

A COMEDY  
OF BAD MANNERS

# becky shaw

PULITZER PRIZE  
NOMINATED PLAY BY  
Gina Gionfriddo

DIRECTED BY  
Shannon Graham

## UAHuntsville THEATRE

**\$12**

GENERAL  
ADMISSION

April 10-13 and 17-20 at 7:30

WILSON THEATRE  
WILSON HALL

VERY ADULT LANGUAGE!

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

**M**  
MATURE  
Situation  
Language

256.824.6871

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## Note From the Director

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*Becky Shaw* is a deftly written work. Inciting thoughts on ambition, honesty, romantic relationships and economic class, this play reflects how our attitudes and actions form the world that sustains or destroys us. The language can be crude at times, but it might be safe to say that the words may not be too different from ones you have wanted to express yourself (only now you don't have to be culpable for having said it!). The twisting plot is complicated, and the characters are contradictory, imperfect, and entirely realistic. I have had the very good fortune of working with five truly talented actors whose praise cannot be sang loud enough for having worked so hard on this very complex representation of humanity. And of course, none of this could be presented to you without all of those behind the scenes: many kudos to an outstanding crew! Enjoy the show, and remember... it is in the flaws of humanity that we all find purpose and intrigue.

*Shannon Graham*

Shannon Graham - Director

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## About the Play

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A Pulitzer Prize finalist, “Gina Gionfriddo’s comedy of bad manners, a tangled tale of love, sex and ethics among a quartet of men and women in their thirties, is as engrossing as it is ferociously funny, like a big box of fireworks fizzing and crackling across the stage from its first moments to its last... scabrous and sharp-witted... One of the great pleasures of *BECKY SHAW* is the way the moral ground keeps shifting underneath your feet.”

—NY Times.

“The characters in Gionfriddo’s blind-date-gone-bad black comedy share the potential to revolt ... They’re also subversively funny — and improbably charming. Grade: A.”

—Entertainment Weekly.

“...scathing, class-conscious comedy...*BECKY SHAW* exerts a hypnotic pull, thanks in large part to the wonderfully witty dialogue and complex characterizations.”

—NY Post.

“Blithely cynical and devastatingly funny...witty observations on the emotional damage inflicted by neurotic people in the name of love...Gionfriddo is some kind of genius.”

—Variety.

# BECKY SHAW

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by Gina Gionfriddo

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## SCENE LIST:

- 1.1 - Suzanna's hotel room in New York City
- 1.2 - Andrew and Suzanna's apartment in Providence, Rhode Island

15 minute intermission

- 2:1 - Downtown Providence
  - 2:2 - Max's hotel room in Boston
  - 2:3 - Becky's apartment in Providence
  - 2:4 - Max's hotel room in Boston
  - 2:5 - A Cafe in Providence
  - 2:6 - Andrew and Suzanna's apartment in Providence
  - 2:7 - Susan Slater's home in Richmond, Virginia
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## CAST:

Emily Lane	Becky Shaw
Mackenzie Walker	Suzanna Slater
Shawn Buis	Max Garrett
Shawn Murdock	Andrew Porter
Gena Wilhite	Susan Slater

## PRODUCERS:

Shannon Graham	Director
David Harwell	Producer/Designer
Rebekah Brunton	Assistant Director
Eric McCowan	Production Stage Manager
Danielle Shabazz	Stage Manager
Monique Humphrey	Assistant Stage Manager
Johnna Doty	Sound Design
Taylor Acker	Sound Design
Nia Hunter	Costume Advisor
Jilya Gossett	Run Crew
Lauren Buswell	Run Crew
Joia Jackson	Run Crew
Mark Moore	Poster Design
Susan Altman	Program
Tom Gray	Tech Crew
Donna Lamp	Administration

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# The CAST

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## **Emily Lane (Becky Shaw)**

*Becky Shaw* is Emily's first major theatre production and she couldn't be more thrilled to be a part of it! Emily is a senior majoring in Communications with a minor in Psychology. She became a proud member of the UAHuntsville Chargers in 2011 when she transferred from Calhoun after earning an Associate of Science degree. Emily sends love and thanks to her family for always supporting her; the director, Shannon, for giving her this wonderful opportunity; David Harwell, for coaxing her to audition; the amazing and talented cast and crew; and all of the UAHuntsville Theatre patrons who make all of these shows possible.



## **Mackenzie Walker (Suzanna Slater)**

Mackenzie is so excited to be in *Becky Shaw*, which is her first play at UAHuntsville. She is a transfer student at UAHuntsville and is majoring in Communications with a Theatre minor. She has been doing theatre for 12 years and has been in over 30 productions. Having an agent in Atlanta, she would like to pursue acting as much as she can. She would like to say a big thank you to her family and fiancé Drew for all their support and love. She is excited to take on the role of Suzanna in this production and wants to thank her director Shannon for pushing and prodding her to bring out abilities she didn't know she had in her. She hopes everyone enjoys the show and takes something away from it.



## **Shawn Buis (Max Garrett)**

Shawn Buis graduated from UAHuntsville in 2012. Since graduation, he has participated in productions with Theatre Huntsville, including the role of Peter Hoskins in *Prelude to a Kiss* earlier this year. He would like to thank Shannon for the opportunity to work with her again, and always pushing him to be his best. He would also like to thank his friends and family for their support. Last, but certainly not least, he would like to thank the rest of the cast for being so much fun to work with.



**Shawn Murdock (Andrew Porter)**

Shawn Christian Murdock is an English major at UAHuntsville. This is his first play since middle school and he's thrilled that he has this chance to take part in this production. His first experience with UAHuntsville Theatre was in the National Theatre Honor Society's rendition of BBC Radio's *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and he has been in love with theatre ever since. He spends his time doing homework, writing, and hanging out with his dog. He would like to thank Shannon Graham for giving him the opportunity to be in this production, his parents for their support of his various endeavors throughout his life, and his best friend, Haggis, for believing in his abilities without allowing himself to be easily impressed.



**Gena Wilhite (Susan Slater)**

Gena has been active in community theatre in Alabama since 1993 and is excited to be making her debut with UAHuntsville Theatre! Her first show in Huntsville was *Sabrina Fair* in 2001. Since then she has appeared in (we'll stick with the short list because she honestly can't remember them all) *The Women*, *To Gillian on her 37th Birthday*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and *Sordid Lives*. She assistant directed *You Can't Take it With You* and made her directorial debut with *It's A Wonderful Life* in 2012. Thank you to David, Shannon and the cast and crew for letting her fly her freak flag in this great show.

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# The PRODUCERS

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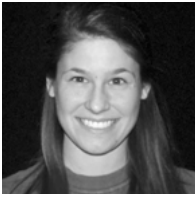
## **Shannon Graham – Director**

Shannon Graham has been directing shows with UAHuntsville Theatre since 2006. Her endeavors include Beth Henley's *Crimes of the Heart*, Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, and Neil LaBute's *Autobahn*. She studied Theatre at the University of Montevallo and at UAB and recently earned her MA in English from UAHuntsville. She performed as Prospero in last semester's *The Tempest* and teaches acting through the Department of Communications here at UAHuntsville. As to who she would like to thank, that would be YOU, for without your support and involvement we could not have this much fun while working so hard!



## **David Harwell – Producer/Designer**

David is the Associate Professor of Theatre and Scenic Design 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. David started UAH Theatre in 2005 and serves as its director.



## **Rebekah Brunton – Assistant Director**

Rebekah Brunton is a UAHuntsville graduate with a B.S. degree in Mathematics. She is thrilled to be working with the humorous cast and crew of *Becky Shaw*. She has performed in many high schools plays including *Oklahoma*. She studied acting in Shannon Graham's Acting 221 at UAHuntsville, which inspired her to participate with UAHuntsville Theatre. She is thankful to be given the opportunity to learn more about theatre while assisting Shannon with directing *Becky Shaw*.



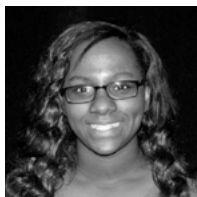
## **Eric McCowan – Production Stage Manager**

Eric McCowan is a UAHuntsville graduate with a B.A. in English. Most recently, he served as Assistant Director for *Urinetown*. As an actor, Eric has performed at UAHuntsville in productions of *A Bright New Boise*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Autobahn*, as well as productions in the Huntsville community. He is excited to join the cast of *Becky Shaw* as Production Manager.



### **Danielle Shabazz – Stage Manager**

Danielle Omari Shabazz is a senior majoring in Communication Arts at UAHuntsville. This is her first production since her high school days in Detroit, Michigan. She is honored that David Harwell suggested her and that Shannon Graham accepted her for this great behind-the-scenes role. Shabazz is thankful to have had the chance to get to know the amazing cast and crew that make up *Becky Shaw*. To her amazing little dogs Izzy & Kayne that didn't make it through the 2011 tornadoes, she wishes she could've saved you. Special thanks to her mom Dana Hatch for all of her love; the entire Williams family in their relentless support; Tifanie Hutto for working with the production schedule; Kendra(Zone) Bradfield for being her opposition; and Elicia Lynch for being a drop of serenity amidst the chaos. Lastly, to the audience, she can't wait to hear you laugh out loud!



### **Monique Humphrey – Assistant Stage Manager**

Monique Humphrey was born on a hot morning in July. The first time she saw a stage she was drawn in, 18 years later, she is still intrigued by the world of theatre. She wants to thank her mother, sisters, grandmother, and aunt for always believing and pushing her to do her best. Working as a stage manager with this group of people was a special moment in her life. Everyone was amazing and she can't thank Graham and Harwell enough for allowing her this opportunity. She also wants to say what a joy it was to work with Danielle Shabazz. Good luck to everyone in their future endeavors.



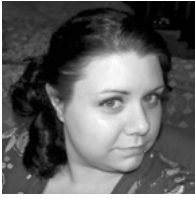
### **Johnna Doty – Sound Supervisor**

A graduate of the University of Montevallo in music, Johnna earned a sound design MFA 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 and teaches at UAH.



### **Taylor Acker – Sound Design**

Taylor graduated from UAHuntsville in 2012 with a major in Electrical Engineering and a minor in Music Technology. He is an aspiring composer, and he previously worked on sound for both *A Bright New Boise* and *The Tempest* in Fall 2012. He would like to thank everyone involved with *Becky Shaw* for allowing him to be a part of this show.



**Nia Hunter – Costume Designer**

Nia Hunter is an UAHuntsville alumnus and is proud to be back at her alma mater to work on this production. She hopes to continue her partnership with UAHuntsville Theatre, as costuming is one of her biggest passions.



**Jilya Gossett – Run Crew**

Jilya has previously performed with Alpha Psi Omega’s Readers’ Theatre in *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*, *The Failed Mission*, *Suddenly Last Summer* and, currently, *8 Days*, to be presented April 22. *Becky Shaw* is her first production with UAHuntsville Theatre.



**Lauren Buswell – Run Crew**

Lauren is a third year Elementary Education major originally from central Texas. She has never had any experience with theatre, but she enjoys learning and experiencing new things--particularly in the arts.



**Joia Jackson – Run Crew**

Joia is a freshman here at UAHuntsville majoring in Nursing with a minor in Biology. She is from Birmingham and is excited to be a part of the run crew for *Becky Shaw*.



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