

Profile Theatre Presents

THE CALL

By

TANYA BARFIELD

Directed by

GEMMA WHELAN**

CAST

Annie..... Amanda Soden*
PeterTom Walton
Rebecca Anya Pearson
Drea Chantal DeGroat*
Alemu Jasper Howard

DESIGNERS & PRODUCTION

Scenic Design Megan Wilkerson+
Lighting Design Ruth Nardecchia
Costume Design Sara Ludeman
Sound Design Sharath Patel
Properties Design Emily Wilken
Stage Manager D Westerholm*
Production Assistant Jake Turner

RUN TIME IS APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS WITH ONE FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION.

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, and Primary Stages produced the world premiere of *The Call* Off-Broadway in 2013.

The Call is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

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*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the professional union of actors and stage managers.



The Director is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

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+The Designers at this theatre are represented by United Scenic Artists • Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES BY GEMMA WHELAN

“You want a child from Africa but you do not want Africa.” –Alemu, *The Call*

In *The Call*, Annie and Peter, and Rebecca and Drea are friends who have become a chosen family. They have fun together, enjoy the familiarity and camaraderie of their shared history, and occasionally butt up against secrets and uncomfortable subjects. They are influenced by the wisdom of other continents such as Africa, and India, and by their own histories and journeys, missteps and triumphs. Each of the characters, like each of us, is in the process of composing their own lives, trying to live as fully and authentically as they can.

“We make the decision and a little person is in your life, and you can’t fail,” Annie says of her and Peter’s de-

cision to adopt a child. This reminds me of the Samuel Beckett quote, “Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again.”

The Call is a play about friendship and family. It is also about taking risks, leaps into the unknown, finding the everyday courage to live life in such a way that you won’t look back with regret.

Fail again. Fail better.” It might sound bleak, but it embraces the complexity of living, of moving beyond our fail-

ures, of making hard choices, of stepping up and accepting the messiness. Adoption is filled with unknowns. The child comes with a culture, a past, a genetic history, the internalized trauma of loss and separation, and depending on the circumstances, a history of love and caring, or of abuse, and/or neglect. The child also comes with their own life force and promise, and completes a family circle for themselves and the new parent(s).

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ABOUT TANYA BARFIELD



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.

“

Having an entire season devoted to my own work is a true gift—and the fact that Profile Theatre is in my home town makes it all the more magical.

–Tanya Barfield

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THE UNIQUE MISSION OF PROFILE THEATRE

Profile Theatre's mission is to produce a season of plays devoted to a single playwright, engaging with our community to explore that writer's vision and influence on theatre and the world at large. We do this through large-scale professional productions, In Dialogue Series readings and lectures, and our vibrant education programs.

The dramatists we profile have something significant to say about humankind in all its variety, complexity, humor, tragedy, anger and hope. They cast a light on the desires and demons that drive us to seek a better understanding of who we are, where we are going and why.

As Profile moves into our third decade, we are excited to explore our mission by looking forward, featuring the work of contemporary playwrights who are creating the canon of tomorrow.

With our 2016 season, Profile is thrilled to embark on our three year Initiative for Diversity and Inclusion. Through this initiative, we are intentionally considering playwrights whom, traditionally, our industry has not supported. We have committed to three years of presenting the work of female playwrights and/or playwrights of color. Currently, there is energized and passionate conversation happening in theatres throughout the country around the ideas of diversity and inclusion. With this initiative, Profile places itself not only at the center of that conversation, but also on the leading edge of change.



Dana Milican and Don Kenneth Mason in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*.
Photo by David Kinder.

In Dialogue Series

Join us for *In Dialogue*, our series of lectures, pre-show talks, post-show discussions and concerts, as well as community events and other exciting programming, all of which explore our featured writer's world. Through our In Dialogue programming, we extend the event of a Profile production beyond the bounds of what is onstage, bringing the community together for exciting, provocative and inspiring experiences.

2016 IN DIALOGUE BOOK CLUB

Over the course of the season we will explore the worlds of our main stage productions by reading a variety of different works, then gathering together and engaging in lively discussion over wine and refreshments. Learn more at profiletheatre.org.

2016 Titles and Dates

FEBRUARY 9, 2016

Love in the Driest Season: A Family Memoir
by Neely Tucker

MAY 3, 2016

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

AUGUST 9, 2016

The Book of Other People by Zadie Smith

NOVEMBER 1, 2016

The Essential Dykes to Watch Out For
by Alison Bechdel

See the billboard in the lobby for a listing of all In Dialogue events around performances of *The Call*.

For more details visit profiletheatre.org.

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM



CHANTAL DEGROAT
Drea

Chantal is excited to work with Profile Theatre, and honored to be a part of this Barfield season! She is a Portland-based actress represented by Arthouse Talent. Chantal trained with Shakespeare and Company (Lenox, MA) and Emerson College (Boston, MA), where she studied closely under Kristin Linklater. She is also proud to be Third Rail Repertory's newest company member. Local Companies: Portland Center Stage, Artists Repertory Theatre, Badass Theatre, Portland Playhouse, NWCTC, Clackamas Repertory, Jewish Theatre Collaborative and Chehalem Players Rep. Chantal performs and teaches with The August Wilson Red Door Project, PlayWrite, Inc, Portland Center Stage (Shakespeare outreach program), and abroad at Exeter University in England. chantaldegroat.com



JASPER HOWARD
Alemu

This is Jasper's second production with Profile Theatre, the first being a staged reading of *A Lesson From Aloes*.

Jasper is very excited and humbled to be apart of the wonderful cast and crew that has been assembled to bring to you *The Call*. He has been in numerous television commercials, print ads and has appeared in television shows, such as *Grimm* and *Leverage*, since moving to Portland from Ohio seven years ago.



ANYA PEARSON
Rebecca

Anya is delighted to be returning to Profile having previously been seen in *Nothing But The Truth* and *Knowing*

Cairo. She is an actress, playwright, screenwriter, essayist, poet and writing coach. A graduate of the prestigious William Esper Studio in New York City, she is thrilled to be making Portland her home again. After *The Call*, she can next be seen in *Streetcar Named Desire* at Portland Center Stage. She is the author of the play,

Made to Dance in Burning Buildings, a fusion of poetic text and violent and visceral contemporary dance, which poses the question: how do we heal from trauma? She believes that through the transformative power of performance and literary arts, she will be able to effect meaningful change in the world.



AMANDA SODEN
Annie

Amanda is delighted to be treading the boards at Profile Theatre once again. Previously, Amanda had the privilege of playing Elsa in *The Road to Mecca* (Athol Fugard season), Holly in *Uncommon Women & Others* and Pfeni in *The Sisters Rosensweig* (Wendy Wasserstein season). Favorite local credits include: *The Hen Night Epiphany* (Corrib Theatre), *Foxfinder* (Artists Rep), *Snow Falling on Cedars*, *Misalliance* (Portland Center Stage), *Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act* (Shaking The Tree Theatre), and *The Love of the Nightingale* (Theatre Vertigo). Amanda has also had the opportunity to create ensemble devised work with Sojourn Theatre and Ping Chong + Company.



TOM WALTON
Peter

Tom is thrilled and humbled to be returning to Profile Theatre to work with such a talented cast and crew.

Previous Profile credits include HE/Johnny in the staged reading of *Stage Kiss*, Gideon Le Roux in the staged reading of *Playland* and Jed in *The 5th of July*. Tom has been active in the Portland acting community since 2001 and has been seen in many theaters, independent films and television in that time. Most notably is his 14 year membership with the Northwest Classical Theatre Company.

GEMMA WHELAN
Director

Gemma is the founding Artistic Director of Corrib Theatre. For Corrib she has directed *Little Gem*, *The Hen Night Epiphany*, *St. Nicholas*, *A Night in November* (Drammy nomination for

Direction). In Portland: *Broomstick*, *Ithaka* for Artists Repertory Theatre, *Words that Burn* for Los Portenos, and at Boom Arts, and JAW. She was the founding Artistic Director of Wilde Irish Productions in the Bay Area. For Wilde Irish: *The Importance of Being Oscar* (Dean Goodman Award for Direction), U.S. premiere of *Ariel* by Marina Carr, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, *Eclipsed* and *Endgame*. Other favorites: *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove* (Cable Car Nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Directing), *Vita and Virginia* (Curve Magazine, Best Theatre of the Year Award), for Theatre Rhinoceros; and *Equus* (Little Theatre Nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Directing). BA Trinity College Dublin, MA UC Berkeley, MFA San Francisco State University. Member SDC (Stage Directors and Choreographers Society). www.gemmawhelan.com

MEGAN WILKERSON
Scenic Design

Megan is a resident artist at Artists Repertory Theatre, the Resident scenic designer for Bag&Baggage Productions, and a member of the Rivendell Theatre Ensemble. Her design work has been recognized by *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Oregonian*, *The Austin Critics Circle* and *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

Regionally Megan has worked with The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, The New Conservatory, Renaissance Theaterworks, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Broadway Rose, Teatro Milagro, deFunkT Theatre, Theatre Vertigo, Northwest Classical Theatre, Next Act Theatre, Skylight Opera, First Stage Children's Theatre, Michigan Opera Theatre, Pittsburgh Public, Portland Center Stage and the Portland Opera. She is a member of United Scenic Artists and holds an MFA from The University of Texas at Austin.

RUTH NARDECCHIA
Lighting Design

Ruth happily returns to Profile Theatre's design team. Past lighting designs include *Blood Knot* at Profile, *Cinderella* at Northwest Children's Theater and *Christmas Unplugged*

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

at Artists Repertory. She thanks Profile for another opportunity of collaborative art.

SARA LUDEMAN

Costume Design

Born and raised in Portland, Oregon, Sara graduated from Portland State with a BA in History in 2012. She began working with Profile that same year through their intern program and has since designed the *Festival of One Acts* in 2014, *True West* in 2014, and *Passion Play* in 2015. In addition to her Main Stage work, she assists with Profiles outreach program in the public schools teaching kids about the craft of costume design. Additional credits include *Once on this Island* at Enlightened Theatrics in 2012, *High School Musical* Enlightened Theatrics 2013, and *American Night* at Milagro 2014. Outside of costume design, she works as a production glass blower and moonlights as a props designer, credits include *Eyes for Consuela* (Profile 2014) and upcoming *Peter and the Star Catcher* at Portland Playhouse in 2016.

SHARATH PATEL

Sound Design

Portland credits include *In the Next Room*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *True West*, *Buried Child*, *The Road to Mecca*, *Blood Knot* (Profile Theatre), *The Price*, *Tribes*, *The Mother F**ker with the Hat* (Artists Rep), *The Piano Lesson*, *The Brother/Sister Plays*, *Jitney* (Portland Playhouse), *Waiting for Godot*, *Mary Stewart*, *Wait Until Dark* (Northwest Classical), *American Night*, *Oedipus el Rey* (Miracle Theatre), *A Pigeon and A Boy* (Jewish Theater Collaborative). Further credits include The Westside Theater, La MaMa, Playwrights Horizons, Theater Row, PS122, Columbia, Yale, Harvard, India, France and England. Sharath earned his MFA in Sound Design from the Yale School of Drama. He is a Resident Artist at Artists Repertory Theater and a Member of the Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association.

EMILY WILKEN

Properties Design

A graduate of Illinois State University's Scenic Design Program, Emily works with a variety of materials and

with various age groups, musicians, organizations and budgets. She enjoyed three seasons in Illinois Shakespeare Festival Prop Shop, has led mural and public arts projects, and has spearheaded puppetry workshops at public schools, libraries and the Children's Discovery Museum. *The Call* being her first show with Profile, Emily's worked with several companies in the area including Northwest Classical Theatre Company, Artists Repertory Theatre, Lincoln High School, Valley Repertory Theatre and Enlightened Theatrics.
www.emilywilken.com

D WESTERHOLM

Stage Manager

Portland Stage Management credits: *Orlando*; *Fall Festival: Passion Play Parts 1+2*; *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play*; *Dead Man's Cell Phone*; *True West*; *Fall Festival: Festival of One Acts*; *Buried Child*; *Eyes for Consuela*; *The Road to Mecca* (Profile Theatre); *The Price* (Artists Rep); *The Light in the Piazza* (Portland Playhouse). Oregon Shakespeare Festival, non-equity Assistant Stage Manager: *The Unfortunates* (2013), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2013), *Troilus and Cressida* (2012), *The Very Merry Wives of Windsor*, Iowa (2012), *Julius Caesar* (2011), *The African Company Presents Richard III* (2011). BA in Theatre Management from Western Washington University, MFA in Stage Management from Columbia University. Active member of Actor's Equity Association

JAKE TURNER

Production Assistant

Jake is a performer, stage manager and creator. His previous works include co-stage managing *Far Away* at Portland State University, stage managing *Children of Eden* with Alaska Arts Southeast, and assistant stage managing *Passion Play* with Profile Theatre and *Shaking the Tree* Theatre. He has performed onstage in shows such as *Dead Man's Cell Phone* at Profile and *Romeo and Juliet* at Portland State University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in theater.



Profile Theatre was founded in 1997 with the mission of celebrating the playwright's contribution to live theatre. Profile's mission is to produce a season of plays devoted to a single playwright, engaging with our community to explore that writer's vision and influence on theatre and the world at large.

2016 Tanya Barfield

2015 Sarah Ruhl

2014 Sam Shepard

2012–2013 Athol Fugard

2011–2012 15th Anniversary Season

2010–2011 Lee Blessing

2009–2010 Horton Foote

2008–2009 Neil Simon

2007–2008 John Guare

2006–2007 Wendy Wasserstein

2005–2006 Lanford Wilson

2004–2005 Terrence McNally

2003–2004 Romulus Linney

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UP NEXT



BLUE DOOR

By Tanya Barfield

Directed by Bobby Bermea

APRIL 7, 2016 – APRIL 24, 2016

Tickets at profiletheatre.org | 503.242.0080

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Contact Len & Susan Magazine at lam@realestats.net

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