Berkshire Theatre Group Presents Michael V. Gazzo’s *A Hatful of Rain* at the Fitzpatrick Main Stage

Stockbridge, MA— Berkshire Theatre Group presents Michael V. Gazzo’s *A Hatful of Rain*, a poignant foray into the devastating effects of heroin in the life of a Korean War Veteran at the Fitzpatrick Main Stage in Stockbridge. Opening Night is August 16 at 8pm. Preview performances begin on August 13 at 7pm and the production closes August 30 at 8pm.

Tickets to *Hatful of Rain* are $42 to $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 war fought abroad is just as devastating as the war fought within. This rings devastatingly true for Johnny Pope (played by BTG Alum Tommy Schrider) a Korean War Veteran who has safely returned home to New York City and now struggles with drug addiction after being heavily medicated during his hospital stay.

Greg Naughton is making his BTG directorial debut with *Hatful of Rain*. Naughton founded and served as Artistic Director of Off-Broadway’s Blue Light Theater Company in NYC for six award-winning seasons and also performed at The Colonial Theatre last year with his band, The Sweet Remains.

“A Hatful of Rain is best known these days as a scene-study staple for acting students,” Greg Naughton said. “There have been very few significant productions since its premiere in 1955. But for 20 years, it has been occupying a large space in my imagination. A couple years ago I finally got a little workshop time with it, which only fueled my conviction that it is a ‘lost classic.’ And then— this play about a PTSD case (before the term was coined) who returns home addicted to heroin became (unfortunately) very timely again.”

In *A Hatful of Rain*, Johnny’s battle strangles his daily life and slowly deteriorates the relationship between him and his family as he attempts to hide and support his habit. His brother, Polo (Greg Keller) tries to help but there’s only so much he can do. His pregnant wife, Celia (Megan Ketch) is convinced he’s having an affair and tries to hold their faltering marriage together while their father’s (Stephen Mendillo) visit only adds to the tumultuous downturn of Johnny’s life. Gazzo’s raw, insightful and carefully crafted storytelling depict the demise of an embattled soul and raises social consciousness on issues regarding addiction and the cost of war for our veterans.
A HATFUL OF RAIN
by Michael V. Gazzo
directed by Greg Naughton

at The Fitzpatrick Main Stage, Stockbridge
Previews August 13-August 15
Press Night/Opening Night August 16
Talkback: August 18
Closing: August 30
Tickets: Preview: $42;
A: $62 B: $52 C: $42
20% off for Veterans!

Performance Dates:
Wednesday, August 13 at 7pm (Preview)
Thursday, August 14 at 8pm (Preview)
Friday, August 15 at 8pm (Preview)
Saturday, August 16 at 2pm & 8pm (Opening Night)
Monday, August 18 at 8pm (Talk Back)
Tuesday, August 19 at 8pm
Wednesday, August 20 at 7pm
Thursday, August 21 at 8pm
Friday, August 22 at 8pm
Saturday, August 23 at 7pm and 8pm
Monday, August 25 at 8pm
Tuesday, August 26 at 8pm
Wednesday, August 27 at 7pm
Thursday, August 28 at 8pm
Friday, August 29 at 8pm
Saturday, August 30 at 2pm & 8pm (Closing)

Artistic Bios
Greg Naughton (Director) is pleased to be making his BTG debut. Greg founded and served as Artistic Director of Off-Broadway’s Blue Light Theater Company in NYC through 6 seasons and 16 productions—including the Obie-Winning Oedipus (starring Frances McDormand and Billy Crudup), Waiting for Lefty (starring Marisa Tomei, directed by Joanne Woodward), The NY premiere of Amazing Grace by Michael Cristofer (starring Marsha Mason), and their inaugural production of Odets’ Golden Boy in which Greg also played the title role. Other acting credits include numerous Off-Broadway and regional productions (including many at Williamstown Theatre Festival), TV & film. Greg has spent much of the last decade on hiatus from the theater, traveling with his band The Sweet Remains. His songs have also been covered by many other artists (most recently for his wife, Kelli O’Hara’s Sony debut).

Chris Bannow (Apples) is so happy to be making his BTG debut. Regional credits include Williamstown Theatre Festival, Yale Repertory Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, McCarter Theatre Center, Wellfleet Harbor Actors’ Theater, and Olney Theatre Center. Film: Not Fade Away. He is a 2014 graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

Cornelius Davidson (Church) is a rising 3rd year acting candidate at the Yale School of Drama. He received his BA from Western Michigan University. Last summer he studied at BADA in Oxford, England. Some credits include: Clay-(Dutchman), Claudio-(Much Ado, lMeasure 4 Measure), Bob-(Wintertime), Benito-(References to Salvador Dali) Davey Battle-(Take Me Out). He has also toured with Aerial Angels performing Fallen at the Stratford Festival in Canada, and took Good Death (devised with Tectonic Theatre Project) to the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. He produced and performed in Thoughts of a Colored Man(Wisdom) at Magdalen College in Oxford. Cornelius is very thankful and excited to make his acting debut here at the Berkshire Theatre Group. He plans to debut his original play Blurred Lines: Let Me Domesticate Ya!- an autobiographical play about hope at the Yale Cabaret this year. Thank you Mom, You’re my hero!
Greg Keller (Polo Pope): At BTF: The Glass Menagerie, Sick, This Is Our Youth, Coyote On A Fence, A Dream Play, A Man For All Seasons. Broadway: Wit. Off-Broadway: The Who and The What (LCT3), Somewhere Fun (Vineyard), Belleville(NYTW), Cradle and All (MTC), The Seagull (with Dianne Wiest and Alan Cumming at CSC), That Pretty Pretty (Rattlestick), Telethon (Clubbed Thumb), Reborning (The Public/SPF), Smudge (Women’s Project), Steve & I (Rattlestick). Regional: Seminar (with Jeff Goldblum, Ahmanson Theater), 33 Variations(with Jane Fonda, Ahmanson Theater), MFA: NYU. Greg was a Lila Acheson Wallace playwriting fellow at The Juilliard School. His plays have been produced at Cherry Lane, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Berkshire Theater Festival, and LAByrinth Theater Company, where he is a member. His play Dutch Masters was produced at BTF in 2011.

Megan Ketch (Celia Pope) Berkshire Theatre Festival Debut. Theatre: Double Indemnity (The Old Globe), One Slight Hitch (Williamstown Theatre Festival), Drive-In Dreams and Clap Your Hands (59E59), The Cherry Orchard (CSC). TV: credits include recurring roles in the new series Reckless (CBS), Under The Dome (CBS), The Good Wife (CBS), and recurring as Donnie Wahlberg’s partner "Kate Lansing" on Blue Bloods (CBS), Gotham (ABC pilot), Law & Order: SVU (NBC), and A Gifted Man (CBS). FILM: The Big Wedding (Lionsgate) Megan is a graduate of the NYU Graduate Acting Program.

Michelle McGregor (Putski) Michelle received her MFA in acting from the Yale School of Drama this past May. Her YSD credits include Peter Pan, Lottie in the Late Afternoon, No More Sad Things, Twelfth Night, and Vieux Carre. Her Yale Cabaret credits include Cowboy Mouth, Tartuffe, Heart’s Desire, Chamber Music, and The Fatal Eggs, which makes its NYC debut at The American Theatre of Actors on October 1st. Michelle is also a stand up comic who recently performed her full-length show Michelle McGregor: Bad at Life on our stage “The Garage” in Pittsfield. She is thrilled to be spending some of her summer with us here at the Berkshires.

Stephen Mendillo (Father) has appeared in 7 Broadway productions including A View From The Bridge, Wild Honey, Guys and Dolls, The National Health, Ah! Wilderness, Orpheus Descending, and Our Town. Some of his favorite off broadway and regional theatre roles are Martin in Fool for Love, Leroy in The Last Yankee, Prince Myshkin in the original Subject to Fits, the Captain in Dance of Death, the Father in Minutes From The Blue Route, Boo in The Marriage of Bette and Boo, Jay Follett in All the Way Home, Mike Frankiesco in Breaking Legs, Yangsun the Flyer in Good Woman of Setzuan, Hal in Loot, King Henry in Henry IV, Mitch in A Streetcar Named Desire, Ed in the original Bad Hunt on Cedar Street. He trained at Yale School and is a lifetime member of The Actors Studio. Films include: Lonestar, King of the Gypsies, Slapshot, Empire Falls, Broadcast News, among others. He has been seen on television in Law and Order several times, Alias, Coldcase, Medium and others. After many seasons at Williamstown Theatre Festival he is happy to be at the wonderful Berkshire Theatre for the first time.


Tommy Schrider (Johnny Pope) Previously appearances at BTF include The Caretaker, The Lion In Winter, The Einstein Project, One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest, Macbeth, A Man For All Seasons. Broadway: War Horse. Other NYC credits include Macbeth (Theatre for a New Audience); Septimus & Clarissa (Ripe Time); Close Ties, Please Continue (Ensemble Studio Theatre); Acts of Mercy, St. Crispin’s Day (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater); She Stoops to Conquer, Pigtown (Irish Rep); Bread & Roses (NYTW); RACE (Classic Stage Company); How I Fell In Love, Greek Holiday (Abingdon). Regional credits include productions at Yale Rep, South Coast Rep, Huntington Theatre Company, Westport Country Playhouse, Cincinnati Playhouse, Williamstown, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Actors Theatre of Louisville,

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