



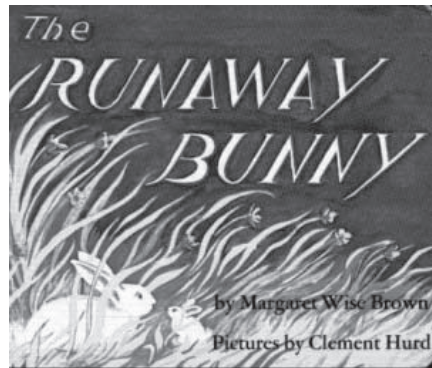
NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

This play seems to me to be filled with details and images that I seem to “almost remember” from the very first time. By that, I mean that the play is filled with the stuff of my own memories. These memories are composed of: specific artifacts, toys, clothes, and books from both my own childhood and my daughter’s. This remembered world is in turn composed of fancies, stories, and moments-shared that I think we all can be made to “almost remember.” Secret places, rabbit holes, for example, that we found when we were children. I remember one place I found on a cool day, but sunny day where deer had lain down to sleep and watch in a field of tall grass. Secret and magic all at once.

All plays certainly function in a way like collected dreams. The lights go down and we share this story as it unfolds with our fellow audience members. In such dreams we recognize ourselves, we see characters act or say the things we wish to have done or to have said under similar circumstances. In such collective dreams we’ve been known to share tears sometimes. This particular tale certainly contains things which may make us weep. Ah, but the tears are worth shedding! Without tears what would be the value of laughter? Without an ability to cry would we not be shallow and in the long run less human?

Do please join us as we search for a measure of meaning in the memories found in David Lindsey-Abaire’s version of a *Rabbit Hole*.

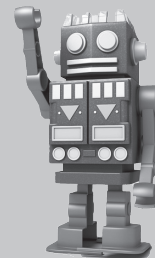
Leon Van Dyke



Once there was a little bunny who wanted to run away. So he said to his mother, “I am running away.” “If you run away,” said his mother, “I will run after you. For you are my little bunny.” ... “I will become a little sailboat, and I will sail away from you.” “If you become a sailboat and sail away from me,” said his mother, “I will become the wind and blow you where I want you to go.” ... “Shucks,” said the bunny, “I might as well stay where I am and be your little bunny.” And so he did “Have a carrot,” said the mother bunny. *Excerpts from The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown, Illustration by Clement Hurd*

DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE

was most recently awarded the 2008 Ed Kleban Award as America’s most promising musical theatre lyricist. Prior to that, he received the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play *Rabbit Hole*, which premiered on Broadway at MTC’s Biltmore Theatre. *Rabbit Hole* also received five Tony Award nominations, including Best Play, and the Spirit of America Award. His newest show, *Shrek the Musical* (book and lyrics) premiered at Seattle’s 5th Avenue Theater, and opened on Broadway. His other works include *Fuddy Meers*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, *Wonder of the World*, *High Fidelity*, and *A Devil Inside*, among others. In addition to his work in theatre, Mr. Lindsay-Abaire wrote the screenplay for the Newline feature *Inkheart*, and Sony Picture’s upcoming *Spider-Man 4*. He is also currently at work on screen adaptations of his plays *Rabbit Hole* for 20th Century Fox, starring Nicole Kidman, and *Kimberly Akimbo* for Killer Films and DreamWorks. He is a proud New Dramatists alum, a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College and the Juilliard School, as well as a member of the WGA and the Dramatists Guild Council.



In a recent interview with Goodman Literary Manager Tanya Palmer, playwright David Lindsay-Abaire discussed his critically-acclaimed new play, *Rabbit Hole*.

TP: What prompted you to write *Rabbit Hole*?

DLA: I’d had the idea of writing a naturalistic play in the back of my head for awhile. It was a challenge to myself to see if I could even do it, because all of my other plays are absurdist comedies. Mixed in with that, when I was a student at Juilliard, Marsha Norman had said to us once, “If you want to write a good play, write about the thing that frightens you most in the world.” At that time I was in my mid-twenties, and I remember her saying that and thinking, “What is the thing that frightens me most in the world? I don’t even know what that could possibly be.” Then a few years later, I became a dad. When my son, Nicholas, was three years old, we heard a really sad story about friends of friends whose child had died very suddenly. Hearing that story, I put myself in the shoes of the parents. I thought, “This is what Marsha Norman is talking about. Now I understand fear in a profound way that I never have before.” And that really began to feed the play, imagining the worst thing that could possibly happen to a parent. It combined with that thing in the back of my head about writing a naturalistic play.

CAST FOR RABBIT HOLE

Laura Beth Calcote Becca
Miranda Culpepper Izzy
Evan Wilson Howie
Dee Baker Nat
Stephen Dunham Jason

ARTISITC STAFF FOR RABBIT HOLE



Director Leon Van Dyke
Scenic & Lighting Design Lyle B. Miller
Costume Design Rebecca F. Britton
Poster Design Constance R. Smith

"David Lindsay-Abaire has crafted a drama that's not just a departure but a revelation--an intensely emotional examination of grief, laced with wit, insight--fullness, compassion and searing honesty.

Variety

**Winner of the 2007
Pulitzer Prize**

Becca and Howie Corbett have everything a family could want, until a life-shattering accident turns their world upside down and leaves the couple drifting perilously apart. *RABBIT HOLE* charts their bittersweet search for comfort in the darkest of places and for a path that will lead them back into the light of day.

Dramatist Play Service

"RABBIT HOLE presents a tragedy and its consequences with utter candor, and without sentimentality. The dialogue is most impressive for capturing the awkwardness and pain of thinking people faced with an unthinkable situation-- and eventually their capacity for survival, and even hope."

USA Today



Ticket & Box Office Information

The Box Office will be open from 9:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday and one hour before each performance. The Box Office is located in the lobby of the Laidlaw Performing Arts Center on the main campus of the University of South Alabama. (251) 460-6306

Season Membership *(Includes Rabbit Hole, The Beaux' Stratagem, Last Night of Ballyhoo, & Hair, the Musical)*

General: \$44.00, Faculty/Staff & Sr. Citizens: \$36.00, Students: \$28.00

Individual Ticket Sales for *Rabbit Hole*

General: \$12.00, Faculty/Staff & Sr. Citizens: \$10.00, Students: \$8.00



Department of Dramatic Arts
University of South Alabama
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Mobile, AL 36688-0002

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Rabbit Hole

By David Lindsay-Abaire

Sept. 24, 25, 30 @ 7:30 PM
Sept. 26 @ 2:00 PM
Oct. 1-2 @ 7:30 PM

Laidlaw Performing Arts Center



www.usouthal.edu/drama
251-460-6306

