



Neil LaBute Lends His Name and Talents To Theater Festival in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS (Aug. 29, 2012)- The St. Louis Actors' Studio is proud to announce the creation of the *LaBute New Theater Festival* open to both professional playwrights and high school students. Beginning in the fall of 2012, The Theater Festival will run yearly at the Gaslight Theater, with plays debuting from July 5-28, 2013. Submissions will be accepted October 1 through December 31, 2012.

Professional Submissions: Successful entries will have no more than four characters and be crafted specifically to exploit our intimate performance space. (18' x 18' stage) Changes in scenery or setting should be achievable quickly and with few major set moves. Our focus is on fundamental dramaturgy: plot, character and theme.

Professional, new and previously unproduced one-act play submissions should include a letter of inquiry, a synopsis and a 10-page sample from the script. Running time for each performance should not exceed 45 minutes.

Eight plays will be chosen: four to be performed in the first two weeks, four in the second two weeks. In addition, a new piece from Mr. LaBute will be performed every night for the run of the festival. Mr. LaBute is scheduled to participate in the opening weekend activities.

High School Submissions: Winning plays by high school students will be presented in readings. The guidelines are straightforward: The one act should include no more than four characters featuring a clearly developed plot and distinctive characters. No longer than 15 minutes in length.

Non-Professional, new and previously unproduced one-act play submissions should include a letter of inquiry and complete script.

We are thrilled that Neil will be working with us again. Lending his name and talents to foster new works in the theater is just another example of his generosity and commitment to the arts, and we could not be more proud to host this ongoing event," says, William Roth, Founder and Producing Director of St. Louis Actors' Studio.

Submissions should be sent to:

LaBute New Theater Festival
St. Louis Actors' Studio
360 N Boyle Ave
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-458-2978
help@stlas.org

The creative team for the festival includes:

Neil LaBute-Film Director, Screenwriter and Playwright

Milt Zoth-Artistic Director St Louis Actors' Studio,

Wayne Salomon – Chair, Theatre Department at John Burroughs College Prep (Theater Project Co)

Bobby Miller-Actor, Writer, Editor, Director (Theater Project Co)

Edward Scott Ibur-Middle School English Teacher (Webster Groves), Novelist and Co-Founder of the Gifted Writers & Artist Project for Middle School & High School (<http://www.giftedarts.org>)

John Pierson-Actor, Teacher English and Theatre Departments John Burroughs School

Nancy Bell-Actor, Director, Playwright, Asst Professor of Theater and Voice and Speech St. Louis University Performing Arts Department

Linda Kennedy-Actor, Artistic Associate, Education and Community Programs, The Black Rep

Elizabeth Helman-Actor, Writer, Director, Professor of Theatre Arts -Oregon State University

Patrick Huber-Associate Director, St. Louis Actors' Studio-Set Design and Lighting, Teacher Theater, Design and Architecture Mary Institute, Country Day Prep School

William Roth-Actor, Founder, Producing Director St. Louis Actors' Studio