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Dallas Theater Center

presents

The Beauty Plays Three plays by Neil LaBute

The Shape of Things
Directed by Matthew Gray

Fat Pig
Directed by Kevin Moriarty

and the regional premiere of
reasons to be pretty
directed by Joel Ferrell

Feb. 23 – May 23

(individual production run dates detailed below)

Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre · AT&T Performing Arts Center · 2400 Flora Street

Tickets: www.dallastheatercenter.org or 214.880.0202

DALLAS (Feb. 18, 2010) – For the first time ever, three of Neil LaBute's plays – *The Shape of Things*, *Fat Pig*, and straight from its Broadway run for its regional premiere, the three-time Tony Award-nominated *reasons to be pretty* – will be presented in repertory by Dallas Theater Center Feb. 23 – May 23 in the intimate 103-seat Studio Theatre at the Wylie Theatre.

Described by *The New Yorker* as “the best new playwright to emerge in the past decade...a genius,” LaBute has written three hit plays dealing with the complexities of romantic relationships, sexual politics and physical appearance. Comprising a trilogy of plays linked by theme, though without recurring characters or a connected plot, the plays each reflect on their common themes in unique and distinctive ways. Though each play has had immensely successful productions in New York and London, the three plays have never been performed in repertory.

DTC Resident Acting Company member **Matthew Gray** directs *The Shape of Things*, DTC Artistic Director **Kevin Moriarty** directs *Fat Pig*, and Associate Artist **Joel Ferrell** directs *reasons to be pretty*.

“Neil LaBute is one of the most dynamic, surprising, and controversial writers in the American theater. Over the past decade, he has consistently and unabashedly ripped off the façade of contemporary American society, writing with truthfulness and a scalpel-like precision. Using both biting comedy and heart-breaking drama as his tools, his work confronts deeply personal and familiar issues that most people think about but are rarely brave enough to discuss in our daily lives,” says Moriarty. “Presenting these three plays in the Studio Theatre, where every seat is just feet away from the stage, will create a level of intimacy between the actors and the audience, providing playgoers with a new and powerful experience in the Wylie Theatre.”

The Shape of Things (Feb. 23 – May 9; **opening March 5**)

Directed by Matthew Gray

In *The Shape of Things*, the first to open in the trilogy, Adam (**Steven Walters**), a shy, overweight college student embarks on an extreme transformational journey after falling in love with sexy and confident graduate art student Evelyn (Southern Methodist University Meadows School of the Arts **Abbey Siegworth**). SMU's **Aleisha Force** and DTC Resident Acting Company Member and Associate Artist **Lee Trull** complete the cast as Jenny and Philip.

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Fat Pig (March 12 – May 9; **opening March 19**)

Directed by Kevin Moriarty

DTC Resident Acting Company Member **Christina Vela** reprises her role from Kitchen Dog Theater's 2007 production as Helen, a plus-size librarian who catches the attention of Tom (**Regan Adair**), an in-shape, successful professional. As their relationship blossoms, Tom struggles with navigating the dynamics of his relationships with vain colleagues Jeannie (**Aleisha Force**) and Carter (**Steven Walters**) who judge him for his romantic decision, forcing Tom to come to terms with his own preconceptions of the importance of conventional good looks.

reasons to be pretty (April 2 – May 23; **opening April 9**)

Directed by Joel Ferrell

In its regional premiere straight from Broadway, LaBute's Tony Award-nominated play brutally confronts America's obsession with physical beauty and the way people communicate with each other. When Steph (**Christina Vela**) gets wind of her boyfriend Greg's (**Lee Trull**) comments about a co-worker's pretty face, their relationship is thrown into turmoil. Their friends (**Regan Adair** and **Abbey Siegworth**) are pulled into the fray and all are forced to confront a sea of deceit, infidelity, and betrayed trust in their journey to understand the power and dangers of beauty in contemporary America. A *New York Times* Critics' Pick and on the 2008 top ten lists of *TIME Magazine* and The Associated Press.

The design team for The Beauty Plays includes **Donna Marquet** (*set designer*), **Ric Leal** (*costume designer*), **Driscoll Otto** (*lighting designer*), and **Bruce Richardson** (*sound designer*).

"The Beauty Plays is an opportunity for Dallas to see three razor-sharp plays representative of a decade of LaBute's work," Moriarty says. "Experiencing this series is sure to open an interesting conversation among audiences about the convoluted politics and power dynamics of relationships with friends, lovers and colleagues."

All performances of The Beauty Plays will be held in the Studio Theatre in the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre at the AT&T Performing Arts Center, located at 2400 Flora St., where they run in repertory Feb. 23 – May 23. Performance times are Tuesday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Single ticket prices are \$15-\$40 and are available by calling the box office at 214.880.0202 or by visiting www.dallastheatercenter.org.

ABOUT DALLAS THEATER CENTER

One of the leading regional theaters in the country, Dallas Theater Center (DTC) produces new, contemporary and classic plays and musicals to an audience of more than 90,000 North Texas residents annually. DTC is a resident company of the AT&T Performing Arts Center and presents its mainstage season at the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre. DTC engages, entertains and inspires a diverse community by creating experiences that stimulate new ways of thinking and living by consistently producing plays, educational programs and other initiatives that are of the highest quality and reach the broadest possible constituency.

DTC gratefully acknowledges the support of our season sponsors: American Airlines, The Dallas Morning News, Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, National Endowment for the Arts, TACA, TCA and WFAA.

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