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Denizen Theatre Back In Action With New LaBute Play

By Max Freebern



Neil LaBute Courtesy

NEW PALTZ - As Broadway venues twiddle their thumbs while waiting to reopen doors, the Denizen Theatre is ready to make its post-pandemic debut with the world premiere of Neil LaBute's new play.

The play, titled *True Love Will Always Find You in the End*, grapples with tough subjects of love: passion versus obsession, marriage and divorce. During a pandemic, where social distancing keeps us apart from those we treasure, LaBute's message hits home as his characters learn to find true love in the midst of global chaos.

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“This opening is in direct response to our current times,” said Denizen founder and Producing Artistic Director Harry Lipstein.

Readers may be familiar with LaBute’s 1997 film *In the Company of Men*, which follows two sexist male co-workers who are frustrated with their idea that women have overtaken American society, which is no longer a “man’s world.” In 2009, LaBute was nominated for a Tony award for his play, *Reasons to Be Pretty*. Before Denizen closed its doors in January, LaBute was on the cusp of premiering a different show there, called *If I Needed Someone*, which never came to fruition. Lipstein and LaBute chose to cast the play aside for the time being to make room for his latest work.

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To keep patrons safe, the theater will only host eight guests in pairs of two who will be strategically spaced in a square around the center of the stage. The show will incorporate a unique blend of light and sound, along with a few other surprises for theater visitors.

“It’s a creative response to get people to commune in a safe way,” Lipstein said. “The audience becomes both the observer and the observed.”

LaBute’s play will run from October 8 to 18, with two shows each night, on Thursdays through Saturdays at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday shows will run at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Tickets cost \$28 for general admission, \$24 for seniors, and only \$5 for students. Denizen is also hosting a special fundraiser show for \$75 on October 10, at 8 p.m., which will feature a special guest. Lipstein said that LaBute may make an appearance that day, or someone of comparable artistic caliber.

“We are getting a wonderful outpouring of support, which reinforces how important it is to have the theater in this community,” Lipstein said.

For more information and ticket sales, visit the Denizen Theatre website at denizentheatre.com.

New Paltz • 399 words • 1 photo



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