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## Kathleen Chalfant stars as Mabel Loomis Todd in the world premiere of Rebecca Gilman's *A WOMAN OF THE WORLD* at 59E59 Theaters

New York, New York September 19, 2019—59E59 Theaters (Val Day, Artistic Director; Brian Beirne, Managing Director) is thrilled to welcome the world premiere of *A WOMAN OF THE WORLD* written by **Rebecca Gilman** and directed by **Valentina Fratti**. Produced by **The Acting Company** in association with **Miranda Theatre Company**, *A WOMAN OF THE WORLD* begins performances on **Thursday, October 24** for a limited engagement through **Sunday, November 17**. **Press Opening is Wednesday, October 30 at 7:30 pm**. The performance schedule is **Tuesday – Friday at 7:30 pm; Saturday at 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm; and Sunday at 2:30 pm**. Please note the following added performances: **Thursday, November 7 and Thursday, November 14 at 2:30 pm**. Performances are at **59E59 Theaters** (59 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street, between Park and Madison). Single tickets are \$25 - \$35 (\$26 for 59E59 Members). Tickets are available by calling the **59E59 Box Office at 646-892-7999** or by visiting [www.59e59.org](http://www.59e59.org). *The running time is 85 minutes, with no intermission.*

Best known as Emily Dickinson's posthumous editor, Mabel Loomis Todd is a woman of the world. Priding herself on being an inspired conversationalist, she invited scandal by enjoying a glass of wine in mixed company, and she certainly wasn't afraid to expose her ankles in a dress.

Now in her 70s and living on Hog Island in Maine, the accomplished journalist and naturalist regales us with tales of her storied life, spilling secrets and revealing the true nature of her relationship with one of America's most celebrated poets.

Pulitzer-prize finalist **Rebecca Gilman's** world premiere play is brought to the stage in an insightful and impassioned tour-de-force performance by **Kathleen Chalfant**.

The all female-identified design team includes **Cate McCrea** (scenic design); **Candice Donnelly** (costume design); **Betsy Adams** (lighting design); and



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**Margaret Montagna** (sound design). The Production Stage Manager is **Nina Trotto**.

**Rebecca Gilman's** (playwright) plays include *Luna Gale*, *A True History of the Johnstown Flood*, *Dollhouse*, *Boy Gets Girl*, *Spinning Into Butter*, and *Blue Surge* (all of which were originally produced by the Goodman); *Soups, Stews, and Casseroles: 1976* and *The Crowd You're in With* (also at the Goodman); *The Glory of Living*, *The Sweetest Swing in Baseball*, and *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*. Gilman is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, The Harold and Mimi Steinberg American Theatre Critics Association New Play Award, The Harper Lee Award, The Scott McPherson Award, The Prince Prize for Commissioning New Work, The Roger L. Stevens Award from the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays, The Evening Standard Award for Most Promising Playwright, The George Devine Award, The Theatre Masters Visionary Award, The Great Plains Playwright Award, a Global Connections Grant by Theatre Communications Group, an American Scandinavian Foundation Creative Writing Grant, and an Illinois Arts Council playwriting fellowship. *Boy Gets Girl* received an Olivier nomination for Best New Play. Gilman was named a finalist for the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for *The Glory of Living*. She is a member of the Council of the Dramatists Guild of America and a board member of the ACLU of Illinois. A graduate of the MFA in playwriting program from the University of Iowa, Gilman is a professor of playwriting at The Texas Tech University [School of Theatre & Dance](#) as part of its MFA and doctoral degree programs in playwriting. Gilman previously served as a faculty member at Northwestern University's competitive playwriting program, where she was awarded the Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence by the university in 2014. In 2016, she was inducted into the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame.

**Valentina Fratti's** (director) most recent credits include *Williston* by Adam Seidel. Other credits include: *They Promised Her the Moon* at Theatre at St Clement's; *Catch the Butcher* by Mr Seidel (Cherry Lane Theatre / NYT Critic's Pick); *Snow Orchid*; *R.U.R*; *Howling Hilda* by Anne Berlin and Andrew Bleckner with Mary Testa (York Theatre); and Jeff Daniels' *Apartment 3A* with Amy Landecker and Aryan Moayed. She is the founding Artistic Director of the Miranda Theatre Co where she has developed, produced or directed over 30 new full length plays. She has a long association with independent producer, Jane Harmon with whom she also developed new plays and was Associate Producer on the Broadway production of Alfred Uhry's *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, which won the Tony Award for Best Play. ###