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HOT 'N' THROBBING

WRITTEN BY
PAULA VOGEL

DIRECTED BY
JAMIE M. REA



AVAILABLE AT PROFILETHEATRE.ORG ON NOVEMBER 4TH

Profile Theatre presents Paula Vogel's *Hot 'N' Throbbing* as part of their Fall 2020 ON AIR programming

A Tragi-Comedy about A Feminist Erotica Author Touched By Domestic Violence

"...a theatrical 911 call that no serious theatergoer can afford to ignore."

-Baltimore Sun

PORTLAND, OREGON. October 19, 2020- On November 4, Profile Theatre will release the second audio play in their 2020-2021 season. Paula Vogel's [*Hot 'N' Throbbing*](#) is the story of a single mom who writes feminist erotic films. As she balances the demands of her family with the creative process, the language of porn awkwardly (and sometimes hilariously) commingles with parenting. The real obscenity emerges when her estranged husband arrives on the scene.

Twenty-seven years after Paula Vogel started workshopping *Hot 'N' Throbbing* (which originally had the subtitle "Because Obscenity Begins at Home") the play is timely. During the pandemic cases of domestic violence have skyrocketed across the world ([New England Journal of Medicine](#), September 16, 2020). Vogel does not shy away from the complexity of unhealthy relationships. While Charlene has fought for years to claim her own domestic space and nourish her own creative voice and entrepreneurial spirit as a feminist screenplay writer and producer, in a misogynistic culture the ground she has gained proves tenuous. *Hot 'N' Throbbing* raises

pressing questions: What does it mean to create women-centered erotica in which women appear as the subjects and not the objects? What is obscenity in a culture where so many women are not safe in their own homes? What will it take to extinguish the persistent violence against (cis- and transgender) women?

Profile's production is directed by Portland standout and theatrical polymath **Jamie M. Rea** who brings a history of work on projects that address sexual violence against women. (Most recently, she directed Anya Pearson's *Made to Dance in Burning Buildings*). Rea says, "I love **Hot 'N' Throbbing** because it works against a tendency in our culture to *otherize* couples who experience domestic violence. In fact, that violence is amongst us, in us and between us. The isolation that domestic violence creates, in all its forms, is literally deadly. There is nothing more inspiring than survivors stepping fully back into their bodies and taking up their own space."

While **Hot 'N' Throbbing**'s story of violence is all too familiar, Vogel's telling is complex and many-layered. Ever the stylist, the play moves from domestic situation comedy to full-blown horror. In addition to the family of four at the center, there are dozens of other voices in circulation. Vogel dramatizes Charlene's writing process so that scenes and snatches of dialogue from Charlene's erotic screenplays (voiced by two other performers) also have a presence in Charlene's living room and get spliced into conversations with her bookworm son and her irreverent daughter. Rea, who has a background in sound engineering, will work with Sound Designer Casi Pacilio to capture these layers in audio. "We are working to create a sense that every character in the play is actually a voice in Charlene's head. Even her children are ultimately a part of her."

Hot 'n' Throbbing, by **Paula Vogel** is directed by **Jamie M. Rea** (founding co-artistic director of The Beirut Wedding World Theatre Project). **Ayana Berkshire** (who plays Charlene) was last seen in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at Portland Center Stage and *The Revolutionists* at Artists Repertory Theatre. **Bobby Bermea**, who plays her ex-husband, is founding co-artistic director of The Beirut Wedding World Theatre Project with Jamie M. Rea and recently starred in *Sweat* at Profile Theatre and *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train*. Their kids are played by **Treasure Lunan** (last heard in Profile's *Mlima's Tale* and featured in Portland Center Stage's *Miss Bennett: Christmas At Pemberly*) and **Zak Westfall** (*The Bacchae*- Shaking the Tree Theatre). The role of "V.O." is played by **Eleanor O'Brien** (Founder of Dance Naked, a sex positive theatre company, *Well* and *Let Me Down Easy*- Profile Theatre). "Voice Over" is played by voice and film actor **Eric Newsome**. Sound design will be by **Casi Pacilio** (Former Resident Sound Designer at Portland Center Stage) with compositions and vocal work by Musician **Lolo Steele**.

Profile Theatre Artistic Director Josh Hecht notes, "One of the pleasures of Profile's mission is the ability to dive deep into a dramatist's body of work. Already, our Vogel season has presented *The Baltimore Waltz*, the first play to bring Vogel national attention, and *Indecent*, her most recent hit that has played stages all across the country. With **Hot 'N' Throbbing**, we get more evidence of Vogel's incredible prowess as a dramatist, and her lifelong commitment to centering women's autonomous erotic lives in her work. No one marries a sense of comedic

structure, stylistic bravura and political urgency like Paula Vogel. I'm equally delighted to continue deepening our commitment to multi-faceted Portland artist Jamie Rea, long familiar to Profile audiences for her appearance in *Indecent*, *The Secretaries* and *In the Wake*."

In November, Profile will also be releasing the first episodes of their podcast **SATELLITE**, which will be the home for artist features, panel discussions, readings and concerts relevant to the audio plays. The November episode will include an interview with Eleanor O'Brien, prophet of sex positivity, Artistic Director of [Dance Naked Productions](https://dancenakedproductions.com/) and *Hot 'N' Throbbing* cast member.

DATES

Hot 'N' Throbbing will be available November 4, 2020 - June 20, 2021 at

<https://profiletheatre.org/hot-n-throbbing>

COST

This audio play is free for members for a month or longer and available to non-members for 24-hour rentals at a sliding scale starting at \$10.

MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships are on sale for \$150 at profiletheatre.org/membership. Benefits include exclusive access to *Las Meninas* by Lynn Nottage, behind the scenes content and unlimited free admission for one to any in-person performances they are able to produce through June 2021. For more information, contact the Box Office at boxoffice@profiletheatre.org or 503.242.0080.

ABOUT THE 2020-2021 SEASON

Hot 'N' Throbbing is part of PROFILE'S 2020-2021 Season program **ON AIR**. While COVID-19 limits public gatherings, Profile will share virtual content that highlights three playwrights featured in GENERATIONS: Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Lynn Nottage and Paula Vogel. Along with *Hot 'N' Throbbing* and *Mlima's Tale* (presented in October), Profile will present *Las Meninas* by Lynn Nottage. Profile is also offering two new podcast series. **Community Profile: Voices from the Real World**, will feature interviews and writing by participants in Profile's affinity spaces for LGBTQIA+ people and Black Women to cultivate their creative voices with award-winning writing mentors. Additionally, Profile will present **Satellite: Beyond the Page**, a podcast full of bonus content including concerts, artist interviews and feature stories that will give audiences a chance to go deeper into the themes of the audio plays and their featured playwrights as they play out in the greater Portland area. Audiences can expect additional program announcements in November 2020 and February 2021.

NEXT UP: *Las Meninas* by Lynn Nottage, Directed by Dawn Monique Williams

Available December 2, 2020–January 5, 2021

The Baroque-era true story of an illicit romance between Queen Marie-Therese (wife of Louis XIV) and her African servant, Nabo Sensugali, a Little Person from Dahomey, and the hilarious consequences that scandalized the French court.

ABOUT Paula Vogel — PLAYWRIGHT

One of the most prolific and celebrated writers of her generation — and a gifted teacher who has mentored many of our most important writers, including past Profile Featured Writers Sarah Ruhl and Quiara Alegria Hudes — Vogel remains at the height of her powers, producing some of her most exciting work forty years after her plays first premiered in New York and regionally. Her play *The Baltimore Waltz* brought her national prominence when it received an Obie Award in 1990. Her most recent play, *Indecent*, was nominated for 2017 Tony Award and has had productions at leading theatres across the country. In 2019 Profile brought *Indecent* to Portland in a co-production with Artists Repertory Theatre and Portland State University.

ABOUT Jamie M. Rea— *Hot 'N' Throbbing* DIRECTOR

As a renaissance woman of the theatre, Jamie has had the pleasure of exploring this powerful tool for connection and change for over 20 years. After directing in LA, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Ohio, New York City, and Portland, she now serves as founding co-artistic director of The Beirut Wedding World Theatre Project. Recent local credits include *Jesus Hopped the A-Train*, *CoHo/Beirut Wedding*, *Topdog Underdog* (Street Scenes) and *B*tch in Kitchen* as part of *Salt* with Shaking the Tree.

Jamie's activism has heavy focused on survivors of sexual violence. Through a three year partnership with OAASIS (a Portland based resource and advocacy organization for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse), she helped develop *Telling*, a performance piece where survivors tell their own stories with facilitated audience conversations. She also partnered with Playwright Anya Pearson to develop *Made to Dance in Burning Buildings*, an interdisciplinary dance/theatre piece of a survivor's reclamation of self as she navigates PTSD in the wake of a gang rape. This project was developed through national workshops, premiering at Joe's Pub at The Public in NYC and opening on the West Coast at Shaking the Tree Theatre.

ABOUT PROFILE THEATRE

Founded in 1997, Profile Theatre quickly established itself as a leading voice in Portland's cultural scene. In 2010, Profile was awarded the inaugural New National Theatre Company Award from the American Theatre Wing, designed to bring national attention to "the most inspiring and innovative theatre companies on our national landscape." Profile has twice been recognized by Advance Gender Equity in the Arts for its leadership in the field, and its Diversity and Inclusion Initiative has been profiled in HowlRound. The 2018–2019 season was Hecht's first fully programmed season as Artistic Director and included the commission and world premiere of *(Un)Conditional* by National Medal of Arts Awardee Ping Chong + Company, a community-invested work amplifying the themes of the Lisa Kron / Anna Deavere Smith season, and brought Lisa Kron to Portland for a week-long Playwright's Residency where she developed the film script for *Fun Home*, led a writing workshop for community members and gave a performance of some of her solo work on the Profile stage.

Profile's 2019–2020 season used their unique mission to dedicate their season to an in-depth exploration of a playwright's vision with the first season of *Generations*; a two-season exploration of plays from Nottage, Vogel and Jacob-Jenkins's three different generational vantage points. The mainstage productions of Nottage's *Sweat* (directed by Christopher Acebo)

and Vogel's *Indecent* and *Baltimore Waltz* (both directed by Josh Hecht) were all lauded by local critics. Their production of Nottage's *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark* (directed by Chip Miller) and Branden Jacobs-Jenkins's Playwrights Residency in Portland and public performance, scheduled for May and June 2020, were both canceled due to the pandemic. In June 2020, the company released its first serial audio play *Claudia, A Viral Love Story*. Based on a COVID-inspired "recipe" of playwriting "ingredients" provided by Pulitzer Prize-winner *Paula Vogel*, and written by an astounding group of nine playwrights and screenwriters. This original audio play was released for free and can be played via Profile's website and on popular podcast apps.

*For additional bios or to arrange interviews with artists, please contact PR Consultant Jen Mitas. For more information, visit profiletheatre.org or call 503.242.0080.

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