



For Immediate Release
February 27, 2019
Contact: The American Stage
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American Stage presents the Tampa Bay Area Premiere of THE ROOMMATE,

**Breaking Bad meets Grace and Frankie in this wickedly funny comedy.
March 13 through April 7, 2019.**

GET IN-THE-KNOW ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

1. A Tampa Bay Area premiere led by female director

THE ROOMMATE directed Kristin Clippard who is making her American Stage directorial debut is a comedy with heart. BREAKING BAD meets GRACE AND FRANKIE in this comical mismatch that leads to a surprising and touching friendship that cleverly navigates the rocky roads of change and examines what happens when the wheels come off.

2. Hit play out of the prestigious Humana Festival of new American plays

The Humana Festival is a world-renowned event that has introduced more than 450 plays into the American and international theatre repertoire. The premier event of its kind in the nation, the Humana Festival features world premieres of the most exciting new plays in the country, drawing theatre lovers, journalists, and film and stage producers from around the world.

3. Written by emerging young female playwright, Jen Silverman.

Jen is a New York-based writer. Born in the U.S., she was raised across the U.S., Europe and Asia. Her theatre work includes THE MOORS; THE ROOMMATE; PHOEBE IN WINTER (Off-off Broadway); COLLECTIVE RAGE: A PLAY IN 5 BETTIES; and ALL THE ROADS HOME, a play with songs. A recipient of the Helen Merrill and Yale Drama Series Awards, she's also a two-time MacDowell Fellow and 16/17 Playwrights of New York (PoNY) Fellow at the Lark.

St. Petersburg, FL – American Stage continues its 2018-2019 Season 'LIFE. OUT LOUD' with the Tampa Bay Area premiere of THE ROOMMATE written by Jen Silverman and directed by Kristin Clippard (American Stage directorial debut).

"When I saw the world premiere of Jen Silverman's THE ROOMMATE at the Humana Festival of New Plays, I joined the rest of the audience in being completely charmed and surprised by the unlikely friendship that evolves between Sharon and Robyn. This story offers a wickedly funny and subversive take on reinventing oneself while also giving us something all too rare in the theatre: two characters who defy our assumptions and expectations about 'women of a certain age.'..." -Stephanie Gularte, Producing Artistic Director

This Tampa Bay Area premiere features 2 cast members, both making their American Stage mainstage acting debut, Annie Fitzpatrick*, and Amy Resnick* (Director of recent American Stage hit, BAD JEWS).

"This play means so much because we are living in a time of awakening for women of all ages. We are watching women take agency and own their experience, regardless if they are a wife or a mother. There are more options

available to women than ever before. I like the play so much because these characters are funny, insightful, relatable, yet surprising." –Kristin Clippard, Director

ABOUT THE PLAY

TRANSFORM. OUT LOUD. The *Odd Couple* meets *Thelma and Louise* in this wickedly funny comedy. With a recent divorce and her son living across the country, 50-something Sharon posts a listing for a roommate to fill the empty space in her Iowa home. Enter Robyn, a fascinating woman who needs a place to hide and the chance to start over. Hell-bent on getting to know Robyn despite their differences, Sharon deploys her friendly Midwestern charm at full force. This comical mismatch leads to a surprising and touching friendship that cleverly navigates the rocky roads of change and examines what happens when the wheels come off.

"Sassy, saucy, and shrewdly funny." – DC Metro Theater Arts

Age Recommendation: 14+

The following includes information on the cast, production, performance dates, and ticketing information, as well as a listing of special events associated with the production.

CAST

Annie Fitzpatrick* (Sharon)

Amy Resnick* (Robyn)

CREATIVE

Kristin Clippard (Director)

Steven Mitchell# (Set Designer)

Joseph P. Oshry# (Lighting Designer)

Catherine Cann (Costume Designer)

Rachel Harrison (Sound Designer)

Jerid Fox (Properties Master)

Miriam Rochford* (Stage Manager)

Allison Davis (Scenic Artist)

Taylor Sweat (Production Assistant)

Kaylie Horowitz (Directing Apprentice)

Season Wong (Assistant Stage Manager)

* = Member of Actors' Equity Association; # = Member of the United Scenic Artists Union

For Cast Bios please visit americanstage.org/ROOMMATE

LINK to press releases: AmericanStage.org/media

LINK to promotional photos: [Flickr American Stage](https://www.flickr.com/photos/americanstage/)

*Publicity photo credit: Joey Clay Photography. Archival photo credit: TBA. Please note that publicity photos are not typically available until 2 weeks prior to opening. Please contact marketing@americanstage.org for immediate needs.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Jen Silverman is a New York-based writer. Born in the U.S., she was raised across the U.S., Europe and Asia. Her theatre work includes THE MOORS (Yale Repertory Theatre premiere, off-Broadway with The

Playwrights Realm, Susan Smith Blackburn finalist); *THE ROOMMATE* (Actor's Theatre of Louisville Humana world premiere, multiple regional productions including South Coast Rep, SF Playhouse and Williamstown Theatre Festival, upcoming at Steppenwolf); *PHOEBE IN WINTER* (Off-off Broadway with Clubbed Thumb); *COLLECTIVE RAGE: A PLAY IN 5 BETTIES* (Woolly Mammoth premiere); and *ALL THE ROADS HOME*, a play with songs (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park premiere). Jen is a member of New Dramatists, a Core Writer at the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis, an affiliated artist with SPACE on Ryder Farm, and has developed work with the O'Neill, New York Theatre Workshop, Playpenn, Portland Center Stage, The Ground Floor Residency at Berkeley Rep, and the Royal Court in London among other places. She's a two-time MacDowell fellow, recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts grant, the Helen Merrill Award, an LMCC Fellowship, and the Yale Drama Series Award. She was the 2016-2017 Playwrights of New York (PoNY) Fellow at the Lark. Jen has a two-book deal with Random House for a collection of stories (*THE ISLAND DWELLERS*, pub. date May 1, 2018) and a novel. Education: Brown, Iowa Playwrights Workshop, Juilliard. More info: www.jensilverman.com

BEFORE & AFTER THE SHOW

Throughout the run of *THE ROOMMATE*, ticket holders are invited to arrive early for an exclusive **PROLOGUE** presented by American Stage apprentice Kaylie Horowitz 30 minutes prior to each performance.

Also, enjoy drink specials every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night post-show. Stick around after the show for lively café conversations.

TALKS & EVENTS – FULL DETAILS

American Stage has also programmed several audience experience opportunities surrounding the production. Visit americanstage.org/CLOSER and click the **TALKS & EVENTS** tab for a full listing of events.

Sunday, March 3 @ 1PM

Spotlight Series: BEHIND-THE-SCENES – THE ROOMMATE

Featuring – Director Kristin Clippard and cast members Annie Fitzpatrick & Amy Resnick

The perfect primer! Take a peek behind the curtain before the opening of *THE ROOMMATE* with this informative and entertaining presentation about the play, the playwright, and the American Stage artists who bring it all to life. Professor Emerita Dedee Aleccia will provide relevant details about the history and central themes of the play, while members of the artistic team will give an insider's perspective on their process.

Pricing: \$10 for General Public

Free for American Stage Subscribers and Act 1 Club Members

Friday, March 15 | Reception at 7PM | Performance at 8pm

Opening Night

Celebrate with the stars! Enjoy a pre-show reception sponsored by 400 Beach Seafood & Tap House with hors d'oeuvres and an open bar, rub elbows with the cast & creative team, and be among the first to see one of our first-class productions. There will also be a post-show dessert reception with the cast.

Thursday March 21, Sundays March 24, & 31

Spotlight Series: CHATBACKS – THE ROOMMATE

Stick around immediately following select performances to talk with the cast and other audience members while the experience of the play is fresh! Ask questions about the play, the characters, and the process, plus respond to the story and ideas aroused by the production.

Free for *THE ROOMMATE* ticket holders.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: American Stage presents THE ROOMMATE by Jen Silverman

WHERE: Raymond James Theatre
163 3rd Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

WHEN: March 13 through April 7, 2019

Preview Wednesday, March 13, 7pm, "Pay What You Can"

Preview Thursday, March 14, 7pm, \$30 tickets

Opening Night: Friday, March 15, 8pm, \$70 tickets (includes opening night reception at 7pm, and a dessert reception with the cast following the performance.)

Continues: Wednesdays-Sundays through April 7, 2019

Arrive 30 minutes early to get the inside scoop on the play.

TIMES & PRICES

Wednesdays 7pm, \$44 tickets

Thursdays 7pm, \$44 tickets **NEW TIME**

Fridays 8pm, \$50 tickets

Saturdays 8pm, \$54 tickets

Saturdays & Sundays 2pm, \$44 tickets **NEW TIME**

ASFWD The Next Generation

Under 30 years of age (UNDER 30 PASS): Our 'Netflix-style' subscription, offering 'unlimited theatre' for only \$15 per month.

Under 20 years of age (UNDER 20 PASSPORT - suggested 12-19): FREE tickets to American Stage's mainstage season.

Contact the box office about our UNDER 30 PASS & UNDER 20 PASSPORT. Visit americanstage.org/fwd for details.

Age Recommendation: 14+

SERVICE & FACILITIES

Physical Accessibility: The theatre features accessible parking, entrances, restrooms, and seating. Displaying a valid disabled parking permit will allow you to park at City metered spaces for FREE, for as long as your event requires, including those posted with time limit signs (green signs). ***This does not apply to loading zones or otherwise restricted parking signage (red signs).***

Large Print Program: Theatergoers may peruse large print programs for each Mainstage production. Request from House Manager on duty. A digital version will be available at americanstage.org/PROGRAM

Listening System: Theatergoers may enjoy the free infrared listening system from any seat. Request from Concessions.



AMERICAN STAGE

American Stage Theatre operates as a 501-(C)3, and has been providing live theatrical performances as a professional regional equity theatre in the heart of St. Petersburg, Florida, since 1977. American Stage's mission is to reinforce the power of live theatre with high quality productions that excite and challenge a diverse audience. Our

year-round programming seeks to realize this through our Mainstage season, Spotlight Series, 21st Century Voices: New Play Festival, American Stage in the Park and Improv. American Stage Education's offerings include award-winning Teaching Artist Outreach focused on bringing theatrical arts experiences to underserved populations, helping them to excel onstage & beyond.

We believe that through the telling of dynamic stories, live theatre has the power to unite us in our shared experiences and to deepen our connection to one another through the illumination of diverse perspectives. American Stage artists and stakeholders are responsible for helping a small theatre touring company blossom into a thriving world-class professional theatre providing nearly 70,000 Tampa Bay residents and tourists with accessible, relevant art and arts education annually.

Powerful Stories. Boldly Told.

SOCIAL MEDIA



@americanstage

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION:

Phone: (727) 823-PLAY (7529)

Email: BoxOffice@americanstage.org

Location: 163 3rd St. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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