

UNICORN · COLONIAL · FITZPATRICK

BERKSHIRE THEATRE GROUP

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Berkshire Theatre Group Presents
***Frankie and Johnny In the Clair de Lune* Directed by Karen Allen**
Featuring Angel Desai as Frankie and Darren Pettie as Johnny

Pittsfield, MA— Berkshire Theatre Group presents *Frankie and Johnny In the Clair de Lune*, directed by Karen Allen, featuring Angel Desai as Frankie and Darren Pettie as Johnny. Opening Night is Saturday, August 1, at 8pm. Preview performances begin on Wednesday, July 29 at 7pm and the production closes Saturday, August 22 at 8pm.

Tickets to *Frankie and Johnny In the Clair de Lune* are \$62, all preview tickets are \$42. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Colonial Ticket Office at 111 South Street, Pittsfield; at the Fitzpatrick Main Stage Ticket Office at 83 East Main Street, Stockbridge; by calling (413) 997-4444 or online at www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org. All plays, schedules, casting and prices are subject to change.

The bewildering journey of finding love in the modern world sets the premise for Terrence McNally's (*Master Class, Love! Valour! Compassion!*) bittersweet comedy, *Frankie And Johnny In the Clair de Lune*. After a one-night rendezvous in Manhattan's West Side, Johnny, played by **Darren Pettie** (Broadway: *Butley*) a compulsive, starry-eyed, short-order cook, is convinced he has found his life companion in Frankie, **Angel Desai** (Broadway: *Company*), a wisecracking waitress. Frankie's poor history with men leaves her hesitant to commit, but as the night progresses, she lets her guard down and an unlikely romance begins to blossom. This contemporary love story will be directed by beloved BTG Alum **Karen Allen** (BTG: *Moonchildren, Extremities*).

Kate Maguire, Artistic Director/CEO, says, "Just as she did with Berkshire Theatre Group's *Moonchildren* and *Extremities*, Karen Allen has a passion to get Frankie and Johnny's tender story on the stage. Audiences are going to be completely enthralled in this raw, realistic love story, and I think that's what *Frankie And Johnny In the Clair de Lune* is—we sit there and realize how naked we all feel when we're in love. And that's where the heart of the play lives."

Making her Fitzpatrick Main Stage directorial debut, Karen has previously directed *Moonchildren* and *Extremities* in the Unicorn theatre. Karen Allen is an award-winning theatre and film actress and director, starring in countless renowned films including: *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Scrooged*, *Animal House*, *The Perfect Storm* and *The Glass Menagerie*. Allen has been in acclaimed On and Off-Broadway productions such as, *The Monday After the Miracle*, *Extremities*, and most recently, *A Summer Day*.

Frankie And Johnny In the Clair de Lune

by Terrence McNally

directed by Karen Allen

featuring Angel Desai and Darren Pettie

at The Fitzpatrick Main Stage, Stockbridge Campus

Previews: Wednesday, July 29–Friday, July 31

Press Opening/Opening Night: Saturday, August 1 at 8pm

Talkback: Monday, August 3 at 7pm

Closing: Saturday, August 22 at 8pm

Tickets: Preview: \$42

Tickets: \$62

Sponsored by: Blantyre, Country Curtains and The Red Lion Inn

Performance Dates

Wednesday, July 29 at 7pm (Preview)

Thursday, July 30 at 7pm (Preview)

Friday, July 31 at 8pm (Preview)

Saturday, August 1 at 2pm and 8pm (Opening Night)

Monday, August 3 at 7pm (Talkback)

Tuesday, August 4 at 7pm

Wednesday, August 5 at 7pm

Thursday, August 6 at 7pm

Friday, August 7 at 8pm

Saturday, August 8 at 2pm and 8pm

Monday, August 10 at 7pm

Tuesday, August 11 at 7pm

Wednesday, August 12 at 7pm

Thursday, August 13 at 7pm

Friday, August 14 at 8pm

Saturday, August 15 at 2pm and 8pm

Monday, August 17 at 7pm

Tuesday, August 18 at 7pm

Wednesday, August 19 at 7pm

Thursday, August 20 at 7pm

Friday, August 21 at 8pm

Saturday, August 22 at 2pm and 8pm (Closing Night)

Frankie And Johnny In the Clair de Lune Cast:

Frankie: **Angel Desai**

Johnny: **Darren Pettie**

BIOS:

Karen Allen (Director) returns to Berkshire Theatre Group having directed William Mastrisimone's *Extremities* in 2013 and Michael Weller's *Moonchildren* in 2011. Most recently she won an Obie for her production of the world premiere of Lucy Thurber's play, *Ashville*, at the Cherry Lane in NYC. As an actor, her theatre roles have included Helen Keller in William Gibson's *The Monday After the Miracle* at The Actor's Studio, the Spoleto Festival, the Kennedy Center and on Broadway (Theatre World Award), *Extremities* (Westside Arts Theatre), *The Glass Menagerie* (Longwharf), *Miss Julie* (Actor's Studio), *The Miracle Worker*, *The Country Girl* and *Speaking in Tongues* (Roundabout), *Beautiful Bodies* (Whole Theatre), *Temporary Help* (Westport Playhouse), and most recently the US premiere of Jon Fosse's *A Summer Day* with Rattlestick Theatre at the Cherry Lane. In 1981, Karen came to BTG for the first time in William Gibson's *Two for the Seesaw*. She has also worked at The Williamstown Theatre Festival (Tennessee Williams: *A Celebration*, *The Royal Family*, *Glass Menagerie*) and at Shakespeare and Co (Rosalind in *As You Like It*). Films include: *Animal House*, *The Wanderers*, *A Small Circle of Friends*, *Shoot the Moon*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Cruising*, *Starman*, *Until September*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Scrooged*, *Malcolm X*, *King of the Hill*, *The Sandlot*, *Falling Sky*, *Poster Boy*, *The Perfect Storm*, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, and *White Irish Drinkers and Bad Hurt* which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival this year. She just completed shooting a film based on Joan Anderson's memoir *A Year By the Sea* to be released in 2016. Television appearances include *East of Eden*, *Voyage*, *Secret Weapon*, *All the Winters That Have Been*, *My Horrible Year*, *November Christmas* and *Law and Order*. Karen began directing ten years ago at Bard College at Simon's Rock with a production of Joan Ackermann's *The Batting Cage*. She is a member of the Actor's Studio and has taught at the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in association with NYU. Karen is presently in preparation to direct her first film *A Tree, A Rock, A Cloud*, which is an adaptation of Carson McCullers' short story.

Angel Desai (Frankie) is very happy to make her Berkshire Theatre Group debut as Frankie. This past May, Angel took over for Valerie Vigoda in *Vigoda* and Milburn's new 2-person musical, *Ernest Shackleton Loves Me* at the George St. Playhouse. Other recent theater credits include Paulina in *The Winter's Tale* and Phyllis Nirlinger in *Double Indemnity*, both at the Old Globe. She made her Broadway debut as Marta in the Tony Award-winning 2006 revival of *Company*. Off-Broadway credits include: *The Tempest* and *The Winter's Tale* (CSC), *Manic Flight Reaction* and *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin* (Playwrights Horizons), *The Architecture of Loss* (NYTW), *The Antigone Project* and *Gum* (Women's Project), and *This End Up: A User's Manual for Lovers of Asians* (Ma-Yi). Regional credits include: The McCarter Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse, Yale Repertory, Long Wharf, Arena Stage, Playmakers Repertory, Cleveland Playhouse, Sundance Theater Festival, NY Stage and Film, O'Neill Theater Center, and the Cape Cod Theater Project. TV credits include guest spots on *Forever*, *Elementary*, and *Nurse Jackie*, and recurring roles on *Being Mary Jane*, *Damages*, *The Event*, *Kings*, Joss Whedon's *Dollhouse*, and all three *Law and Order*'s. Film credits include *The Clique*, *The War Within*, *Heights*, *Black Knight*, and *Robot Stories*. A trained violinist and pianist, Angel is a 2014 Lunt-Fontanne Fellow, a 52nd Street Project volunteer, and has an MFA in Acting from NYU.

Darren Pettie (Johnny) was born/bred in Alabama, served in Desert Storm, and attended Juilliard. London: (National Theatre) *Strange Interlude*. Broadway: *Butley*. Off

Broadway: *Detroit* (Playwrights Horizons), *Dinner with Friends* and *The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore* (Roundabout Theatre Company), *The Collection* (Atlantic Theatre Company), *This, Spatter Pattern* (Playwrights), *Hillary* (New Georges), *Dedication or The Stuff of Dreams* (Primary Stages), *Hobson's Choice* (Atlantic Theatre), *Unwrap Your Candy* (Vineyard Theatre), *Measure for Measure* (Delacorte). Regional and Festivals: *How the Other Half Loves* (Westport), *Don't Dress for Dinner* (Royal George), *The Cry of the Reed* (Huntington), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Festival), *Dedication of the Stuff of Dreams* (WTF). Film and Television: *Taking Woodstock*, *The International*, *Ghost Town*, *Four Single Fathers*. AMC pilot *Line of Sight*, *The Good Wife*, *Mad Men*, *Ringer*, *Scandal*, *Rizzoli & Isles*, *Pan Am*, *Castle*, *Prime Suspect*, *Gossip Girl*, *Cashmere Mafia*, *Brothers and Sisters*, *Without a Trace*, *Numb3rs*, *CSI*, *Crossing Jordan*, *Charmed*.

For more information about Berkshire Theatre Group and our upcoming season, please visit www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org

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About Berkshire Theatre Group

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. Having united in November of 2010 under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, these two institutions are providing the Berkshires and beyond with the finest in live theatre, music, dance and the visual arts in Stockbridge, MA and Pittsfield, MA. The Fitzpatrick Main Stage (300 seats), cataloged by the National Register of Historic Places, was originally designed and built by Stanford White as the Stockbridge Casino in 1888. The intimate Unicorn Theatre (122 seats) is a home for emerging artists and new theatrical ideas. The Colonial in Pittsfield (780 seats) re-opened in August of 2006, following a \$21 million restoration, and boasts pristine acoustics, classic gilded age architecture and state-of-the-art technical systems. BTG also performs at The Garage, a music venue located in the lobby of The Colonial. BTG serves over 100,000 patrons per year and reaches over 13,000 students through its educational and outreach programs. To purchase tickets, call (413) 997-4444 or go online to www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org.