



For Immediate Release

April 20, 2016

Bridge Street Theatre presents

GIDION'S KNOT

A Play by Johnna Adams

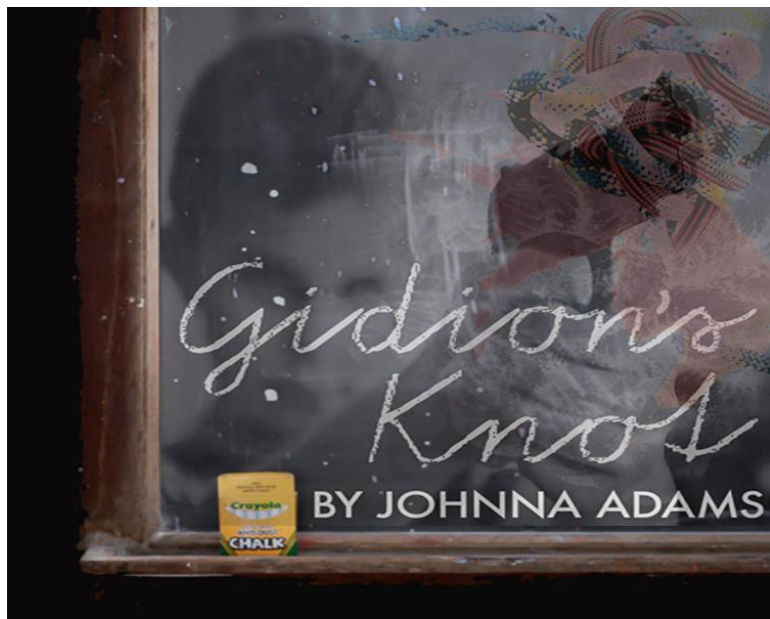
Directed and Designed by John Sowle

with Maria Silverman and Laura Beth Wells

May 12-22, 2016

Bridge Street Theatre Speakeasy

44 West Bridge Street, Catskill, NY



Johnna Adams' GIDION'S KNOT at Catskill's Bridge Street Theatre

Over the course of a tense Parent/Teacher conference, a grieving mother and an emotionally overwhelmed elementary school teacher try to come to grips with a 5th-grader's tragic suicide. John Sowle directs and Broadway veterans Maria Silverman and Laura Beth Wells star in Bridge Street Theatre's production of Johnna Adams' "Gidion's Knot", a shattering contemporary drama about bullying, freedom of expression, and the ever-present threat of violence in our schools. The play begins its two-weekend eight-performance run in Catskill on Thursday evening May 12.

"From the first time I read 'Gidion' I knew this was a play we *had* to do," says John Sowle, the

director/designer of this production and Bridge Street's Managing Director. "It's exactly the sort of powerful, punch-to-the-gut kind of material we're always on the lookout for as producers. And given the astounding caliber of the two artists we've been able to cast in our production, audiences are in for a profoundly affecting experience, especially in our 'Speakeasy' where the performers are, sometimes literally, inches away. Such a beautiful and disturbing story – as sad, funny, surprising, and startling as life itself."

Maria Silverman, who'll play the part of Corynn to Laura Beth Wells' Heather in Catskill, says, "Sometimes there are pieces that are so worthwhile that just being able to rehearse them might alter one's world view. I've been doing a lot of mourning this year and it captures it so well – the strength it requires, the reclaiming, the breathlessness, the altering of time. What juicy work for director and actors!" And playwright Johnna Addams adds, "I like the fact that 'Gidion's Knot' really allows a pair of actresses to play very intensely together. These are both roles that actresses like to play. Seeing a lot of actresses get a couple of nice roles – when otherwise they might have been on the bench or playing small bit parts in other people's stories – has been wonderful. And I love it when the audience members switch sides a few times in the play and come out not entirely sure how they feel about the 'issues' in the script."

Performances of "Gidion's Knot" begin with a special "Pay-What-You-Can" preview on Thursday May 12. The production runs Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2:00pm until May 22. Tickets are \$20, \$10 for patrons 21 and under, and can be pre-purchased at BrownPaperTickets.com or by calling 800-838-3006. While pre-purchasing is recommended, tickets are also available for purchase at the door one half hour prior to each performance on a space available basis. The Bridge Street Theatre is located at 44 West Bridge Street in the Village of Catskill, NY. For more information, visit BridgeStreetTheatre.org online or call 518-943-3818.

Performance Calendar

Bridge Street Theatre presents

GIDION'S KNOT by Johnna Adams

Bridge Street Theatre "Speakeasy"

44 W. Bridge Street, Catskill, NY 12414

Eight Performances Only!

Pay-What-You-Can Preview: Thursday May 12 @ 7:30pm

Opens: Friday May 13 @ 7:30pm

Runs:

Saturday May 14 @ 7:30pm

Sunday May 15 @ 2:00pm

Thursday May 19 @ 7:30pm

Friday May 20 @ 7:30pm

Saturday May 21 @ 7:30pm

Closes: Sunday May 22 @ 2:00pm

Tickets:

General Admission \$20, \$10 for patrons age 21 and under

Tickets may be pre-purchased at BrownPaperTickets.com or by calling 1-800-838-3006

Tickets may also be purchased at the door one half hour prior to each performance on a space available basis

Johnna Adams (*Playwright*) is a 2012 graduate of the Rita & Burton Goldberg MFA Program at Hunter College (led by Tine Howe), the 2011 recipient of the Princess Grace Award and a finalist for the 2012 Susan Smith Blackburn Award. Her play "Gidion's Knot" was published in the December 2012 issue of TCG's American

Theatre Magazine and received an ATCA/Steinberg Citation. She is a past Reva Shiner Award winner, winner of the OC Weekly's Best Original Play award (twice), finalist for the Christopher Brian Wolk Award, finalist for the William Saroyan Prize and a New York Innovative Theatre Award nominee. Her play "Sans Merci" was produced in New York by Flux Theatre Ensemble, and Boomerang Theatre produced her rhyming verse comedy, "Lickspittles, Buttonholers, and Damned Pernicious Go-Betweens". Johnna's plays are published by Dramatists Play Service, Inc. and Original Works Publishing (www.originalworksonline.com)



Laura Beth Wells* (*Heather*) is ecstatic to be working with Bridge Street Theatre. Broadway: Emily Osborn in the original company of "Spiderman: Turn Off The Dark", directed by Julie Taymor and Philip McKinley. Regional: Kafka/Waitress in "All in the Timing" (Hangar Theatre/Matt August, dir.), Gwendolyn Pigeon in "The Odd Couple" (Ivoryton Playhouse), Madeline True in LaChiusa's "The Wild Party" (Columbia Stages/Saheem Ali, dir.), Mrs. Walker in "The Who's Tommy" (CRT/Gabriel Barre, dir.), Rizzo in "Grease" (NCT/Matt Lenz, dir/Michele Lynch, chor.), and many others. Having received a BA in Theatre from the University of Tennessee and an MFA in Acting from Kent State University, Laura Beth is also an accomplished teaching artist. She spent a year as a Resident Professional Teaching Artist at Cornell University, where she taught introductory acting classes, mentored students, and performed during the theatre department's season, most notably as Mindy in "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" and as Guildenstern in a student directed production of "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead". She has also taught classes and workshops for the Hangar Theatre, Hudson Valley Improv, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Syracuse University, SUNY Binghamton, and Calaveras Repertory Theatre. www.laurabethwells.com.



Maria Silverman* (*Corynn*) made her professional debut on Broadway in Michael Mayer's Tony Award-winning revival of "A View From the Bridge". Since then, she has appeared in over 50 productions, including 28 world premieres. Off-Broadway she appeared as 40 different women in "Tales From the Tunnel" and as human trafficker Vera in "Beachwood Drive". New York roles include Romaine in "Witness For the Prosecution", Reverend George in the Audelco-Award nominated "Women in the Pit", Gertie in the NYIT-nominated "House of Mirth", and Dee in "No Place to Be Somebody" directed by the legendary Woodie King Jr. Regionally, she appeared as Mia in Saviana Stanescu's "Ants" (Broadway World Best Actress nomination), Penny in "You Can't Take it With You", Anbara in "Tennis in Nablus" (Stageworks/Hudson), and Marta in John Biguenet's "Night Train". Maria was featured at the Actor's Studio in a reading of Lanie Robertson's new play "The Gardener" alongside Larry Pine and Ed Setrakian, directed by Christopher Scott. Most recently, she played Cora in the US Premiere of "Calendar Girls" at Ivoryton Playhouse, 20 characters in Patrick Barlow's "A Christmas Carol" at Half Moon Theatre, (directed by Michael Schiralli), and revived her solo performance in Andrea Dworkin's "Aftermath" in the United Solo Festival on Theatre Row. Yale University/LAMDA. www.mariasilverman.com

John Sowle (*Director/Designer*) is Managing Director of Bridge Street Theatre, a new performing arts center in Catskill, NY. He has produced, directed, designed, and performed in hundreds of productions over the years. He founded Kaliyuga Arts in 1986 with his partner Steven Patterson and received multiple awards for his directing and design work on their Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York productions. In Manhattan, John directed and designed Samuel Beckett's ALL THAT FALL and Dan Carbone's KINGDOM OF NOT at the Cherry Lane Studio and the Al Carmines/Gertrude Stein musical IN CIRCLES at Judson Church. In 2012 he directed and designed Lanford Wilson's "The Mound Builders" and in 2013 directed and designed Brad Fraser's "True Love Lies" and the U.S. premiere of "Kill Me Now", all at the Cross Street Theatre Center in Hudson, NY. For Bridge Street Theatre, he has directed and designed Natalie Symon's "Lark Eden", Steven Patterson's "The Epic of Gilgamesh", William Inge's "The Killing" and "The Love Death", Oakley Hall III's "Grinder's Stand", and Dick D. Zigun's "A Life in a Day: Lucky Lindy". John has an undergraduate degree in mathematics from M.I.T and a PhD in Dramatic Art from UC Berkeley.

Bridge Street Theatre. Bridge Street Theatre, Inc. is a non-profit corporation which purchased the old factory building at 44 West Bridge Street in Catskill, NY in late 2013. We are now in the final stages of converting the building into a fully-functioning year-round arts complex which will house our own theatre productions, will be available to other theatres and performing arts groups, and, because of its location adjacent to Catskill High School, will be able to provide theatrical opportunities for high school and middle school students. We recently received a grant from New York State's Homes and Community Renewal to convert our black-box "Raw Space" into an 84-seat proscenium theatre. We've also transformed the lobby of the theatre into our "Speakeasy" where we've already presented over 40 events -- theatre, music, magic and more -- and turned our "Big Room" into an exhibition space where we've showcased a monumental balloon sculpture called "AVIARY (reimagined)" and an exhibit of large scale sculptures by local artists called "Big Works in the Big Room". For more information on who we are, what we've done, and what we have planned, please visit our website at BridgeStreetTheatre.org.

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

This production is made possible, in part, with Public Funds from the Greene County Legislature through the Cultural Fund administered in Greene County by the Greene County Council on the Arts.

Further Information:

To contact Bridge Street Theatre directly for features and interviews or to reserve press tickets, email contact@bridgest.org or call their offices at 518-943-3894. For more information on Bridge Street Theatre visit BridgeStreetTheatre.org.

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