



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MYSTERY, REALITY COLLIDE IN *DISAPPEARED*
April 11 - April 27

Purple Bench Productions presents their second full-length play, Phyllis Nagy's *Disappeared*, a haunting, fast-paced thriller picked directly from the headlines. In recent years, the disappearances of women like Stacy Peterson and Natalee Holloway have been front-page news and were dramatized on crime-based television shows. These outlets often seem to come to a similar conclusion: the woman was abducted and brutally murdered. As a similar scenario unfolds in *Disappeared*, is everything really as it seems? What is so unsettling about the suspect, and what if he really is telling the truth? What if the woman simply decided to run away to start a new life? Purple Bench explores the lines between reality and fantasy to leave the audience guessing well after the lights have come up.

In a city of nearly 20 million people, an individual can attain a certain degree of anonymity as a New Yorker. Sarah Casey is simply one of those 20 million, that is, until her sudden disappearance makes her a household name. At the center of this mystery is Elston Rupp, an awkward, lonely man who was the last person seen with Sarah. To the authorities, Elston seems the prime suspect. He creates false personas, keeps strange records of people he sees on the street, and concocts grand stories of a life he does not live. On the other hand, he may have given Sarah the one thing she could not do on her own—the opportunity to simply vanish.

Returning to the Chicago stage after nine years, *Disappeared* is directed by Matthew Zaradich, with scenic design by Christian Schmitt and lighting design by Justin Wardell. Christine Perrotta stage manages. The ensemble includes Eric Hoffmann, Lauren Skirvin, Brenden Hill, Emily O'Neill, Todd Wojcik, Craig Pilkington, Rick Muñoz, and Christine Harrison.

Disappeared runs April 11 - April 27, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. at Live Bait Theater, 3914 N. Clark St. in Chicago. General admission tickets are \$20. An opening night gala is celebrated April 11, with general admission tickets at \$25 and includes a wine and cheese reception immediately following the show. A discount industry night is offered for theatre artists with a headshot and/or resume Monday, April 14, at 8 p.m. for \$10. Ticket reservations can be made by e-mailing tickets@purplebenchproductions.com. Media comps, with appropriate credentials, may be obtained by emailing press@purplebenchproductions.com.



ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

Purple Bench Productions may be contacted...

...via phone at:

Brenden Hill, ARTISITIC DIRECTOR: **317.414.1982**

Matthew Zaradich, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **219.588.4493**

Stephanie Dodge, MEDIA RELATIONS: **773.972.7301**

...via email at:

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Purple Bench Productions

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MISSION STATEMENT

With courage to reveal the ordinary within the extraordinary, Purple Bench offers riveting and lucid theatre. **THIS IS OUR ART.**

COMPANY BACKGROUND

Purple Bench Productions was founded in early 2007 by Artistic Director Brenden Hill, with Executive Director Matthew Zaradich and founding members Christian Schmitt and Jennifer Harber, all graduates of Indiana University. Since that time, Purple Bench now invokes the talents of an eclectic eight-member board. While Purple Bench retains its Indiana roots, we remind the community we are **not** alumni-exclusive. Rather, we invite the Chicago community to join us in our artistic journey as we seek truth through art.



PRODUCTION INFORMATION

ENSEMBLE

CAST

SARAH CASEY.....	Lauren Skirvin
ELSTON RUPP.....	Brenden P. Hill
JACK FALLON.....	Eric T. Hoffmann
ELLEN CASEY.....	Emily O'Neill
TED MITCHELL.....	Todd Wojcik
TIMOTHY J. CREIGHTON.....	Craig Pilkington
NATALIE.....	Christine Harrison
ANTHONY.....	Rick Muñoz

PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR.....	Matthew Zaradich
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....	Laurie Green
STAGE MANAGER.....	Christine Perrotta
SCENIC DESIGN.....	Christian Schmitt
LIGHTING DESIGN.....	Justin Wardell

TITLE:

DISAPPEARED, by Phyllis Nagy
Directed by Matthew Zaradich

DATES:

Opens Friday, April 11 and runs through Sunday, April 27
Thursdays – Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m.

LOCATION:

Live Bait Theater (Main Stage)
3914 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL

TICKETS:

\$20 general admission
\$25 general admission – Opening Night Gala only (Friday, April 11)
\$10 general admission – Theatre Artist Industry Night (Monday, April 14)
Tickets may be reserved by e-mailing tickets@purplebenchproductions.com.