



AUTOBAHN

***A SHORT PLAY CYCLE
BY NEIL LABUTE***

***DIRECTED BY
BECKY SMITH***

***APRIL 8, 9 & 10, 2021
8 P.M.***



MMAS

Black Box Theatre

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Black Box Theatre

presents

AUTOBAHN

A SHORT PLAY CYCLE

Written by
Neil LaBute

Directed by
Becky Smith



*AUTOBAHN: A SHORT PLAY CYCLE is produced
by special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc, NYC
www.broadwayplaypub.com*

*AUTOBAHN was originally produced as a staged reading
of five one-acts by MCC Theater in March 2004*

The Mass Music & Arts Society (MMAS)
is supported in part by grants from



DIRECTOR'S NOTE



In his introduction to the play, LaBute discusses the “power of limitations”. He highlights the physical claustrophobia of a car that increases drama, both positively and negatively. My little purple hatchback has certainly been that. It cradled me as I drove back and forth to Illinois to be with family and it moved me from an apartment to a condo to a house filled to the brim with all my belongings. It carried me to and from work and play, and has been host to the greatest of conversations and fights. All these dreams, tears, and words, held within the glass and metal confines.

This power of limitations fits in a theatrical sense as well. Theatre depends on the suspension of disbelief from its audience; the willingness to accept forced perspective, ceilingless rooms, cars and couches built out of nothing but chairs, and overall artificiality in a way we hardly accept on film. We arrive in a theatre (or these days on a livestream) ready to imagine and fill in the blanks around what the text and design offers us. Hungry to do so even. The original production of this play was a one night only benefit done simply as a reading in chairs. The playwright trusts the audience to piece together everything else they need to imagine the world. There's also something about a show like this with so little tech that allows for the freedom to engage with the text in an incredibly satisfying way, and this rehearsal process has been so stimulating.

It is just those limitations that drove me (get it?!) to choose this play for the MMAS season. Why reinvent a different show when this one fits so nicely into the limits and restrictions of the times? We took on the challenge of seeking real life couples for the scenes that required contact and designing glass shields between solo actors paired together in other scenes. The incredible production team took on new challenges and reevaluated plans as the COVID landscape shifted. And what started as a conversation in July 2020, appears before you today on your screens thanks to the dedication and commitment of this amazing organization. Thanks Dori and Ken for seeing past the limitations and allowing me to enter the (virtual) rehearsal room again. I can't tell you how badly I needed it.

BECKY SMITH, Director
Autobahn

CAST

(in order of appearance)

FUNNY

Young Woman *Danielle Wehner*
Older Woman *Carolyn Cafarelli*

BENCH SEAT

Guy *Ben LeBlanc*
Girl *Shaina Dunn*

LONG DIVISION

Woman *Britney Verria*
Man *Chris Crossen-Sills*

MERGE

Woman *Lauren Basler*
Man *Adam Law*

ALL APOLOGIES

Man *Greg Smith*
Woman *Becky Smith*

ROAD TRIP

Man *Chris Crossen-Sills*
Girl *Heather Pape*

AUTOBAHN

Woman *Leanne Law*
Man *Adam Law*

SETTING:

All action takes place in the front seat of a car.

TIME:

The Present

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LOTTERY DREAM RAFFLE:

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MMAS BIG CASH RAFFLE:

Two Grand Prize Winners will receive \$5,000 CASH!

Tickets are \$50 EACH · Three (3) for \$125 · Six (6) for \$200

Drawing for both raffles will be at 8 PM April 30th, 2021

To purchase tickets, call our office at 508-339-2822.

Cast and Crew



Carolyn Cafarelli (*Funny*) Carolyn is thrilled to be participating in live theatre again in any form since the pandemic and joining MMAS for her third show. A quote from one of her favorite movies, *All About Eve* says it best, "Wherever there's magic and make-believe and an audience, there's theatre." It's great to be back.



Lauren Basler (*Merge*) Lauren would like to thank Becky for this opportunity to try out her hand at virtual performing in this interesting world we find ourselves. Lauren's last live audience performance was here at MMAS as Hermia in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, and it feels comforting to be back! Other credits include productions with The Footlight Club and Longwood Players. Lauren is a Registered Drama Therapist and currently works at Standish Village Assisted Living with older adults and those living with dementia.



Christopher Crossen-Sills (*Long Division/Road Trip*) is excited to be working on a theatre production again, let alone to be working again with MMAS. COVID has been rough on everyone and he is immensely thankful for the opportunity to work on *Autobahn* with this amazing team. Christopher has been acting since he left college. He has been in a number of shows in New England including *Boys in the Band* (Harold), *Hamlet* (Claudius), *Frost/Nixon* (David Frost), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Jonathan), *The Children's Hour* (Dr. Cardin), and more. By day, Chris is a theatre and video production teacher at Southeastern Regional - by night, he is a devoted Bulldog parent to Priscilla with his husband. He would like to thank his friends, family, co-workers, and husband for supporting these crazy theatrical ventures! Special thank you to theatres like MMAS who are still persevering and fighting to do theatre in this COVID world.

UP NEXT AT
MMAS
Black Box Theatre

A Virtual Beatles Event!



"A Hard Day's Night" Revival

featuring
STUDIO TWO



Wednesday, March 31 at 7 P.M.

Celebrate The Beatles on the anniversary of their historic film **A Hard Day's Night**. premiere. Early Beatles tribute band **Studio Two** will play a special one-hour concert of music from the movie and that Beatles era. The event is presented by MMAS, hosted by the Cotuit Center for the Arts, and produced by the American Theater Cooperative with Cape Cod Media.

Hailed as "**The Top Beatles Tribute Band in New England**" by The Boston Globe (2019), **Studio Two** pays tribute to The Beatles early years. By recreating the music, appearance, instruments, and onstage banter, Studio Two will perform the beloved hits that will have you dancing at home — you will be transported in time!

Tickets are \$20, available by clicking below.

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/144708568223/?discount=MMAS>

Cast and Crew



Shaina R. Dunn (*Bench Seat*) is a current junior musical theatre major and dance minor at Dean College. During her time at Dean, she has been in multiple productions such as *Catch Me If You Can* as Cheryl Ann, *Radium Girls* as Miss Wiley and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* as Ruth/Dance Captain. This is Shaina's first production with Mass Music & Arts Society and she is extremely grateful for this opportunity. Thank you to everyone involved in this production. Shaina hopes you enjoy the show!



Adam Law (*Merge/Autobahn*) is making his 4th appearance in an MMAS production with *Autobahn*. Adam is a loan officer assistant who is also in a band named Gordon's Law with his friend Gordon Lloyd. He is yet again grateful to his family and friends for their support & would like to thank Becky for this opportunity to do one of the things he loves most during this difficult time.



Leanne Law (*Autobahn*) is excited to embark on yet another "pandemic production" after appearing in Needham Community Theatre's Zoom production *Bad Auditions*. This is Leanne's third production at MMAS. Most recently, she flipped roles and worked behind the scenes as the assistant director for *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. She would like to thank Becky for giving her this opportunity to work together in this new capacity. Special thank you to my family and friends for their love and support. Especially Adam, Hannah, and Ian - love you guys!



Ben LeBlanc (*Bench Seat*) Benjamin is a Sophomore musical theater major, dance minor at Dean College. This is Benjamin's first time working with MMAS and was overjoyed to be welcomed with open arms and great talent. He is excited to be a part of *Autobahn* and wishes the cast and crew the best!

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2020-2021 MMAS Season Contributions

During this unprecedented time, The Mass Music and Arts Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the individuals, foundations, corporations, and institutions whose gifts help strengthen the Society's activities each year. MMAS would greatly appreciate your support to keep our community strong and help us mitigate expenses created by these current circumstances. Thank you in advance. We all will get through this and we hope to see you in the Black Box soon.

Our Annual Campaign supports our season & programs.

All donations to our annual campaign are tax-deductible.

Please consider a donation to support our programming!

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Cast and Crew



Heather Pape (*Road Trip*) Heather is a sophomore Musical Theatre major at Dean College School of the Arts training to one day pursue a career in the arts (starting in Walt Disney World). Some of her previous roles include Cinderella (*Cinderella*), Hope Harcourt (*Anything Goes*), Star-to-be (*Annie*), Rebecca Gibbs (*Our Town*), Marvalyn (*Almost, Maine*), Martha Brewster (*Arsenic and Old Lace*) and Specialist Fourth Class Delaney (*Women and War*). She wants to thank you, and hopes you enjoy *Autobahn*!



Becky Smith (Director/*All Apologies*) is honored to direct her second show with MMAS following last season's production of *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. On the MMAS stage she also stage managed *Boys in the Band* and has ushered and operated the light board. Other directing favorites include *Rent*, *Fly by Night*, *Eurydice*, and *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* at Newton South High School and many more at her day job teaching theatre at Cambridge Street Upper School. She is forever grateful to be doing theatre in a new form this year, and to be sharing this show with a great team including her husband Greg.



Greg Smith (*All Apologies*) is so happy to return (at least in some capacity!) to the theater he considers home. Favorite MMAS shows/roles include *The Boys in the Band* (Michael), *Assassins* (Zangara), *The Boys Next Door* (Barry), *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Charlie Brown), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Man), *Godspell* (John the Baptist), *Little Women* (Professor Bhaer), and *1776* (Rutledge). All love to Mom and Becky.



Britney Verria (*Long Division*) is excited to return to the MMAS stage! Previously she performed in *Crimes of the Heart* as Lenny. Throughout Southern New England, Britney works freelance as a performer, director, and teaching artist, working



STEVE IDE
Photography

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Cast and Crew

recently with The Contemporary Theatre Company, The Wilbury Group, Providence Fringe Festival, Norwood Theatre, BSU Family Performing Arts Center, and The Artists' Exchange, just to name a few. Britney holds a B.A. in Theatre Studies from Ithaca College. More information is available at britneyverria.com. Thanks to this wonderful team and her family for their endless support!



Danielle Wehner (*Funny*) Danielle is a graduate of the Boston College Theatre Department and has performed in many local shows at Concord Players (*Barefoot in the Park*, *The Country House*), Hovey Players (*The Revolutionists*), Acme Theater (*Seminar*, *Extremities*), The Umbrella (*Equus*), and Burlington Players (*The Hollow*) among others. This is Danielle's MMAS debut, and she couldn't be more excited. As a Neil LaBute aficionado, she is thrilled to be performing in *Autobahn* under Becky's expert direction. She would like to thank the cast and crew for all of their hard work, and her boyfriend, Michael, her parents, Billie and Jim, and the sisters of Delta Sloop for their constant love and support.



Mya Beland (Stage Manager) Mya is currently a senior at Dean College majoring in Arts and Entertainment Management. Before going to Dean, she was acting for years in musicals like *Legally Blonde* (Vivienne Kensington) and *The Wedding Singer* (Linda). While at Dean she became an Assistant Stage Manager in numerous shows, from *Twelfth Night* to *Radium Girls*. She would like to thank Becky for giving her this amazing opportunity and is extremely grateful for all that she has taught Mya. Also hello to her parents, grandparents, and London!



Bruce Webster (Sound Design) is overjoyed to be working with Becky again and with this amazing group of artists on such a unique show. A few past MMAS favorites include *The 39 Steps*, *Next To Normal*, *Avenue Q*, *Our Town* and *Hair*. Bruce



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Cast and Crew

has received DASH design awards for *Cabaret*, *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Tempest* and last season for *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. A huge heartfelt thanks to his wife Paula for her encouragement and endless patience.



Neil LaBute (Playwright) - Neil LaBute received his Master of Fine Arts degree in dramatic writing from New York University and was the recipient of a literary fellowship to study at the Royal Court Theatre. Films include *In the Company of Men* (New York Critics Circle Award for Best First Feature, Filmmakers' Trophy at the Sundance Film Festival), *Your Friends and Neighbors*, *Nurse Betty*, *Possession*, *The Shape of Things* — a film adaptation of his play by the same title — *The Wicker Man*, *Lakeview Terrace* and *Death at a Funeral*. Plays include *bash: reasons to be pretty*, *latter-day plays*, *The Shape of Things*, *The Distance From Here*, *The Mercy Seat*, *Autobahn*, *This Is How It Goes*, *Some Girl(s)*, *Wrecks*, *In a Dark Dark House*, *Helter Skelter*, *The Furies* and *The War on Terror*. LaBute is the author of several fictional pieces that have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Harper's Bazaar* and *Playboy*, among others. A collection of his short stories was published by Grove/Atlantic.

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About the Mass Music and Arts Society

A quarter century ago, eight friends formed a non-profit (501 (c)(3)) organization to support the arts and artists. Today, their brainstorm has grown into a thriving arts organization – the Mass Music & Arts Society, Black Box Theater & Morini Gallery (MMAS) – recognized throughout Southeastern Massachusetts.

With an annual operating budget of just over \$500,000, MMAS attracts about 10,000 audience members, patrons and performers from New Hampshire to Rhode Island and Cape Cod. Audiences come to MMAS because they know they will see exceptional productions in the intimate 76-seat Black Box Theater for a fraction of the cost of a ticket in Boston or Providence. MMAS is also home to the Morini Art Gallery which offers exhibitions of works by local and regional artists. The recent addition of the MMAS Arts Academy motivates learners ages 4+, of all abilities, interests, and incomes to participate in our comprehensive performing arts programs and experience the transformative life skills that creative engagement inspires.

The Mansfield Music & Arts Society recently signed an agreement to own 888 South Main St. across from the Xfinity Center. A 250-seat theater and art gallery on three acres on the Norton Reservoir is the vision of the new Arts Center at Great Woods. The nonprofit arts organization plans to renovate and expand the site to continue offering its theatrical productions, exhibits, arts classes and musical performances.

MMAS is a volunteer organization; our actors, and technicians are all volunteers; as is everyone who works the ticket office and concession area for every performance. Each year, volunteers give almost 30,000 hours to MMAS.



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