

They change their climate, not their soul, who rush across the sea. –Horace
Everything in life is somewhere else, and you get there in a car. – E.B.White

AUTOBAHN

by Neil LaBute

SETTING – The front seat of several cars

TIME – The present

MERGE – a moving car

Man – Marcus Milam

Woman – Megan Tompkins

FUNNY – a moving car

Young Woman – Taylor Martin

Older Woman – Leigh Rumsey

AUTOBAHN – a moving car

Woman – Raye Bonham

Man – Ryan Pest

ALL APOLOGIES – a parked car.

Man – Steffan Rost

Woman – Jodie Pearson

Intermission – 15 minutes

ROAD TRIP – a moving car

Man – Marcus Milam

Girl – Jessica Lane

LONG DIVISION – a moving car

Man – Adam Perry

Other Man – Eric McCowan

BENCH SEAT – a parked car

Guy – Ryan Pest

Girl – Kimberly Weaver

From the DIRECTOR

When asked to write a “Note from the Director,” I wondered, what’s to say? My “note” is the production. Each of you will take from this show something that holds meaning for you, or something to ponder, perhaps, just as the actors have: “I wonder if he really molested that foster child?”, or noting, “Hmm, that Shakespeare-quoting guy sure likes video games!”. And that’s the point. LaBute gives us a work that is largely open ended. The dialogue leaves much unsaid, and what we have is what the actor gives us. You see, that’s one of the things that I love about directing—helping students put themselves in others’ shoes by working through possibilities of why a character is in that situation. Cast members were asked to paint pictures of how a character ended up in the front seat of the car with this other person, and they have. I truly hope that you are inspired by their hard work, and share in their learning process.

--Shannon Graham - Director

About the PLAY

“Sitting in an automobile was where I first remember understanding how drama works Hidden in the back seat of a sedan, I quickly realized how deep the chasm or intense the claustrophobia could be inside your average family car.”

--Neil LaBute

Whether the medium for clandestine couplings, arguments, shelter, or ultimately transportation, the automobile is perhaps the most authentically American of spaces. In *Autobahn*, Neil LaBute’s provocative collection of one-act plays set within the confines of the front seat, the playwright employs his insight to great effect. Each of these seven vignettes explores the ethos of perception and relationship—from a make-out session gone awry to a kidnapping thinly disguised as a road trip; from a reconnaissance mission rescuing a Nintendo 64 to a daughter’s long ride home after her release from rehab. The result is an unsettling montage that gradually reveals the force of words left unsaid and the delicate interplay between intention and morality, all to conceptualize the playwright’s vision of Middle America and the myriad paths which cross its surface.

The CAST

MERGE



Megan Tompkins (Woman)

Megan Tompkins is a UAHuntsville junior pursuing her BA in history with a theatre cognate. She has loved involvement with UAH Theatre, last year playing the role of Patsy in *The Rimers of Eldritch*. Megan would like to thank her parents, friends, and husband, Scott, for their enthusiasm and support, as well as David Harwell, Shannon Graham, and Patricia Kiley for encouraging her to develop abilities she wasn't always sure that she had.



Marcus Milam (Man)

Marcus Milam is a senior at UAHuntsville, majoring in biology and minoring in communications. He has been involved with UAH Theatre since its successful re-debut in 2005. He performed roles in *The Actor's Nightmare*, *Lysistrata*, and *Crimes of the Heart*. He hopes to continue to pursue the ever elusive and sometimes daunting goal of professional acting after he completes his degree.

FUNNY



Taylor Martin (Young Woman)

Taylor Martin is a UAHuntsville freshman majoring in secondary education of mathematics. She chairs new member social activities for her sorority, Delta Zeta, and regularly practices with their powder puff football team. She is a member of the True Chargers and also volunteers in the community with the Ark and the Botanical Gardens. Her interests include not only theatre, but also photography, and she has been involved in modeling.



Leigh Rumsey (Older Woman)

Leigh Rumsey is pursuing a BA in nursing at UAHuntsville. This is her first performance, and she has simply fallen in love with UAH Theatre. She would like to thank Shannon and the wonderful cast for this tremendous experience and her family for their love and support while she chases her dreams.

AUTOBAHN

Raye Bonham (Woman)



Raye Bonham is thrilled that her first UAH Theatre production is Autobahn. She has, however, been active in other theatre groups with roles in Arsenic and Old Lace, All's Well That Ends Well, How I Learned to Drive, Orpheus Descending, Season's Greetings, The Vagina Monologues, The Mistress of the Inn, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and a panto version of Cinderella. She thanks her mother and brother, Ryan, for their love and support, as well as Shannon, the cast, and the crew for their endless patience and humor. She has loved every moment of the process and hopes everyone enjoys the show.

Ryan Pest (Man)



Ryan Pest graduated with a BA in music/vocal performance from UAHuntsville in December, 2009. He has been active in UAH Theatre for the past four years with roles in several plays and musicals. Ryan plans to begin graduate school in the fall of 2011 to pursue a Master's in performance. He is happy finally to be working with Shannon and thanks the cast for an awesome time.

ALL APOLOGIES

Steffan Rost (Man)



Steffan Rost, an English major and theatre minor, relishes the opportunities that UAH Theatre provides. Last year, he performed in The Rimers of Eldrich, and has also profited from community theatre, performing the role of Bertram Cates in Theatre Huntsville's production of Inherit the Wind. Previous roles include a part in Huntsville High School's production of Les Miserables. Steffan would like to thank Shannon, the cast, his family, and his beautiful girlfriend, Brianna, for their support and advice. Enjoy the show!

Jodie Pearson (Woman)



Jodie Pearson is a UAHuntsville sophomore, and this is her third play with UAH Theatre. She is excited about Autobahn, and she is grateful to Shannon for giving her opportunities to learn more about acting and, in that, about herself. She thanks everyone who made this production happen, and she is thrilled to work with so many talented people. Thank you Jesus! And everyone enjoy the show!!

ROAD TRIP



Marcus Milam (Man)

Marcus Milam is a senior at UAHuntsville, majoring in biology and minoring in communications. He has been involved with UAH Theatre since its successful re-debut in 2005. He performed roles in *The Actor's Nightmare*, *Lysistrata*, and *Crimes of the Heart*. He hopes to continue to pursue the ever elusive and sometimes daunting goal of professional acting after he completes his degree.



Jessica Lane (Girl)

Jessica Lane has been with UAH Theatre for a few years. Her first role was *Ronnette* in *The Little Shop of Horrors*, and she was assistant director for *The Country Club*, working alongside Shannon Graham. She is also a member of Alpha Psi Omega. Jessica is a senior majoring in English with minors in philosophy and theatre and expects to graduate in May. She is honored that Shannon gave her a spot in this show, and she has learned much from working with this awesome cast!

LONG DIVISION



Adam Perry (Man)

Adam Perry is a junior majoring in technical communication. This is his first show with UAH Theatre and he hopes to do more. Adam would like to thank his parents for giving him the opportunity to try out this new endeavor, as well as his friends and colleagues for their support. He hopes everyone enjoys the show!



Eric McCowan (Other Man)

Eric McCowan is a senior at UAHuntsville, pursuing a BA in English. This is his first play, but he hopes that it will be the first of many more to come. Eric wishes to thank Shannon and the cast for making this a great experience; Blake, Sam, and El Chupacabra for encouraging him; and Kimberly for taking this trip with him.

BENCH SEAT



Ryan Pest (Guy)

Ryan Pest graduated with a BA in music/vocal performance from UAHuntsville in December, 2009. He has been active in UAH Theatre for the past four years with roles in several plays and musicals. Ryan plans to begin graduate school in the fall of 2011 to pursue a Master's in performance. He is happy finally to be working with Shannon and thanks the cast for an awesome time.



Kimberly Weaver (Girl)

Kimberly Weaver is an English major who plans to graduate in the spring. After graduation, she intends to move to Chicago and focus on writing young adult novels. Although she has always been interested in theatre, this is her first stage performance.

The PRODUCERS



Shannon Graham – Director

Shannon Graham is a native of Huntsville. After she graduated from Butler High, she attended the University of Montevallo, which led to four years in the US Navy. After the Navy, she earned her BA from UAB, and then worked as an instrumentation technician for seven years. In 2006, she moved back to Huntsville and she is now studying for her Master's in English. She is honored to be directing her ninth production for UAH Theatre, and would like to thank David Harwell for his tenacity to give students the experience that theatre offers.



David Harwell – Set and Light Design

David is the assistant professor of theatre at UAHuntsville. He received his BFA in theatre at the University of Montevallo and his MFA in scene design from the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana in 1991. After many years of professional theatre in NYC, Boston, and regionally, he is happy to be back in Huntsville, his hometown. He started UAH Theatre in 2005 and serves as its director.



Johnna Doty – Sound Design

A graduate of the University of Montevallo in music, Johnna earned a sound design Master's from Boston University in 1994. She has worked professionally in NYC and regionally and was an assistant professor at the City University of New York - Borough of Manhattan Community College. A native of Florence, Alabama, she now resides in Huntsville. This is her fifth sound design for UAHuntsville Theatre.



Nia Hunter – Costume Design

Nia is a senior at UAHuntsville and is looking forward to pursuing her true theatrical love - costuming - on the graduate level very soon. While at UAH she designed and/or built costumes for twelve productions, making her the official costumer of UAH Theatre. Nia would like to thank everyone for coming out to support us; as well as the entire cast and David Harwell for his support and encouragement over the years.



Ian Hunter - Hair and Make-up

This is Ian's first year officially assisting with UAH Theater. He is currently pursuing a degree in mathematics and biology with career goals in biostatistics. He has a broad range of theatrical cosmetology experience, mainly from his recreations of movie and political icons. Ian currently practices the art of mid-underwater basket weaving in his spare time. Many thanks go to his family for allowing him the opportunity to explore his dreams, and set his own goals.

Production STAFF

Director:	Shannon Graham
Producer/Designer:	David Harwell
Sound Design:	Johnna Doty
Costume Design:	Nia Hunter
Wig and Make-up:	Ian Hunter
Video Tech:	Josh Hughes
Assistant Director:	Leigh Rumsey
Graphic Design:	Susan Altman
Tickets/Administration:	Donna Lamp
House Manager:	Ingrid Alviz
Technical Director:	John Dolloff
Video Operator:	Cody Hann
Sound Board Operator:	Mark Cowherd
Public Relations:	Glo Okirie Courtney Goodine Sharteedra Gracie Stephanie Perna
Program Editing:	Julie Early
Ushers:	Students from CM 122 – Theatre Appreciation
Stage Crew:	Marcy Bonebright James Parkes Jarrod Parkes Kenneth Throop David Vail

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About NEIL LABUTE



Combining intriguing moral and ethical metaphors with dark portraits of the underside of American life, writer and director Neil LaBute became one of the interesting and challenging new filmmakers to emerge in the 1990s.

Born in 1963, LaBute spent his childhood and high school years in the Pacific Northwest, and went on to receive his BA in theatre and film at Brigham Young University. He then did 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 the Sundance Institute's Playwright's Lab at N.Y.U.

LaBute first began writing and staging original plays while studying at Brigham Young; in 1993 he returned to BYU to premier his drama *In the Company of Men*, a tale of two businessmen who conspire to emotionally destroy a receptionist at their firm. In 1997, he adapted the play for the screen. This low-budget independent film was not only accepted at that year's Sundance Film Festival, but won the Filmmaker's Trophy as Best Dramatic Feature, and was subsequently picked up for national distribution, winning enthusiastic reviews.

LaBute next wrote and directed *Your Friends & Neighbors*, adapted from an earlier play, *Lepers*, which examined the sexual and emotional failings and frailties of three couples. After two films, LaBute was among the new filmmakers chronicled in the documentary *Independent's Day*. In 2000, he returned to writing for the stage with *Bash: Latterday Plays*. It enjoyed a successful New York off-Broadway run; a performance of the play was taped for later broadcast on Showtime Cable. That same year, he released his third feature film, *Nurse Betty*, a dark but sweet comedy about a slightly touched woman chasing her dreams after the murder of her husband, while being followed by the gunmen who did in her spouse. LaBute's next project, *Possession* (2002), was something of a departure for him, focusing mainly on romance and elements of period drama. After that, he returned to the themes of his earlier films, writing and directing *The Shape of Things* (2003). In 2006, LaBute entered the horror genre as writer and director of a remake of the cult favorite, *The Wicker Man*. While much of LaBute's previous work could be considered as investigations of man as an emotional monster, *The Wicker Man* marked the first time the director had entered the genre proper.

LaBute lives with his wife and two children in Fort Wayne, IN.

We invite you to join the UAH chapter of
The National Theatre Fraternity
Alpha Psi Omega - Xi Theta Cast

President: Megan Tompkins

Vice President: James Desta

Secretary: Dominick Desta

Treasurer: Elizabeth Baxley

We are gearing up for a bunch of activities and hope you will join us! Several special committees are being established to produce a variety of events designed to showcase talent and enthusiasm at UAH.

These great evenings will not be complete without you, so if you want to be on stage or love to watch, don't miss a single minute of these magical happenings!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Based on the classic SNL this is the UAH version with skits, zany antics and musical numbers where ANYTHING goes. Performed annually in the UC as a part of ACE.

READERS' THEATRE

The classic format will offer complete plays in this unique style. Students rehearse a play and perform with scripts seated before a live audience.

SETC CONFERENCE in Atlanta

Members will have a chance to travel to this regional conference and attend master classes, workshops and lectures on theatre crafts from costuming to stage combat.

IMPROV NIGHT

Cut lose with games and originality. Audience participation adds to this unique evening of laughter and interaction.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

or to sign up, contact:

Megan at meganktompkins@gmail.com

The COGNATE

UAH is proud to announce the Theatre Cognate. This interdisciplinary minor offers a variety of courses and opportunities geared to students' interests and talents. It is an exciting complement to any major. Classes vary from theatre history and production elements, to acting and design. Any career that requires presentation or performance can benefit from theatre training. Acting builds confidence and understanding. Theatre technology adds artistry to the engineering process and gives students an edge in the marketplace. From a business and management standpoint, theatre offers the unique challenge of working in a fast-paced situation that demands flexibility, creativity and focus. Marketing students can learn how to promote public events with print material, advertising, and press.

The cognate requires twenty-four credit hours; twenty-one of those are available in direct theatre study in the Department of Communication Arts, while the rest are offered in the Departments of Music, Art, English, Philosophy and Foreign Language.

**Talk to your advisor
or call 256-824-6909 and enroll now!**



“The Mystery of Edwin Drood”
April 2010 - UAH Theatre and Music

Our STORY

UAHuntsville Theatre was revived in September 2005 when the university hired a full-time theatre lecturer in the department of Communication Arts. Soon after, a crude production of *Medea* opened on the former east steps of the University Center. In 2006, the Theatre Minor/Cognate was established along with Morton Hall Studio 106, our black-box theatre. It has been the venue for eight shows to date including *Crimes of the Heart*, *Rantoul and Die* and *The Country Club*. The Chan Auditorium in the Business Administration Building has hosted thirteen productions including *A Doll's House*, *Suburbia*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Rimers of Eldritch*, the world premiere of *Four Spirits*, plus three musicals, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. We have also co-produced two operas with the Music Department in Roberts Recital Hall and open a third Opera Extremes production here in the Wilson Theatre at the end of the month.

Students have traveled to NYC twice, performing at the Tribeca Performings Arts Center with the Borough of Manhattan Community College. A two-week summer stock internship took four students to Urbana, Illinois for an intensive production experience thanks to the generosity of Mark Roberts, the executive producer and lead writer of the television show, *Two and a Half Men* and creator of *Mike and Molly* on CBS. UAH Theatre has produced two of his original plays and hosted him on campus twice with the assistance of the Department of Humanities. Theatre minor Becky Purcell received an MFA Acting assistantship at West Virginia University for 2009. Heath McClain, James Desta, Melissa Cavins and Megan Tompkins received Irene Ryan Acting Nominations in 2009 from the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival for their performances with UAH Theatre last fall.

Tonight we welcome you to the Wilson Theatre, a beautiful addition to Wilson Hall, the College of Liberal Arts, and the entire UAHuntsville campus. It was conceived by Dean Glenn Dasher and became a part of the renovation of Wilson Hall. Completed last January, the space has already changed the quality of our work and is certain to provide a bright future for UAH Theatre. This evening we offer *Autobahn* by Neil LaBute. We hope you enjoy this unique play, this generous director and cast, and our new home on campus.

David C. Harwell
Assistant Professor of Communication Arts
Director, UAHuntsville Theatre