



# PROFILES THEATRE

Established 1988

4147 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL 60613 / (773) 549-1815  
www.profilestheatre.org / E-Mail: Profilesco@aol.com

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Profiles Theatre continues its Neil LaBute Season**  
**with *Things We Said Today*,**  
**a collection of short plays**  
**including the world premiere of "Persuasion Paper 101"**

Chicago, IL— **Profiles Theatre** continues its 2007-2008 Season devoted to the works of acclaimed playwright and filmmaker **Neil LaBute**, with LaBute's new collection of six short plays entitled, ***Things We Said Today***. The production runs November 12-December 16, 2007, at Profiles Theatre, 4147 N. Broadway. **The press opening is Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at 8:00 p.m.**

Performances of ***Things We Said Today*** are **Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 4:00 p.m.** Due to sold out houses, Profiles has extended its production of ***Some Girl(s)***, which runs concurrently Thursdays through Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 7:00 p.m. through December 16, 2007.

Neil LaBute said this about the collection, "***Things We Said Today*** is an evening of shorter works that I'm very happy to see collected and performed together for the first time. The series of pieces alternate between monologues and scenes and touch on a number of interesting subjects—everything from Little League baseball to serial killers. Due to the nature of "playlets," each of these pieces has had a relatively limited life on stage thus far; it is a real pleasure to have these texts presented to a Chicago audience."

**Profiles' Associate Artistic Director Darrell W. Cox** says, "We're ecstatic to be presenting these short plays for the first time to Chicago audiences. As we move further into our "Season of LaBute" this evening of shorts (including the titular piece "Things We Said Today") affords us an opportunity to tell a number of Neil's stories in one evening. Many of the themes that connect Neil's works are present here along with the unpredictable--that fragile intersect between actions and consequences."

The titular piece of "***Things We Said Today***" received its World Premiere at the Ensemble Studio Theater's annual marathon of short plays in June 2007. **The solo piece, "Persuasion Paper 101" is receiving its World Premiere with this Profiles production.** "Stand-Up" premiered in January 2005 and "Love at Twenty" was produced in December 2005, both for MCC benefits in New York. "Land of the Dead" was first produced in September 2002 as part of the Brave New World Festival in New York. "I Love This Game" was presented in June 2007 as part of Mile Square Theatre's "The 7<sup>th</sup> Inning Stretch" in New Jersey.

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Profiles Theatre continues its collaboration with Neil LaBute following the hit Midwest Premieres of *Some Girl(s)*, *Fat Pig* and *autobahn*. *Some Girl(s)*, which has received excellent reviews and was Jeff Recommended, has been extended through December 16, 2007. Both *autobahn* and *Fat Pig* received unanimous critical acclaim and were also extended multiple times.

Directors of ***Things We Said Today*** include: **Profiles' Associate Artistic Director Darrell W. Cox** (director of Profiles' highly praised Midwest premiere production of *autobahn*), **Carla Russell** (director of Profiles' hit productions of *The Glory of Living* and *Noise*), **Sarah Franklin** (director of Profiles' long-running Midwest Premiere of *Snakebit*), **Benjamin Thiem** (assistant director for Profiles' hit productions of *Some Girl(s)* and *Fat Pig*), **Hans Fleischmann** (Producing Director of Mary-Arrchie Theatre where he directed their acclaimed production of *Buried Child* and **Ian Streicher** (director of Profiles' early hit production of *True West* and resident director of Emerging Artists Theatre in New York).

The ensemble cast features Artistic Director **Joe Jahraus** and company member **Eric Burgher**. Also featured are **Megan Brown**, **Lisa Cordileone**, **Michelle Courvais**, **Todd Lahrman**, **Maggie Liston** and **Greg Wenz**.

The designers are **Ron Seeley** (set and lights), **Lee Kristine Martin** (costumes) and company member **Eric Burgher** (sound). The assistant directors are **Sarra Kaufman** and company member **Julie Zarlenga**. The stage manager is **Eric Ryan Swanson**.

## PLAYWRIGHT

**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.

## DIRECTORS

**DARRELL W. COX** (*Director – "Things We Said Today"*) is the associate artistic director of Profiles Theatre and most recently directed Profiles acclaimed Midwest premiere of *autobahn* by Neil Labute. Mr. Cox has directed numerous productions for Profiles over the years including the Midwest Premieres of *The Radiant Abyss* by Angus MacLachlan and *Wonder of the World* by David Lindsay-Abaire. Other

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directorial credits for Profiles include *The Water Engine*, *How the Other Half Loves* and *The Twilight Zone: The Series*, among others. Mr. Cox will be directing Profiles Midwest Premiere of *This is How it Goes*, opening January 2008.

**HANS FLEISCHMANN (Director – “Persuasion Paper 101”)** serves as the Producing Director for Mary-Arrchie Theatre Co. where he has directed *Buried Child* and *4H Club* and their upcoming production of *The Caretaker*. As an actor Hans has worked with The Goodman Theatre, A Red Orchid Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Madison Repertory Theatre, Walk-About Theatre, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and Chicago Dance Crash. He will soon be appearing with The Griffin Theatre Company in its winter production of *Journey’s End*.

**SARAH FRANKLIN (Director – “Love at Twenty”)** most recently directed Profile’s Midwest Premiere of *Snakebit* by David Marshall Grant. Prior to that, she directed Profiles lauded production of *Stray Dogs*, which received five Jeff Citation Nominations, including one for Franklin for Best Director. Franklin has been living in London for the past three years where directed numerous plays including *The Birthday Party* for the Roundtable Theatre, *The Baby Dance* for Prism Theatre Group, and *Love and Understanding* for the Ubiquitous Theatre Ensemble. Franklin received her MFA in Directing from Boston University. In the Boston area, she directed *The Living* at the Temporary Theatre, *The Glass Menagerie* and *A View From the Bridge* for the Iris Theatre Ensemble and *Goose and TomTom* for the Crossroads Theatre Company.

**CARLA RUSSELL (Director – “Stand-up”)** most recently directed *The Glory of Living* by Rebecca Gilman at Profiles. She first worked with Profiles while staging its acclaimed Midwest Premiere of *Noise* by Alex Jones. Russell recently moved to Chicago from Seattle after directing several acclaimed productions there including, *Saved* by Edward Bond and *The Caretaker* by Harold Pinter for the Gemini Theatre, and *Viewing Habits* by Christopher Keane for Grass Roots Theatre Company. She received her MFA in directing from the University of Pittsburgh, where she directed productions of *The Shape of Things* by Neil LaBute and *Search and Destroy* by Howard Korder.

**IAN STREICHER (Director – “I Love This Game”)** returns to Profiles after a 15 year hiatus. He directed Profiles’ 1991 production of *True West* and its 1992 production of *Charlie the Chicken*. During the early 90s, Ian also worked at Chicago’s Griffin, Mary-Arrchie and Rare Terra Theatres. In the past three years, he’s been busy directing in NYC’s Off-Off Broadway theatres, principally at Emerging Artists Theatre (EAT). Ian is a company member and resident director at EAT.

**BENJAMIN THIEM (Director – “Land of the Dead”)** was the assistant director of *Fat Pig* and *Some Girl(s)* at Profiles. Ben is a company member at TimeLine Theatre, where his credits include producer for *Lillian*, assistant director for *Widower’s Houses*, *Martin Furey’s Shot*, and the remount of *Hannah and Martin*. He also served as dramaturg for *Citrus* with the New Theatre Collective. Ben is a graduate of the Theatre Studies program at The Theatre School at DePaul University.

#### **CAST**

**MEGAN BROWN (Woman - “Land of the Dead”)** is new to Chicago and was most recently seen in *Girl Blue* with the N.U.F.A.N. ensemble. Her favorite past productions include *Robin Hood* with the Missoula Children’s Theatre, *Little Shop Of Horrors*, and *The Lady’s Not For Burning*. Megan earned her BA in theatre from Elmira College, in New York State.

**ERIC BURGHER (Man – “Land of the Dead”)** is a company member of Profiles Theatre, and most recently appeared as Carter in Profiles’ Midwest Premiere of *Fat Pig* by Neil Labute. Prior to that, he received an After Dark Award for Outstanding Ensemble for his performance in *Bench Seat* as part of Profiles’ Midwest Premiere of *autobahn*. Eric’s other Profiles credits include Steve in *The Glory of Living*, Steve Enloe in the Midwest Premiere of *The Radiant Abyss*, and as Dan in the Midwest Premiere of *Noise*. Eric earned his BA in Theatre from Columbia College.

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**LISA CORDILEONE** (*Young Woman – “Perusason Paper 101”*), making her Profiles debut, was most recently seen in *How Now Brown Couch?* at The Theatre Building Chicago. Lisa's favorite past productions include sketch work in *Brazilian Wax Museum* and *Maui* at the Skybox Theatre at Second City. She is currently involved in Second City's Musical Improv Conservatory with class performances in the Skybox Theatre. Lisa earned her BFA at East Carolina University.

**MICHELLE COURVAIS** (*Woman - "Things We Said Today"*) was a long-time student of the Group Theatre's Phoebe Brand in NYC and is a graduate of the School at Steppenwolf in Chicago. Theatre credits include Theresa in *Boy Gets Girl* with Eclipse (Jeff Citation), Prop Thtr's *Rosemary* (Jeff Citation), Lisa in *Private Eyes* (Jeff Nomination), Dolly in *Bailegangaire* with Irish Rep, the world-premieres of *Accidental Rapture* and *Vintage Red and the Dust of the Road* with the late, great Visions & Voices Theatre Company, as well as her second run in *Rosemary* at InterAct Theatre in Philadelphia (Barrymore Nomination & Philadelphia Critics Nomination). Michelle is an Artistic Associate at Chicago Dramatists, can be seen in numerous indie films, and TV credits include *All My Children*, *Another World*, and several commercials.

**JOE JAHRAUS** (*Man - "Things We Said Today"*) was most recently seen in Profiles' Midwest Premiere of *autobahn* by Neil LaBute. Other recent appearances at Profiles include Carl in *The Glory of Living*, Berman in *Reparation* and Matt in *Noise*. Joe received a 1999 Jeff Citation Nomination for Ensemble for his performance as Wells in *Stray Dogs*. He has previously been seen in Profiles' productions of *Wonder of the World*, *Snakebit*, *Jump to Cow Heaven*, *Some Voices*, *Dogs Barking*, *Popcorn*, *Eye of God*, *Paddywack*, *The Baby Dance*, *Geography of a Horse Dreamer*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *The Twilight Zone: The Series*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *The Water Engine*, *Minor Demons*, *Orphans*, *Battery*, and *True West*. Joe's directing credits with Profiles include the the Midwest Premiere of *Some Girl(s)*, the American Premiere of *Apple* and the long-running hit *Fat Pig*, for which he received a Jeff Citation Nomination for Outstanding Director. He also directed the Jeff Citation winning *Blackbird*, *Babylon Gardens*, the Jeff Citation nominated *Carnal Knowledge* and *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*. He also co-directed Profiles' productions of *The Water Engine*, *The Twilight Zone: The Series* and *How the Other Half Loves*.

**TODD LAHRMAN** (*Man - "I Love This Game"*) previously appeared at Profiles in *autobahn* and *The Glory of Living*. He most recently performed in *The Jenkins Farm Project* with Beserra Dance Theater. Other Chicago credits include *Jolly* at the Goodman Theatre, *Communicating Doors* with the Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, *Line* at Oracle Theatre, *The Search for Odysseus* with the Simple Theatre Company, and *The Giver* at Apple Tree Theatre. Todd has also performed at the NYC Fringe Festival with Striding Lion's production of *Billy the Mountain*. Other Striding Lion productions include: *The Giver*, *IL Met by Moonlight*, and *City Beautiful*. Todd attended Ball State University where he studied theater and creative writing. He is a former Airborne Ranger and has studied The Michael Chekhov Acting Technique with Mala Powers and Jack Colvin.

**MAGGIE LISTON** (*Young Woman – “Love at Twenty”*), making her Profiles debut is appearing on a Chicago stage for the first time. Her previous productions include *A Tomb with a View*, *Pippin* and *Annie*. She has studied acting with Second City, Profiles Theatre and TVI Actor's Studio.

**GREG WENZ** (*Man -“Stand Up”*), making his Profiles Theatre debut, recently appeared as Jerry in *Zoo Story* with Shedding Skin, *Cycle 7* with Rooms Productions, *Embedded* with Prop Thtr, *Suitcase* with Appetite Theater and *How to Act Around Cops* with Open Cage Ensemble. Greg earned his BFA in performance from Ohio University.

**Tickets** for *Things We Said Today* are \$15 for previews and \$25 for all regular performances. Tickets are available by phone, (773) 549-1815, or online at [www.profilestheatre.org](http://www.profilestheatre.org)

Performances are Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

The 2007-08 season also includes the comedy/drama *This is How it Goes* and another Midwest Premiere—his newest play—to be announced soon.

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## Things We Said Today / Facts

**Things We Said Today** is a provocative collection of six short works by Neil LaBute, who brings to the stage his cutting humor and compelling take on the shadowy terrain of the human heart.

Title: **Things We Said Today**  
Playwright: **Neil LaBute**  
Directed by: **Associate Artistic Director Darrell W. Cox, Sarah Franklin, Hans Fleischmann, Benjamin Thiem, Carla Russell and Ian Streicher**  
Featuring: **Artistic Director Joe Jahraus and Company Member Eric Burgher**

Dates: **Previews:** November 12 and 13, 2007, at 8:00 p.m.  
**Press opening:** November 14, 2007, at 8:00 p.m.  
**Regular run:** November 14 –December 16, 2007

Schedule: **Wednesdays:** 8:00 p.m.  
**Sat-Sun:** 4:00 p.m.  
All preview performances begin at 8:00 p.m.

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

Ticket prices: Wednesdays, Saturdays 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](http://www.profilestheatre.org) or call (773) 549-1815**

The evening includes:

- **“Stand-Up,”** in which an amateur comic struggles with his new routine, was performed previously for a benefit for Manhattan Theatre Club in January 2005.
- **“Land of the Dead”** follows a regular couple’s extreme responses to sudden changes in their lives. “Land of the Dead” was first seen at the commemorative program “Brave New World,” a three-day marathon of readings and performances about the aftermath of September 11.
- **“Love at Twenty,”** about the reverberations set off by a college student’s affair with her married professor, was performed for a December 2005 benefit for Manhattan Theatre Club.
- The solo piece **“Persuasion Paper 101”** features a young girl presenting her homework assignment on the problem with guys. “Persuasion Paper 101” is receiving its World Premiere with this Profiles production.
- **“I Love This Game”** is a solo piece about a father’s lost perspective on his son’s Little League game. It was first presented in June 2007 as part of Mile Square Theatre’s “The 7<sup>th</sup> Inning Stretch” in New Jersey.
- The titular piece, **“Things We Said Today,”** which received its World Premiere at the Ensemble Studio Theater’s annual marathon of short plays in June 2007, follows a married couple’s reckoning in a mall food court.
- This is the first time the pieces have been performed together as a collection. This marks the second productions of each short play, except for **“Persuasion Paper 101,”** which is receiving its World Premiere.

**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.