

Contact: Cathy Taylor
Cathy Taylor Public Relations, Inc.
773-564-9564
cathy@cathytaylorpr.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Profiles Theatre opens 2007-2008 season dedicated to
playwright Neil LaBute with *Some Girl(s)***

Chicago, IL— **Profiles Theatre** opens its 2007-2008 Season, which is devoted to the works of acclaimed playwright and filmmaker **Neil LaBute**, with LaBute's comedy ***Some Girl(s)***, directed by **Artistic Director Joe Jahraus**. The production runs September 10-October 28, 2007, at Profiles Theatre, 4147 N. Broadway. **The press opening is Friday, September 14, 2007, at 8:00 p.m.**

A single man, about to get married and rush off on his honeymoon, embarks on an odyssey across the country to meet up with five ex-girlfriends and "right some wrongs." ***Some Girl(s)*** casts a truthful, hilarious light on a typical young American male as he wanders through the heart of darkness that is himself. The production will include a new scene by LaBute that has never before been seen on an American stage.

Profiles Theatre continues its collaboration with Neil LaBute following the hit Midwest Premieres of ***Fat Pig*** and ***autobahn***. Both ***autobahn*** and ***Fat Pig*** received unanimous critical acclaim and were extended multiple times.

"Neil is the most prolific writer of our generation--a brave artist who continues to explore the ugly truths that lurk beneath the surface of everyday American life. He does this with a unique use of language, intelligence, sophistication and wit unlike any other writer since David Mamet. We are thrilled to have formed this wonderful relationship with Neil and look forward devoting an entire season to telling his stories," says **Profiles' Associate Artistic Director Darrell W. Cox**.

The cast features Associate Artistic Director **Darrell W. Cox** (Guy), **Kristin Collins** (Sam), **Jessie Fisher** (Tyler), **Susan Price** (Lindsay), **Sarra Kaufman** (Bobbi), and **Julie Zarlenga** (Reggie).

The designers are **Courtney O'Neill** (set), **Ron Seeley** (lights), **Myron Elliot, Jr.** (Costumes) and ensemble member **Eric Burgher** (sound). The assistant director is **Benjamin Thiem** and the production stage manager is **Jay Worthington**.

Neil LaBute (playwright) is a writer, director and playwright, received his Master of Fine Arts degree in dramatic writing from New York University and was the recipient of a literary fellowship to study at the Royal court Theatre. His films include: *In the Company of Men* (New York Critics' Circle Award for Best First Feature, Filmmakers' Trophy at the Sundance Film Festival), *Your Friends and Neighbors*, *Nurse Betty*, *Possession*, and *The Shape of Things*, a film adaptation of his play by the same title. His latest film *Wicker Man*, starring Nicolas Cage, was released in September 2006. Plays include: *bash: latter-day plays*, written by LaBute and staged in New York in 1999 and London in 2000, both directed by Joe Mantello; *The Shape of Things* which LaBute wrote and directed for London and New York in 2001; *The Distance From Here*, written by LaBute, which ran at the Almeida Theater in London in spring 2002

(directed by David Leveaux) and in New York in spring 2004 (directed by Michael Greif); and *The Mercy Seat*, written and directed by LaBute in New York in fall 2002. In spring 2004, the MCC Theater performed five of his one-act plays, collectively titled *Autobahn*. MCC staged LaBute's play *Fat Pig*, directed by Jo Bonney, in fall 2004. In spring 2005, his play *This Is How It Goes* premiered at New York's Public Theater, directed by George C. Wolfe. In May of that year, the play debuted at The Donmar Warehouse in London, directed by Moises Kauffman. Also in May 2005, LaBute's play *Some Girl(s)* premiered on London's West End, directed by David Grindley. In November 2005, he directed the premiere of his one-man, one-act play *Wrecks* in Cork, Ireland. In May 2006, *Some Girl(s)* had its New York debut at the Lucille Lortel theater. MCC Theater staged and Jo Bonney directed. In October 2006, LaBute once again directed *Wrecks*, this time for the New York premiere at the Public Theater. In June of 2007, MCC premiered his latest play, *In a Dark Dark House*, directed by Carolyn Cantor. LaBute is the author of several fictional pieces that have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Playboy* among others. A collection of his short stories was published by Grove/Atlantic in October 2004.

Joe Jahraus (director) is the founder and artistic director of Profiles Theatre. Joe most recently directed Profiles' American Premiere of *Apple* by Vern Thiessen and the Midwest Premiere of *Fat Pig* by Neil LaBute, for which he received a Jeff Citation Nomination for Outstanding Director. Prior to that, he directed Profiles' award-winning Midwest Premiere of *Blackbird* by Adam Rapp. Other directing credits with Profiles include, *Babylon Gardens* by Timothy Mason, *The Water Engine* and *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* by David Mamet, and the award-winning Midwest Premiere of *Carnal Knowledge* by Jules Fieffer, among others. As an actor, Joe recently received an After Dark Award for Outstanding Ensemble for his performance in *Merge* as part of Profiles' Midwest Premiere of *autobahn* by Neil LaBute. Appearances in other Profiles' productions include *The Glory of Living*, *Reparation*, *Noise*, *Wonder of the World*, *Snakebit*, *Jump to Cow Heaven*, *Some Voices*, *Dogs Barking*, *Popcorn*, *Stray Dogs*, *Eye of God*, *Paddywack*, *The Baby Dance*, *Geogrpahy of a Horse Dreamer*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *The Water Engine*, *Orphans* and *True Wes*. Joe has designed numerous sets for Profiles including *Stray Dogs*, for which he received a 1999 Jeff Citation nomination for Set Design.

Darrell W. Cox (Guy) was most recently seen as Andy in the American Premiere of *Apple* by Vern Thiessen at Profiles Theatre. Prior to that, he was seen as Tom in the Midwest Premiere of Neil LaBute's *Fat Pig*. Prior to that, he was seen at the Goodman as Charles in *The Shawl* and Robert in *Home* as part of the David Mamet Festival. Darrell has appeared at Steppenwolf in the World Premiere of *Men of Tortuga*, the Midwest Premiere of *Orange Flower Water* (which also traveled to the Galway Arts Festival), and the World Premiere of *Wendall Greene*. He has won three Joseph Jefferson Citations for Principal Actor for his work in Profiles' productions of *Blackbird*, *Some Voices*, and *Eye of God*. In addition, he has received two After Dark Awards for Outstanding Performance for Profiles' productions of *Popcorn* and *Carnal Knowledge*. Darrell's directing credits include Profiles' Midwest Premieres of *autobahn* by Neil LaBute, *The Radiant Abyss* by Angus MacLachlan, and *Wonder of the World* by David Lindsay-Abaire. Appearances in other Profiles' productions include *Reparation*, *Snakebit*, *Jump to Cow Heaven*, *Dogs Barking*, *Babylon Gardens*, *Paddywack*, *The Baby Dance*, *Geography of a Horse Dreamer*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Zara Spook and Other Lures*, *The Twilight Zone: The Series*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *The Water Engine*, *Minor Demons*, *Orphans*, *Battery* and *True West*.

Julie Zarlenga (Reggie) was most recently seen in Profiles' Midwest Premiere of *autobahn* by Neil LaBute. Prior to that, Julie was the stage manager for Profiles' productions of *The Glory of Living* and the Midwest Premiere of *The Radiant Abyss*. As an actress she has also appeared in *Proof* at the Box Theatre, *A View from the Bridge* with the Palindrome Ensemble and *Crimes of the Heart* at the Showcase Theatre. Julie has studied at Profiles Theatre, Actors Center, Victory Gardens, Act One Studios and the IO Theatre.

Kristin Collins (Sam) is making her Profiles Theatre debut. She most recently was seen in *Proof* at Alchemy Theatre, where she is also a company member. Kristin's favorite past productions include *A Few Good Men*, *Boston Marriage* and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*.

Jessie Fisher (Tyler) is making her Profiles Theatre debut. Her most recent credits include *Eleven Rooms of Proust* with Lookingglass Theatre Company, *White Suit Science* with Curious Theatre Branch, Eden in *Feeding the Moonfish* at the Artistic Home, Ophelia in *Hamlet* with the Velvet Willies, and Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing* with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Jessie earned her BFA in theatre performance from the University of Colorado.

Sarra Kaufman (Bobbi) is making her Profiles Theatre debut. She recently graduated from Northwestern University in 2006 with a BS in Theatre and has also studied at the Ward Studio in New York City. Her favorite roles include Lila in *The Promise*, Ophelia in *Hamlet*, Shoba in *The Notice*, and the one woman show *Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*. Sarra has also worked on several independent films since graduation. She is trained as a Mime and as a Long Form Improviser and is a student of the Circus Arts as well.

Susan Price (Lindsay) is making her Profiles Theatre debut. She was most recently seen as Melanie in *Henry Hettinger* at the side project. Other favorite past productions include *Butterflies Are Free*, *The Hairy Ape*, *Summer Brave* and *The Country Girl*. She has been in various commercials and the award-winning short film, *Harvest Days*. Recently she played the wicked stepmother in the independent short film, *Sofia's Balloons*.

Tickets for **Some Girl(s)** are \$15 for previews; \$25 for Thursdays and Sundays; \$30 for Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets are available by phone, (773) 549-1815, or online at www.profilestheatre.org

Performances are Thursdays-Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 7:00 p.m.

The 2007-08 season also includes the comedy/drama ***This is How it Goes***; a collection of short plays titled ***Things We Said Today***; and a fourth Midwest Premiere—his newest play—to be announced.

Profiles Theatre is a not-for-profit professional theatre company founded in 1988 by five Eastern Illinois University alumni and has since been continually producing plays. Profiles brings new works to Chicago that illuminate the determination and resiliency of the human spirit. The company produces World, US and Midwest Premieres by new playwrights, as well as established writers whose work has been seen across the country and around the world. Profiles is particularly drawn to playwrights with a unique narrative style and use of language and the company takes pride in carefully selecting scripts that combine integrity with risk. Profiles Theatre is committed to producing plays that tell a story in a captivating way with productions that complement the ensemble and speak to its audience.

(more/ fact sheet)

Some Girl(s) Fact Sheet

A single man, about to get married and rush off on his honeymoon, embarks on an odyssey across the country to meet up with five ex-girlfriends and “right some wrongs.” ***Some Girls(s)*** casts a truthful, hilarious light on a typical young American male as he wanders through the heart of darkness that is himself. The production will include a new scene by LaBute that has never before been seen on an American stage.

Title: ***Some Girl(s)***
Playwright: **Neil LaBute**
Directed by: **Artistic Director Joe Jahraus**
Featuring: Associate Artistic Director **Darrell W. Cox, Kristin Collins, Jessie Fisher, Susan Price, Sarra Kaufman,** and Company Member **Julie Zarlenga.**

Dates: **Previews:** September 10-13, 2007, at 8:00 p.m.
Press opening: September 14, 2007, at 8:00 p.m.
Regular run: September 15 –October 28, 2007

Schedule: **Thurs-Sat:** 8:00 p.m.
Sundays: 7:00 p.m.
All preview performances begin at 8:00 p.m.

Location: **Profiles Theatre, 4147 N. Broadway**

Ticket prices: Fridays and Saturdays, \$30
Thursdays and Sundays, \$25
Preview performances, \$15
Students and Senior Citizens receive a \$5 discount on all performances Group rates are available.

Box Office: **Buy online at www.profilestheatre.org or call (773) 549-1815**

Notes of Interest:

- **Some Girl(s)** marks the first show in a season dedicated to playwright Neil LaBute.
- The Profiles production includes an additional scene (the equivalent to a DVD extra), written by LaBute between the London and US premieres. This scene has never before been performed on a US stage. The scene is not part of the play, but parts of the extra scene have since been incorporated elsewhere into the script. The scene will be performed after a short intermission.
- Profiles has previously produced two of LaBute’s works, ***autobahn*** and ***Fat Pig***.
- “I’m a lucky man and a happy playwright to have a growing association with Profiles Theatre in Chicago. They are everything that Chicago theatre—more than that, theatre anywhere—should be; masterful artists who rule a small space and have something to say. They are a fearless company and they consistently set the bar higher for themselves and others in the theatrical community. The fact that they plan to spend their upcoming season dealing with my plays is a tribute to both them and myself—Profiles reminds me why I started doing this work in the first place: to wake people up and make a difference.” -- Neil LaBute

###