



Greenway
Arts Alliance

Ripe Frenzy

By Jennifer Barclay | Directed by Alana Dietze

A National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere

May 17 – June 17



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AGAIN Latest mass shooting leaves 13 dead in D.C.



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The Ojai Playwrights Conference is proud to have played a role in development of

RIPE FRENZY

By Jennifer Barclay

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WELCOME

Greenway Arts Alliance has been honored to serve thousands of students, artists and community members for the last twenty years.

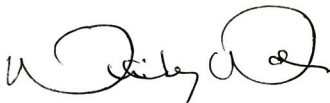
Did you know that you are on the campus of Fairfax High School in a building designed and constructed by Fairfax students as a "Social Hall" in the 1940's? Based on articles in the school newspaper, the students were committed to building a home in which to "socialize." Greenway continues this commitment through our mission to unite communities through our productions at the Greenway Court Theatre, which give our patrons the opportunity to share in the communal experience of live theatre.

Jennifer Barclay's *Ripe Frenzy*, produced through the National New Play Network's Rolling World Premiere program, is the culminating production of Greenway's 20th Anniversary season. In it we showcase our recommitment to producing important new works that explore the pressing social issues of our time. As we write this letter in preparation for Opening Night, we do so with the knowledge that students, teachers and parents in Santa Fe, Texas, are mourning their friends and children lost in yet another school shooting. Since Columbine, we have watched in horror as 85 similar shootings have occurred, killing 223 people. As a theatre in residence on a high school campus, we say ENOUGH, and hope that this production will inspire our audiences to interrogate society's role in the proliferation of these events, and look for ways to work toward ending them.

We regard Greenway Court Theatre as our home and are grateful that you are here. If you are in our area on Sundays, please join us at the Melrose Trading Post, an artisan flea market held every Sunday in the Fairfax High parking lot. This community hotspot is the most successful ongoing social enterprise in the history of LAUSD and filled with individuals finding friends and cool stuff.

Finally, thank you to all of our partners who we call family including our Greenway supporters, the Greenway Board of Directors and staff, the *Ripe Frenzy* team, and the Fairfax High/LAUSD educators.

Whitney Weston and Pierson Blaetz , Founders of Greenway Arts Alliance





Artistic Directors

Whitney Weston & Pierson Blaetz

PRESENT

RIPE FRENZY

by

Jennifer Barclay

Directed by

Alana Dietze

Featuring

Elizabeth Ann Bennett*

Troy Leigh-Anne Johnson*

Renée-Marie Brewster*

Liam Springthorpe*

Melody Butiu*

Scenic Design

Amanda Knehans

Sound Design

John Zalewski

Casting by

Meg Fister

Projection Design

Jared Mezzocchi

Producing Director

Tiffany Moon

Lighting Design

Azra King-Abadi

Costume Design

Elena Flores

Stage Manager

Morgan Wilday

RIPE FRENZY is produced at Greenway Court Theatre as a part of a National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere. Other partnering theaters are New Repertory Theatre (MA) and Synchronicity Theatre (GA). For more information please visit nnpn.org

*Member of Actor's Equity Association. The Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

RIPE FRENZY is produced by special arrangement with the Playwright and Abrams Artists Agency,

275 Seventh Avenue, 26 floor, New York, NY 10001

Assistant Stage Managers

Jasmine Kalra

Jessica Perez

Technical Director

Rene Parras Jr.

Producing Associate

Lily Brown

Additional Crew/Staff

Model Builders

Justen Asher

Miriam Levenson

Samuel Freeman

Electricians / Carpenters

Mario P. Colli

Cuyler Perry

Pomaikaikaloha Nakoa

Audience Services Staff

Audience Services Coordinator

Shey Lyn Zanotti

Box Office & House Managers

Christina Carrera

Corryn Cummins

Rachel Manheimer

Jessica Rey

Special Thanks

Emily Alpren

Christina Carrera

Nicole DuPont

Nikka Freshia

Stacy Price

Riley Stein

Amari Williams

CAST

Elizabeth Ann Bennett _____ Zoe
Melody Butiu _____ Miriam
Renée-Marie Brewster _____ Felicia
Troy Leigh-Anne Johnson _____ Hadley / Bethany
Liam Springthorpe _____ Matt / BJM

CAST AND CREATIVES



Elizabeth Ann Bennett (Zoe) is absolutely thrilled to be a part of this production. Though she has worked as a television

and film actress here in Los Angeles, her first love is theater. A graduate of Syracuse University's musical theater program, she moved to LA with her writer husband 18 years ago and has appeared in such tv shows as *Castle*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *CSI*, *NCIS*, and *The Last Ship*. She has two beautiful little children, a marvel of a husband, and a nervous dachshund who barks too much. Thank you to her whole family who has moved mountains to help her follow her dreams.



Melody Butiu (Miriam) is grateful to make her Greenway Court debut! Broadway: *Doctor Zhivago*. Off-Broadway: *Here*

Lies Love (Public Theater, Lortel nomination). Regional: *Here Lies Love* (Seattle Rep), *Merrily We Roll Along* (Wallis), *Sunday in the Park with George* (Huntington), *Stage Kiss* (Geffen Playhouse), *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* and *Shipwrecked* (South Coast Rep), *Helen* (Getty Villa), *A Little Night Music* and *Golden Child* (East West Players), also Garry Marshall Theatre, Playwrights' Arena, Theatre @ Boston Court, San Diego Rep, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Kirk Douglas

Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse. Selected TV/ Film: *Arden Drive*, *NCIS: LA*, *The Kominsky Method*, *Kingdom*, *Rizzoli & Isles*, *Major Crimes*, *Gotham*, *NCIS*, *Melissa & Joey*. www.melodybutiu.com



Renée-Marie Brewster (Felicia) Classically trained, Renée-Marie earned an MFA from the Institute at Harvard/MXAT. She

has performed domestically and internationally, working on stages in NYC, Italy and Moscow. Renée is best known for her roles as Shelly on TV Land's *The Soul Man*, Alice in *Alice in Wonderland* and Helen in *Trojan Women*. She is both thankful and excited to be making her first appearance with Greenway Arts Alliance. instagram: ms_renee-marie



Troy Leigh-Anne Johnson (Hadley/ Bethany) is currently studying at the Young Actors Studio in North Hollywood. She is a

member of the Echo Theatre Company's Associate Company. Troy has also studied at The Stella Adler Studio of Acting. She is excited to be a part of *Ripe Frenzy* and continue her journey as an actor.



Liam Springthorpe

(*Matt/BJM*) *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (Doug), *Pvt. Wars* (Silvio), *Never Swim Alone* (Bill), *Tape* (Jon),

Mycenaean (Racine), *What to Wear* (Bad Duck), *The Exile of Petie DeLarge* (Jack/Mr Hooker), *Bug* (Dr Sweet), *The Gingham Dog* (Vincent), *As You Like It* (Orlando), *Lunacy Commission* (Dr Lemmy Sheep/Guitarist). Liam graduated from CalArts in 2008.

Jennifer Barclay (*Playwright*) is a Chicago-bred actor-turned-playwright, recently relocated to the DC area where she is a member of Arena Stage's 2017-18 Playwrights' Arena. Jennifer is the recipient of the National New Play Network's 2016 Smith Prize for Political Theatre, for *Ripe Frenzy*. *Ripe Frenzy* was developed at Woolly Mammoth and the 2017 Ojai Playwrights Conference, and will premiere in 2018 at New Rep in Boston, Synchronicity Theatre in Atlanta, and Greenway Court Theatre in Los Angeles. Jennifer's plays have been produced and developed by Steppenwolf, La Jolla Playhouse, The Old Globe, RedCat, The Kennedy Center, Center Stage, The International Theatre of Vienna and The Edinburgh Fringe. Awards include: Samuel Goldwyn Writing Award, Kennedy Center National Science Playwriting Award, Pinter Review Gold Medal. Jennifer has been a Fellow at the MacDowell Colony, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and the Hawthornden International Writers Retreat in Scotland. Jennifer has been a Playwright in Residence at South Coast Rep (Shank Playwright in Residence 2009-10) and Center Stage (Playwrights Collective 2015-16). She has a degree in Theatre from Northwestern University and an MFA in Playwriting at UC San Diego, where she studied with Naomi Iizuka. Jennifer is an Assistant Professor of Playwriting and Performance at the University of Maryland.

Currently she is developing *Yellowstone*: the ballad of the red-state white man (Finalist for the 2017 NNP National Showcase of New Plays) and *American Prosperity Gospel* (upcoming workshop at Woolly Mammoth, directed by Shana Cooper). www.Barclay-Studios.com.

Alana Dietze (*Director*) Alana's previous directing credits include *The Found Dog Ribbon Dance*, *Dry Land*, *A Small Fire*, and *Laila on the Way Down* all with the Echo Theater Company. Her production of *Dry Land* was selected for CTG's inaugural Block Party program and re-mounted at the Kirk Douglas Theater in 2017. That production received seven Ovation Nominations including Best Production in a Large Theater, Best Director, and Best Ensemble. The Echo's production of *Dry Land* won the 2016 Ovation Award for Best Production in an intimate theater. It was also nominated for four Stage Raw Awards (including Best Director and Best Production) and one LADCC award. *Found Dog* was included in the Echo's 2017 Ovation nomination for Best Season and *A Small Fire* received four Ovation Nominations, one LADCC nomination and two Stage Raw nominations. Alana has also directed workshops, short plays and readings for EST/LA, Occidental College, Moving Arts, and Antaeus. Alana is also an Ovation-nominated actress and has appeared on stage with the Echo, Circle X, Theatre of NOTE, The Vagrancy, New Guard, Padua Playwrights and more. She is an alumna of Occidental College and has served as the Echo's Literary Manager since 2008.

Jared Mezzocchi (*Projection Design*) won a 2017 Obie Award, Lucille Lortel Award and Henry Hewes Award for his design in *Vietgone* (Manhattan Theatre Club), and also received the 2012 Princess Grace Award as the first projections designer to receive it. He is a company member at Woolly Mammoth

(*The Nether*, *Women Laughing Alone with Salad*, *Chad Deity*) D.C. credits include *Smart People* (Arena Stage), *Astro Boy and the God of Comics* (Studio Theatre) and *BELL* (National Geographic). Additional New York credits include *Downtown Loop* (3LD); and *You Are Dead. You Are Here.* (HERE Arts Center). Regional credits include Portland Centerstage, South Coast Rep, Milwaukee Repertory, Baltimore Center Stage and The Wilma. He has designed nationally and internationally for Big Art Group, Builder's Association, and Connect4Climate (Design Week, Milan). Jared is the Artistic Director of Andy's Summer Playhouse, an innovative NH children's theater focusing on new work, and currently teaches in the MFA Design program at The University of Maryland.

Amanda Knehans (*Scenic Design*) is a Los Angeles based Scenic Designer. Recent credits include *An Undivided Heart* (Circle X/The Echo), *The Willows* (Bootleg Theater), *Dry Land* (Kirk Douglas Theatre), *Welcome to the White Room* and *Year of the Rooster* (Theatre of Note), *Blueberry Toast* and *One of the Nice Ones* (The Echo), and *ICU* (Circle X). Recent film credits include Art Director on "The Wedding Year" (Lakeshore Entertainment), "East Los High" Season 4 and 5 (Hulu) and "Sing It!" Season 1 (YouTube Red).

Azra King-Abadi (*Lighting Design*) Azra King-Abadi is a lighting designer based in Los Angeles, originally from Montreal. Azra designed *The Ridiculous Darkness* with Son of Semele, *Nicky* and *Emilie: La Marquise du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight* with Coeurage Theatre, *Lunatics and Actors* with Four Clowns, *House on Mango Street* with Greenway Court Theatre, *Trouble in Tahiti & Gallantry* with Opera Santa Barbara, *Brundibar* with Ojai Youth Opera, *Israel in Egypt* and *Alexander's Feast* with LA Master Chorale, *Wonderful Town* and *Turn of the Screw* with LA Opera, *Angels in America* opera, *Peter and the Wolf*, *Britten: Young Persons Guide to the*

Orchestra, with LA Philharmonic; *The Breasts of Tiresias & Tears of a Knife* with Long Beach Opera. azrakingabadi.com

John Zalewski (*Sound Design*) Recent: *Belleville* (Pasadena Playhouse); *Destiny of Desire* (Arena Stage, Goodman Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *Hold These Truths* (East West Players, Portland Center Stage, Pasadena Playhouse, Arena Stage, American Conservatory Theater, Perseverance Theatre). Seven LA Stage Alliance Ovation awards, 26 nominations; and many others.

Elena Flores (*Costume Design*) is a theatre, film, and TV costume designer and proud member of CDG Local 892 and Echo Theatre Company. She is delighted to be working with Greenway Court Theatre for the first time. Recent credits: *Dry Land* (Center Theatre Group), *The Cake* (Echo Theatre Company), *On My Block* (Netflix).

Meg Fister (*Casting*) Previous casting credits include *Vicuna* by Jon Robin Baitz, *Women Laughing Alone With Salad* by Shelia Callaghan at the Kirk Douglas Theatre; *Father Comes Home From The Wars (Parts 1, 2, and 3)* by Suzan-Lori Parks, *The Mystery of Love & Sex* by Bathsheba Doran, *Appropriate* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins and *The Price* by Arthur Miller at the Mark Taper Forum; *Collective Rage* at Boston Court Theater; *Blueberry Toast* by Mary Laws, *One of the Nice Ones* by Erik Patterson, *Dry Land* by Ruby Rae Spiegel and *Bed* by Sheila Callaghan at the Echo Theater Company; *The Christians* by Lucas Hnath, *brownsville song (b side for tray)* by Kimber Lee, *The Grown Ups* by Jordan Harrison and *Partners* by Dorothy Fortenberry at the Humana Festival of New American Plays, Actors Theatre of Louisville.

Lily Brown (*Producing Associate*) is an actress, writer and director with a degree in Spanish, Drama and Political Science from Bennington College. A lover of stories in all capacities, Lily currently serves as Co-Producer of The Townies Podcast (a storytelling podcast) and in 2017 attended THREAD @ Yale, a highly selective multimedia storytelling program offered each summer at Yale University.

Rene Parras (*Technical Director*) is one of the latest additions to the Greenway Court Theatre. He's worked in numerous theaters across Southern California and has held many different titles. He graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Set and Exhibit Design from The Art Institute- Hollywood and now brings his knowledge and experience to Greenway.

Tiffany Moon (*Producing Director*) is a producer, dramaturg and theatre manager devoted to the development and production of new works. She has been an active member of the Los Angeles and Southern California theatre community, working with companies such as Center Theatre Group, South Coast Repertory, the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, California Repertory Company, and Rogue Artists Ensemble; and previously spent six years in NYC working in various capacities at theatres such as BAM, Summer Play Festival, and Theater for the New City. Tiffany is currently the Literary Manager of Ojai Playwrights Conference, where she has been a staff member since 2012. Tiffany is an MFA/MBA in Theatre Management candidate at CSULB, and holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from Chapman University and a Certificate in Musical Theatre Performance

from Circle in the Square Theatre School.

Whitney Weston (*Co-Founder/Co-Artistic Director*) Whitney Weston Co-founded Greenway Arts Alliance with Pierson Blaetz in 1997. A lifelong activist, Whitney is committed to keeping the arts and community working together. She is a former Arts Commissioner for the City of West Hollywood's Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission and, both within and outside of Greenway, Whitney has produced and performed in hundreds of shows which have earned her recognition from the NAACP, Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle, LA Weekly and the 2011 Women in Theatre Red Carpet Award. Whitney has also been recognized for outstanding service by the LA Mayor's Office, LA City Council and LAUSD's School Board and Administrators' Union.

Pierson Blaetz (*Co-Founder/Co-Artistic Director*) co-founded Greenway Arts Alliance with Whitney Weston in 1997. He spent a lifetime integrating the worlds of art & business. As a social entrepreneur he founded several businesses, including "Free Time," a volunteer placement service, and "infoLink," an information retrieval service. Pierson has produced, directed and performed in film and theatre projects and has earned recognition from The Drama Circle Critics, NAACP, Garland Awards, LA Weekly and- way back when- The Dramalogue Award for Best Male Performance. Pierson has been recognized for outstanding service by the LA Mayor's Office, LA City Council and LAUSD's School Board and Administrators' Union.

Co-Founders/Co-Artistic Directors

Whitney Weston & Pierson Blaetz

Operations Manager

Steffany Ayala

Administrative Assistant

Glorili Alejandro



Producing Director

Tiffany Moon

Technical Director

Rene Parras

Producing Associate

Lily Brown

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About Us



Greenway Arts Alliance unites communities through art, education and social enterprise. Through our professional theatre productions, educational programs and the Melrose Trading Post, Greenway builds a vibrant artistic community.

Greenway Arts Alliance is a community-based partnership of professional artists working with the community of Los Angeles for nearly 20 years. Greenway Arts Alliance was founded by professional artists committed to forging a deep connection with the surrounding area including the public school community.

Since its inception, Greenway Arts Alliance has modeled an innovative partnership with the Fairfax High School campus to leverage community resources that connect the professional artistic and public education communities around a commitment to learning and creation in the arts.



**National
New Play
Network**

National New Play Network (NNPN) is the country's alliance of non-profit professional theaters dedicated to the development, production, and continued life of new plays. Since its founding in 1998, NNPN has supported more than 250 productions nationwide through its innovative National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere program, which provides playwright and production support for new works at its Member theaters. Additional programs - its annual National Conference, National Showcase of New Plays, and MFA Playwrights Workshop; the NNPN Annual and Smith Prize commissions; its residencies for playwrights, producers and directors; and the organization's member accessed Collaboration, Festival, and Travel banks and online information sessions - have helped cement the Network's position as a vital force in the new play landscape. NNPN also strives to pioneer, implement, and disseminate ideas and programs that revolutionize the way theaters collaborate to support new plays and playwrights. Its most recent project, the New Play Exchange, is changing the way playwrights share their work and others discover it by providing immediate access to information on more than 17,700 new plays by living writers. NNPN's 30 Core and 80 Associate Members - along with the more than 250 affiliated artists who are its alumni, the thousands of artists and artisans employed annually by its member theaters, and the hundreds of thousands of audience members who see its supported works each year - are creating the new American theater. nnpn.org | newplayexchange.org