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## Lighthearted romantic comedy *THE SABBATH GIRL* makes NYC premiere at 59E59 Theaters

This production marks the NYC full-length premiere of two-time O'Neill semifinalist playwright Cary Gitter

*New York, New York December 16, 2019*—**59E59 Theaters** (Val Day, Artistic Director; Brian Beirne, Managing Director) is thrilled to host the NYC premiere of *THE SABBATH GIRL* written by **Cary Gitter** and directed by **Joe Brancato**. Produced by **Penguin Rep**, *THE SABBATH GIRL* begins performances on **Tuesday, February 11** for a limited engagement through **Sunday, March 8**. **Press opening is Sunday, February 16 at 2:15 pm**. The performance schedule is **Tuesday – Friday at 7:15 pm; Saturday at 2:15 pm & 7:15 pm; Sunday at 2:15 pm**. Performances are at **59E59 Theaters** (59 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street, between Park and Madison Avenues). Single tickets are **\$25 - \$35** (\$26 for 59E59 Members). To purchase tickets, call the **59E59 Box Office** at **646-892-7999** or visit [www.59e59.org](http://www.59e59.org). *The running time is 90 minutes, with no intermission.*

Angie Mastrantoni has a lot going for her: a job at a hip art gallery, a new apartment on the Upper West Side, but not much time or hope for relationships. Then her neighbor Seth, a divorced Orthodox Jew with a knish store on the Lower East Side, knocks on her door.

A brand new romantic comedy by **Cary Gitter**, a two-time O'Neill semifinalist and Jewish Plays Project finalist, *THE SABBATH GIRL* explores the loneliness of big-city life and the possibility of finding love next door.

"This is a real 'only in New York' story," explains playwright Gitter. "It's a story of how different cultures interact in the city."

Hooked on the NYC-centric work of Nora Ephron and raised on a diet of screwball comedies from the 1930s by his cinephile father, Gitter grew up in a religiously blended household. These influences ultimately informed *THE SABBATH GIRL* story. "I was aware of the concept of a *shabbos goy* [a non-Jewish individual who performs tasks during the Sabbath for those who observe] when I was a kid," says Gitter. "I always thought it was a great set-up for a romantic comedy,"

The cast features **Lauren Annunziata** (*I'm Pretty F\*cked Up*, dir. Kip Fagan, with Clubbed Thumb), **Angelina Fiordellisi** (*Zorba* on Broadway), **Ty Molbak** (Off Broadway debut), **Jeremy Rische** (*The Megile of Itzik Manger Vaysoze* at National Yiddish Theater), and **Lauren Singerman** (*Pieces of the Throne* with Epic Theater Ensemble).



**59E59 THEATERS**  
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212-753-595  
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The design team includes **Christopher & Justin Swader** (scenic design); **Gregory Gale** (costume design); **Todd O. Wren** (lighting design); **Matt Otto** (original music and sound design); **Yana Birykova** (projection design); and **Buffy Cardoza** (props design). With choreography by **Lorna Ventura**. The Production Stage Manager is **Michael Palmer**.

**Cary Gitter** (playwright) is a playwright and screenwriter. His play *How My Grandparents Fell in Love* was a *New York Times* Critic's Pick as part of the Ensemble Studio Theatre's (EST's) 36th Marathon of One-Act Plays and aired on the public radio show *Playing on Air*. His plays have been developed at the Berkshire Playwrights Lab, EST, the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, the Jewish Ensemble Theatre, New Jersey Repertory Company, and elsewhere. He has received commissions from the EST/Sloan Project and West of 10th. He is a two-time O'Neill semifinalist and Jewish Plays Project finalist, and an alumnus of the Obie Award-winning EST/Youngblood playwrights' group. His work has been published in anthologies from Smith & Kraus and *Limelight/Applause*. BFA, MA: NYU. [carygitter.com](http://carygitter.com)

**Joe Brancato** (director), cited by the *New York Times* as "one of America's most insightful directors," recently directed Michael McKeever's *After*, which transferred from Penguin Rep to 59E59 Theaters, and McKeever's *Daniel's Husband*, which moved from Penguin Rep to Primary Stages at the Cherry Lane Theatre and then to the Westside Theatre. Other Off Broadway: Frederick Stroppe's *Small World* at 59E59; Erasmus Fenn's *Drop Dead Perfect*; Angelo Parra's *The Devil's Music: The Life & Blues of Bessie Smith* (Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel, Off Broadway Alliance & Audelco Award nominee), which he also staged at the Montreal Jazz Festival; Tom Dudzick's *Miracle on South Division Street*; *Fall to Earth*; *Freed* (Audelco Award nominee); *Tryst* (Outer Critics nomination for Best Play); *Cobb* (Drama Desk winner) in NYC and LA; *From Door To Door*; *One Shot, One Kill*; *Two and a Half Jews*; *My Italy Story*; Ricky Ian Gordon's *The Matter of Minutes*; *Escape from Happiness* (with Marsha Mason); *The Big Swing* (with Madeline Kahn, Sarah Jessica Parker, Matthew Broderick, Marisa Tomei); *Dr. Valentine's Waltz* (with John Turturro, Laura Linney, Jane Alexander); *Hold the Wedding*, produced by Joseph Papp. Regional: Royal Manitoba Theatre Center, George Street, Seattle Rep, Cleveland Playhouse, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Alley Theatre, Hartford Stage, Westport Playhouse, Delaware Theater Co., Rubicon Theatre, Capital Rep, Florida Repertory, Hartford TheatreWorks, Cape Playhouse, and Passage Theatre. As founding artistic director of Penguin Rep Theatre, he has directed 150+ productions. He directed the world premiere of *The Man Who Was Peter Pan*, which became the Broadway musical and film *Finding Neverland*. Joe was named Best Director by *L.A. Scene* for *Santa Claus is Coming Out (The Santa Closet)*, received two Rockland County Executive Awards, and was nominated for Helen Hayes and New England's IRNE Awards. [www.joebrancato.com](http://www.joebrancato.com)

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