

the Audrey Herman

# Spotlighters

theatre

817 Saint Paul Street ~ Baltimore, MD 21202-2472

Our Mission:

To provide the Baltimore community with exceptional, creative, diverse and affordable theatrical productions, which stimulate and entertain both audience and artist.

Spotlighters strives to increase and enhance the community's appreciation for and participation in the experience that is live theatre.

410-752-1225 ~ [www.spotlighters.org](http://www.spotlighters.org)

## MEDIA RELEASE

*for Immediate Release*

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## FAT PIG

June 8 to July 1, 2007

***COW! SLOB! PIG! How many insults can you hear  
before you have to stand up and defend the woman you love?***

**Baltimore (June 2007)** - Spotlighters Theatre presents Neil LaBute's "most emotionally engaging and unsettling play, **FAT PIG**. A serious step forward for a playwright who has always been most comfortable with judgmental distance." (Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*) LaBute's sharply drawn play not only critiques our slavish adherence to Hollywood ideals of beauty but also boldly questions our own ability to change what we dislike about ourselves.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students, seniors and BTA Members; and may be purchased online at [www.spotlighters.org](http://www.spotlighters.org) - just click on TICKETS.

**Show Synopsis:** "How many insults can you hear before you have to stand up and defend the woman you love?" Tom faces just that question when he falls for Helen, a bright, funny, sexy young woman who happens to be plus-sized — and then some. Forced to explain his new relationship to his shallow (although shockingly funny) friends, he finally comes to terms with his own preconceptions of the importance of conventional good looks.

**Playwright Info:** Neil LaBute was born in Detroit, MI, on March 19, 1963. When LaBute was a child, his family moved to Spokane, WA, and during his high school days in the Pacific Northwest he developed a keen interest in both writing and theater. After graduating from high school, LaBute received a scholarship from Brigham Young University, in Provo, UT, which was founded and is still overseen by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, known to many as the Mormons. LaBute received a degree in Theater and Film at B.Y.U., and converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints while a student. LaBute went on to graduate work at the University of Kansas and New York University, and participated in a writing workshop at London's Royal Court Theatre, as well as attending the Sundance Institute's Playwright's Lab at N.Y.U.

His controversial works include the plays ***bash: latterday plays, The Distance from Here, The Mercy Seat, Autobahn, and This Is How It Goes***. His films include: ***In the Company of Men, Your Friends and Neighbors, Nurse Betty, and Possession***.

**Robert Russell (Director)** has years of theater experience in both Howard and Baltimore County, and has been a regular contributor at the Audrey Herman Spotlighters Theatre for decades.

**Cast and Crew:** This intimate ensemble of four, brings three Spotlighters veterans back to the stage, and introduces a new actor to Spotlighters' intimate space. The ideal location for telling such an intimate story.

Audience members will recognize R. Brett Rohrer from the January 2006 production of **Months on End** also directed by Robert Russell. As Tom, Brett, has to face his own conflict and struggle between love and conforming to social pressure. Brett was last seen as the Baker in **Into the Woods** at Laurel Mill Playhouse. Favorite credits include Lt. Daniel Kaffee in **A Few Good Men** (Magical Productions), Danny Zuko in **Grease!** (Laurel Community Theater), Little Harp in **The Robber Bridegroom** (Burtonsville Players), and Leslie Arthur in **Love, Sex, and the I.R.S.** (LMP).

Also returning to the Spotlighters stage, is Todd Krickler, who was seen in **The Mineola Twins**, this past April. Todd's character Carter in **FAT PIG** often speaks what many of us more politically correct folks would never say. Some of Todd's favorite roles include Procter in **The Crucible** (Liberty Showcase), Hogan in **Hungarian Trilogy** (Mobtown Players), The Pirate King in **Pirates of Penzance** (Charles Street Players), and George Bailey in **It's A Wonderful Life** (Pasadena Theater Co.).

Rounding out the veterans in the cast is Courtney Ryan. Who, as Jeannie, is the perfect specimen of ideal beauty. She struggles with the loss of her office boyfriend, Tom - and with the insult that he dumped her for Helen. Courtney was last seen on the Spotlighters stage in an original work by PS Lorio, **DICK, The Musical**. She has studied theatre at Circle in the Square Theatre School, Lancaster University (UK) and The College of Notre Dame of MD, where she received her B.A. in Theatre and English. She will be attending University of California, Santa Barbara in the autumn to earn her M.A. in Dramatic Art. Favorite past credits include: **A Midsummer Night's Dream** (Hermia), **Popcorn** (Brooke), **Romeo & Juliet** (Juliet) and **Antigone** (Ismene). Courtney can be seen next month in Cockpit in the Court's production of **The Foreigner**.

Erin Riley makes her Spotlighters' debut as Helen, the object of Tom affection in **FAT PIG**. A 2001 graduate of The College of Notre Dame of Maryland, she holds her B.A. in Theatre Studies jointly with The Nuffield Studio at Lancaster University in the United Kingdom. Previous favorite roles include Ana in **Real Women Have Curves** (Catonsville Theatre Company), Lady Macduff in **Macbeth** (The Mobtown Players), Tzara's Ghost in **Splitting the Rim** (Second Skin - Edinburgh, Scotland), Mistress Overdone in **Measure for Measure** (Loyola College) and The Nurse to Courtney Ryan's Juliet in **Romeo and Juliet** (The Mobtown Players). In her spare time, Erin has been a director, costume designer and make-up/hair artist for several companies in the area including Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, The Mobtown Players and Seton Keough High School, where she was the Artistic Program Director from 2001 - 2007.

**FAT PIG** is Stage Managed by Leah Chester with Assistant Stage Manager, Ivan Lawson.

A Talk Back Session is scheduled with cast and creative team of **FAT PIG** on Sunday, June 24 following the 2pm matinee. This is an opportunity for audience members to ask questions regarding the production, the performance, the process and the characters. Audio Description for the Visually Impaired is available upon request. Please contact the theatre two weeks in advance so that arrangement may be made to provide the service. (There is no additional fee for this service).

Ticket Info: Tickets may be purchased online at [www.spotlighters.org](http://www.spotlighters.org) - TICKETS or at the Box Office one hour prior to each performance. Tickets may be placed on Will Call by phoning the theatre at 410-752-1225, Reservations are strongly recommended. Cash and Credit Cards are accepted at the Box Office.

## FACT SHEET (Use for Calendar Listings and PSAs)

WHAT: The Audrey Herman SPOTLIGHTERS Theatre presents  
FAT PIG by Neil LaBute.  
*COW! SLOB! PIG! How many insults can you hear  
before you have to stand up and defend the woman you love?*

WHO: Playwright: Neil LaBute  
Director: Robert Russell  
Stage Manager: Leah Chester  
Assistant Stage Manager: Ivan Lawson  
Set Construction: Skylar Robaczewski  
Lighting Designer: Leah Chester

CAST: Cast (in alphabetical order):  
Todd Krickler Carter  
Erin Riley Helen  
R. Brett Rohrer Tom  
Courtney Ryan Jeannie

CREW: Director Robert Russel  
Stage Manager Leah Chester  
Asst SM Ivan Lawson  
Set Construction Skylar Robaczewski  
Lighting Designer Leah Chester

### DATES, TIMES & PRICES:

Opens: Friday June 8, 2007 at 8PM  
Closes: Sunday July 1, 2007 at 2PM  
Show Times: Friday and Saturday at 8PM  
Sunday at 2PM  
Thursday, June 28, 2007 at 8PM  
Tickets \$15 for all shows  
Discounts: Students (Under age 18 or with valid ID): \$12.00  
Seniors: \$12.00  
Baltimore Theatre Alliance Members (with ID): \$12.00  
How: Purchase online at [www.spotlighters.org](http://www.spotlighters.org) - TICKETS  
By phone: 410-752-1225  
For Groups of 15 or more, call FUZZ at 410-752-1225

## SHOW-RELATED EVENTS (please include in Calendar Listings)

**WHAT:** **Opening Night Reception for FAT PIG with Director, Cast and Crew.**  
**DESCRIPTION:** Lite fare reception following performance  
**WHEN:** Friday June 8, 2007; Approximately 10pm; immediately following performance  
**WHERE:** SPOTLIGHTERS Theatre Lobby  
817 Saint Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-2472  
**PRICES:** Reception is included in Opening Night ticket purchase  
**HOW:** Purchase online at [www.spotlighters.org](http://www.spotlighters.org) - TICKETS  
By phone: 410-752-1225  
For Groups of 15 or more, call FUZZ at 410-752-1225

**WHAT:** **Talk Back Session - Q&A**  
**DESCRIPTION:** Question and Answer Discussion and Reception with the cast and creative team regarding the performance, the play, and the theatre.  
**WHEN:** Sunday June 24, 2007;  
Approximately 4PM; immediately following performance  
**WHERE:** SPOTLIGHTERS Theatre - On Stage  
817 Saint Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-2472  
**PRICES:** Talk Back is included in ticket purchase  
**HOW:** Purchase online at [www.spotlighters.org](http://www.spotlighters.org) - TICKETS  
By phone: 410-752-1225  
For Groups of 15 or more, call FUZZ at 410-752-1225

**WHAT:** **Audio Description of FAT PIG**  
**DESCRIPTION:** Performance will be Audio Described for the Visually Impaired.  
Preferred seating available upon request, with Large Print Programs  
**WHEN:** Upon Request. Please allow 2 to 3 weeks for arrangements to be made.  
Please call 410-752-1225 to request Audio Description Services.  
**WHERE:** SPOTLIGHTERS Theatre  
817 Saint Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-2472  
**PRICES:** Audio Description is included in ticket purchase  
**HOW:** Purchase online at [www.spotlighters.org](http://www.spotlighters.org) - TICKETS  
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