Best of PlayGround*, *Value Over Replacement* and more!) start at just \$80. For more information about *Abominable* or to purchase tickets, call (415) 992-6677 or visit <http://playground-sf.org/abominable>. For more information about the PlayGround Festival of New Works, visit www.PlayGround-sf.org/festival.

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