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Casting and calendar
January – February 2018

**Rivendell Theatre Ensemble announces complete casting for
the Midwest Premiere of
Cal in Camo
by RTE member William Francis Hoffman
Directed by RTE member Hallie Gordon
Featuring RTE Members Ashley Neal, Keith Kupferer and Eric Slater**

January 5 – February 17, 2018

Chicago, IL—**Rivendell Theatre Ensemble (RTE)**, Chicago's only Equity theatre dedicated to producing new work with women at the core, announces the Midwest premiere of ***Cal in Camo*** by RTE member **William Francis Hoffman** and directed by RTE member **Hallie Gordon**. *Cal in Camo* runs **January 5 – February 17, 2018**, at **Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, 5779 N. Ridge Avenue in Chicago**. The press opening is Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 7:00pm.

Cal is a brand-new mom, but instead of joy she feels only isolation. Marooned in a starter home in rural Illinois, she does daily battle with her breast pump and yearns to love her baby despite her seething resentment. Her husband can't help, and a surprise visit from her brother threatens to make things even worse. Heartbreaking and mysterious, *Cal in Camo* delves into the nature of family bonds and old wounds that can scar even our capacity for connection.

The cast of *Cal in Camo* includes RTE members **Ashley Neal** (Cal), **Keith Kupferer** (Flynt) and **Eric Slater** (Tim).

The creative team includes RTE members **Joanna Iwanicka** (Scenic Design), **Janice Pytel** (Costume Design) and **Victoria Deiorio** (Original Composition and Sound Designer), as well as **Charles Cooper** (Lighting Design), and **Blake Burke** (Properties Design). The stage manager is **Jennifer Thusing**.

ARTIST BIOS

William Francis Hoffman (Playwright) was born and raised in Oakville, Missouri, a mile from the Mississippi River. He is a member of The Actor's Gym in Los Angeles, California and was an ensemble member at Rivendell Theatre from 2001 until he moved to Los Angeles in 2007. His play *Cal in Camo*, a co-production between The Rattlestick Playwrights Theater and Colt Coeur, received its world premiere in New York City. His play *Drift* is currently being workshopped in Los Angeles.

Hallie Gordon (Director) previously directed *Dryland* and *Eat Your Heart Out* for Rivendell. Hallie has directed for Steppenwolf Theatre; last productions included: *HIR*, *The Rembrandt*, and *Monster*. She is currently the Artistic Director for Steppenwolf for Young Audiences and an Artistic Producer for Steppenwolf Theatre Company. She is the recipient of The Helen Coburn Meier & Tim Meier Achievement Award.

Keith Kupferer (Flynt) is a founding member of Rivendell Theatre Ensemble where he was most recently seen in the critically-acclaimed production of *How the World Began*. Other Chicago credits include *The Qualms*, *Good People*, *Middletown*, *South of Settling*, *Of Mice & Men*, *Carter's Way*, *Men of Tortuga*, *Things Being What They Are*, *Jesus Hopped The A Train* and *Tavern Story* at Steppenwolf Theatre; *The Humans* at American Theatre Company; *Men's Support Group*, *God of Carnage*, *High Holidays*, *Passion Play* and *The Old Neighborhood* at the Goodman Theatre; *The Mystery of Love and Sex* (where he received a Jeff nomination for "Supporting Actor"), and *Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Wolf* at Writer's Theatre; *Hillary and Clinton*, *Never the Sinner* and *Appropriate* at Victory Garden's Theatre; *Gypsy* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater; *End Days* at Windy City Playhouse; *Execution of Justice* with About Face Theatre; *Cat Feet* and *The Old Neighborhood* at Northlight; *Desire Under The Elms*, a co-production between Philadelphia's Freedom Theatre and Chicago's Court Theatre; *The Unseen*, *The Meek*, *Canus Lunis Balloonis* (nominated for a 1998 Joseph Jefferson award for Best Ensemble) and *The Physicists* for A Red Orchid Theatre; and *Big Lake*, *Big City*, *Trust* and *Hillbilly Antigone* for Lookingglass Theatre. Film credits include the soon-to be released *Widows*; *The Dilemma*; *Dark Knight*; *Public Enemies*; *The Express*; *Stranger Than Fiction*; *Road to Perdition*; *Finding Santa*; *Fred Klaus*; *The Last Rights of Joe May*; *The Merry Gentleman* directed by Michael Keaton, *Resurrecting McGinn*; and *Open Tables*. TV credits include *Better Call Saul*; *Empire*; *Chicago P.D.*; *Betrayal*; *Crisis*; *Chicago Fire*; *Detroit 187*; *The Beast*; *Prison Break*; *The Jamie Kennedy Experiment* and *Early Edition*.

Ashley Neal (Cal) is thrilled to be back at Rivendell Ensemble Theatre, where she is an ensemble member and most recently appeared in *Alias Grace*. Other Rivendell productions include *Wrens*, *These Shining Lives*, *26 Miles*, *The Walls*, and *Be Aggressive*. Ashley most recently appeared in A Red Orchid Theatre's *The Nether* where she also appeared in *A Red Handed Otter*. Other shows you may have seen her in include: *London Wall*, *Men Should Weep* and *Stage Door* with Griffin Theatre; *The Life and Sort of Death of Eric Argyle* with Steep Theatre; as well as work with Chicago Dramatists, Pine Box, Irish Theatre Company, Step Up, Jackalope Theatre, Victory Gardens, Strawdog, The Greenhouse Theatre, and others. Ashley is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago and The School at Steppenwolf.

Eric Slater (Tim) has been a company member of RTE since 2006 and has appeared in *Winter*, *Rasheeda Speaking*, *Self-Defense*, *Expecting Isabel*, *Silence* and most recently *Alias Grace*. Chicago: *Hand To God* (Victory Gardens); *Kill Floor* (American Theatre Co.); *Diary of Anne Frank* (Writers Theatre); *Feathers & Teeth* and *Smokefall* (Goodman); and many others. Off & Off-Off Broadway: *Juvenal Players* (The Kitchen); *The Dudley's: A Family Game!* (Theatre for a New City); *Our Greatest Year* (Kraime & The Brick); Original Cast *Gloryana* (The Public Theater & The York Theatre Co.); and *Cyanocitta* (The Becket on Theatre Row). Regional: *Fornicated From The Beatles* (American Repertory Theatre); *Experiment America* (ICA Boston); *Hunchback* (DIA Detroit); *Permanent Collection* (Madison Rep.); *Our Greatest Year* (Dobama Theatre). Film/ TV: *Widows*, *Coming to You*, and *Chicago Fire*. Eric is a founding member of the immersive theatre company The New Ensemble based in NYC and has written extensively for The Neugents Project as a member of the North Carolina Writer's Group. He has also written and produced two short films and a number of theatrical experiments.

Fact Sheet / Cal in Camo

Title: *Cal in Camo*
Written by: RTE member **William Francis Hoffman**
Directed by: RTE member **Hallie Gordon**

Featuring: RTE members **Ashley Neal (Cal)**, **Keith Kupferer (Flynt)**, and **Eric Slater (Tim)**

Creative Team: RTE members **Joanna Iwanicka** (Scenic Design), **Janice Pytel** (Costume Design) and **Victoria Deiorio** (Original Composition and Sound Designer), as well as **Charles Cooper** (Lighting Design), **Blake Burke** (Properties Design), and **Jenniffer Thusing** (Stage Manager)

Previews: **January 5 – 13, 2018**
Friday, January 5 at 8:00pm
Saturday, January 6 at 8:00pm
Sunday, January 7 at 4:00 pm
Thursday, January 11 at 8:00pm

Friday, January 12 at 8:00pm
Saturday, January 13 at 8:00pm
VIP opening: Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 6:00pm
Press Opening Saturday, January 13, at 7:00pm
Regular run: January 18 – February 17, 2018

Schedule: **Thursdays-Saturdays at 8:00pm**
Saturdays at 4:00pm (except January 13)
Additional matinee performance on **Sunday, February 11 at 3:00pm**
Town Hall Discussions will follow select Saturday matinees

Location: **Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, 5779 N. Ridge Avenue in Chicago**

Tickets: **General Admission**
Previews: \$28
Regular Run: \$38
Student, Senior, Active Military, Veteran
Preview: \$18
Regular Run: \$28
Pay What You Can: Five seats (10% of the house) are available for each performance. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis.
Subscriptions: \$59-\$80 for 3-plays

Box Office: (773) 334-7728 or www.RivendellTheatre.org

Parking and Transportation: Free parking is available in the Senn High School parking lot (located a block and a half from the theatre behind the school off Thorndale Avenue). There is limited paid and free street parking in the area. The theatre is easily accessible via the Clark (#22) or Broadway (#36) bus, and is a short walk from the Bryn Mawr Red Line El station.

About Rivendell Theatre Ensemble

Founded in 1994, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble advances women's lives through the power of theatre. Rivendell cultivates the talents of women artists—writers, actors, directors, designers and technicians—by seeking out innovative plays that explore unique female experiences and producing them in intimate, salon environments.

Rivendell fills an important role in the Chicago region as the *only* Equity theatre dedicated to producing artistically challenging and original plays created by and about women. After years of being an itinerant company, RTE moved into its own theater space in 2010 in Edgewater. As new members of the neighborhood, the company is focused on becoming an integral community partner and serving as a catalyst to engage audiences in a discussion of local social issues.

For more information about Rivendell Theater Ensemble, visit <http://rivendelltheatre.org>. Follow RTE on Facebook at [Facebook.com/rivendelltheatre](https://www.facebook.com/rivendelltheatre) and on Twitter [@RivendellThtr](https://twitter.com/RivendellThtr).

Rivendell Theatre Ensemble is supported by generous grants from: The Lester and Hope Abelson Fund; The Alphawood Foundation; Paul M. Angell Family Foundation; The Arts Work Fund for Organizational Development; The Chicago Community Trust; The Chicago Foundation for Women; The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; The MacArthur Funds for Arts and Culture at The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation; The Reva and David Logan Foundation; The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust; SIF Fund at The Chicago Community Trust; Cultural Outreach Program Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events; and the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

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