



BECKY SHAW

by GINA GIONFRIDDO

directed by
DR. JENNIFER THOMAS



"Becky Shaw" is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Becky Shaw
By Gina Gionfriddo

World premiere in the 2008 Humana Festival of New American Plays at Actors Theatre of Louisville.

New York premiere produced in 2009 by Second Stage Theatre, New York, Carole Rothman, Artistic Director.

Becky Shaw

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Act I

Scene 1: A hotel in New York City.

Scene 2: Eight months later. Saturday. Andrew and Suzanna's apartment.

Act II

Scene 1: Two days later. Monday. Downtown Providence.

Scene 2: Monday. A hotel in Boston.

Scene 3: Tuesday. Becky's apartment.

Scene 4: Wednesday. A hotel in Boston.

Scene 5: Thursday. A cafe.

Scene 6: Thursday. Andrew and Suzanna's apartment.

Scene 7: Saturday. Susan's living room.

Cast

Suzanna Slater

Max Garrett

Susan Slater

Andrew Porter

Becky Shaw

Female Understudy

Male Understudy

Steffi Sea '19

Josh Weisenburger '17

Eva Gemlo '17

Ryan Pierce '17

Gracie Griffiths '19

Carrie Pint '20

Jake Porter '17

Production Staff

Director

Assistant Director

Technical Director

Scenic Design

Lighting Design

Sound Design

Costume Design

Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager

Graphic Design

House Manager

Production Manager

Web Content

Dr. Jennifer Thomas

Madeline Geier '17

Tom Berger

Tom Berger

Jeff Dintaman

Danny Thomas

Lisa Lantz

Andrew Tiede '19

Samson Masanga '20

Joschua Setiawan '18

Emily Garst '17

Laila Sahir '18

Elaena Hoekstra '17

Crew

Light Board Operator

Sound Board Operator

Wardrobe

Winter Hawley '20

Natalie Nelson '19

Emma Brashear '18

Maya Dunson '19

Alice McNamara '17



Eva Gemlo has finally reached the end of her four-year stumble through Luther, emerging from the ashes of her goofs like a phoenix. A phoenix with a theatre major and a management minor. She has performed in *Cabaret*, *La Dispute*, *A Thread in the Dark*, *In the Next Room*, *Metamorphoses*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Eurydice*. Her other activities include Cantorei Choir. Goodbye, y'all.



Gracie Griffiths is a sophomore communication studies major and art minor, and she was last seen on stage in the 2017 Vagina Monologues. In addition to participating in theatre, Gracie spends her days managing her photography business, singing in the Cantorei Choir, doing yoga, and smiling a lot. She is very excited to be a part of this production and would like to thank her parents and sisters for their unending support.



Ryan Pierce is a theatre major with a music minor. While at Luther, he has been in several shows and has shared his other talents by being in Collegiate Choir and being an RA. He plans to tour after graduation with the Missoula Children's Theatre. Special thanks to God, his family, his girlfriend, and this awesome cast.



Carrie Pint is a first-year student who is currently undecided on what she wants to do with her life. After being cast as a dancer in most productions outside of high school, she was excited to get the chance to be an understudy and learn multiple parts to work on her acting skills! She would like to thank her parents for always encouraging her to do everything she wants!



Jake Porter is a senior from Waterloo, IA studying social work and English. He has previously appeared in *Twelfth Night*. After graduating he plans to throw himself in the general direction of the Twin Cities and hopes he'll stick somewhere. He thanks his friends for the light they give him.



Steffi Sea is a majestic creature who crawled from the sea to pursue theatre at Luther. This is her second time on the Luther stage, the first being *Sunday in the Park with George*. Steffi would like to thank all her aquatic-dwelling friends and family, as well as the cast and crew--particularly Josh Weisenburger, bio-writing extraordinaire.



Josh Weisenburger is a senior theatre major. Previous credits on the Luther stage include *Twelfth Night*, *Metamorphoses*, *Love and Information*, *La Dispute* and *Cabaret*. Josh also participates in Luther College Ballroom & Swing, Bromatic Progression, and Top Banana. He would like to thank the cast and crew for a wonderful experience and his family for their continued support.



Madeline Geier is a senior theatre major and writing minor involved with Just Action, SPIN Theatre Company, and Student Philanthropy Council. This year, she assistant directed *Twelfth Night* and directed SPIN's production of *Circle Mirror Transformation*. She send special thanks to Jen, the production team, the cast, and the crew for a wonderful process, and to Laila for her abundance of support and advice.



Andrew Tiede is a sophomore theatre major at Luther College. Andrew is currently focusing on scenic design and acting. He'd like to thank Jen for her patience as he learns how to be a stage manager, and Samson for all his hard work.



Samson Masanga is a first-year student at Luther, currently majoring in computer science and minoring in theatre. He has enjoyed this experience working on his first production at Luther and taking on stage management for the first time.

Set Construction Crew

Nathan Baldwin
Emma Brashear
Gunnar Ehlers
Madeline Geier
Tanner Huppert
Isaac Logeman
Sydney Northern
Jenna Reimann
Emma Schlabach
Barbara Stier
Josh Weisenburger

Collin Boyle
Jorge Chavez
Morgan Fanning
Winter Hawley
Jonathan Kuehner
Abby Mark
Ryan Pierce
Rebecca Rye
Stephen Ster
Andrew Tiede

Costume Crew

Alice McNamara
Anna Becker
Emma Brashear
Emmalee Kmoch
Genevieve Heimer-Lang
Laura Schueler
Tanner Huppert
Nathaniel Koch

Andrew Tiede
Elizabeth Bolthouse
Emily Garst
Eva Gemlo
Kelly Dawson
Evie Iralu
Tiwonge Chirwa

Special Thanks

Gracie Griffiths
Brittany Todd
Luther College Facilities

Director's Note

I first read *Becky Shaw* about five years ago and I hated it. Wait, as the characters in the play say, "Let me rephrase that." I hated the characters and found them unlikable in numerous ways, but found the material rich for exploration in my performance and script analysis classes. It was because of this rich material that I put the script on the short list of options for me to direct here at Luther. It met the suggested requirements and I thought it would be "interesting" to direct a piece I found to be so "challenging" (in the purest Minnesota polite reading of that statement). And, of course, *Becky Shaw* was the script the Luther VPA faculty chose for me to direct. I read it again before the winter holiday and still had a very visceral response to the characters and their actions. I put the script away and ignored it until I arrived here in Decorah.

One of the fascinating elements of being an outsider to any community is walking into a space with minimal bias or knowledge of working methods and personal backgrounds. I had never been on Luther's campus before. (Side note: I am an alum of Concordia College in Moorhead and spent four years teaching there, so I am not a complete stranger having worked at a sister school.) I had never seen the students who walked into the audition space or met the faculty who were prepared to collaborate with me. In other words, we knew very little about one another beyond names and resumes. We were essentially strangers embarking on a journey together.

A journey with *Becky Shaw*. I entered into script analysis with the company thinking I knew what I felt about these characters. And goodness was I surprised to discover these five strange characters offered so much more to me than I allowed them to in my initial encounters. Instead of focusing on their failures, I found their hopes. Their viper-like language revealed cruelty, but also demonstrated how far they will go to protect their weaknesses and vulnerabilities. The assumptions I had made about these characters suddenly revealed themselves as just that...narrowly formed responses to previous interactions.

So, to wrap this up...it seems to me that I have benefitted and learned from taking on the role of outsider, and I should do so more often. Look to make

discoveries about the people and the world around me instead of assuming. Ask questions and look for clarifications. Don't let personal histories overshadow the present moment. Be willing to see people and situations for what exists in front of me. Be willing to let people see me. At one point in rehearsal I reminded the actors to remain present to what is happening in the moment on the stage between themselves and one another. Later I remembered this quote from Heraclitus, "One cannot step twice into the same river." A good reminder for on and off the stage. As Andrew says late in the play, "I can do better." Me too, Andrew, me too.

- jen

Luther Theatre and Dance 2016-2017

stained glass
By p. m. strain
October 1, 2016

Twelfth Night
By William Shakespeare
October 6-8, 2016

Who Do You Trust?
Conceived and Choreographed by Jane Hawley
November 17-19, 2016

The Nether
By Jennifer Haley
March 2-4, 2017

Trust Me
Devised by Andrea Vazquez Aguirre
March 30-April 1, 2017

Becky Shaw
By Gina Gionfriddo
April 28-May 6, 2017

Faculty and Staff

Tom Berger
Lisa Lantz
Jeff Dintaman
Jane Hawley
Andre Vazquez-Aguirre
Paul Rude
Robert J. Larson
Dr. Bobby Vrtis