

the JIM CARROLL'S BASKETBALL Diaries



JIM CARROLL

To rock audiences, Jim Carroll's crowning achievement was the hit *People Who Died*, a brutally emotional punk record saluting the victims of the New York drug culture. In truth, however, Carroll's artistic legacy was considerably more complex and far-ranging - an acclaimed diarist, poet, actor and spoken-word performer, his formative years even served as the subject of the film *The Basketball Diaries*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio. The product of a working-class background, Carroll was born and raised in New York City. A highly-touted basketball prospect, he began keeping a journal at the age of 12; later published in 1978 as *The Basketball Diaries*, his early writings vividly chronicled his teenage addiction to heroin, which wound up on the New York Times Best-Seller List, and has been translated into over twenty languages. By the time he was 16, Carroll was publishing his poetry in such magazines as *Poetry*, *The Paris Review*, *The World*, *The Trans-Atlantic Review*, and the *Yale Literary Magazine*. 1973's *Living at the Movies* further established his reputation as a prodigy and funded a move to Northern California, where he shed his drug habit. Marrying a background in poetry with a career in rock music, Carroll began writing songs in 1978 and was signed to Rolling Stones Records. Produced by label head Earl McGrath and Bob Clearmountain, The Jim Carroll Band's debut album *Catholic Boy* appeared in 1980; the subject of significant critical acclaim, it featured *People Who Died*, the group's definitive moment. After a move back to New York, the Carroll Band returned in 1982 with *Dry Dreams*, followed by 1984's *I Write Your Name*. Both received critical acclaim, and, on the latter, he landed another hit with *Voices*, a synthesizer-fueled rocker with lyrics evoking paranoia and madness.

With his three record contract fulfilled, Carroll dismissed the group members and resumed his prose and poetry work. After an appearance in the 1985 film *Tuff Turf* (and a number of other films and television shows), he published *The Book of Nods* in 1986 and followed with *Forced Entries: The Downtown Diaries 1971-1973* a year later. It hit number one on The Village Voice Best-Seller list. Its translation became a best seller in Japan, as well.

During the remainder of the eighties, Carroll balanced his poetry and prose material while writing tracks for other artists such as Blue Oyster Cult (*Club Ninja*) and Boz Scaggs (*Other Roads*). He appeared on six albums in the *Dial-A-Poem* series of spoken word albums, which also did an extended tour of Canada and Europe, along with Diamanda Galas and his long time friends, Allen Ginsberg and William Burroughs.

As the 1990s dawned, Carroll was frequently approached to return to music; but he was firmly dedicated to his spoken-word work; His first solo album

was *Praying Mantis* (1991), a collection of spoken-word performances, not new songs. While he occasionally performed as a musician, his primary focus remained his literary pursuits. Notably, Carroll was one of the first poet-rockers to break down the barriers between poetry and spoken-word and mainstream rock music. He's participated in countless readings since the mid-eighties but his 1994 performance on MTV's *Unplugged* was most moving with his now-legendary poem *8 Fragments for Kurt Cobain*. It was a mesmerizing tribute, which was immediately published in the New Year's edition of the Sunday New York Times Magazine.

In 1993 he published *Fear of Dreaming: The Selected Poems of Jim Carroll*, which has also been translated into a number of languages. In 1995, both *The Basketball Diaries* and his short story *Curtis' Charm* were adapted into films; he also contributed lyrics and vocals to Rancid's multi-platinum release *And Out Come the Wolves* (1995). A year later Carroll also contributed to the benefit release *Home Alive: The Art of Self-Defense* and in 1997, Carroll was one of a number of high-profile writers, musicians and actors who contributed to the Kerouac tribute album *kicksjoydarkness*, where, backed by Sonic Youth's Lee Renaldo, Patti Smith, guitarist Lenny Kaye and Anton Sanko, he read *Woman*. 1998 was a monumental year for Carroll. He released a brand new collection of poetry in his new book *Void of Course* as well as returning to rock in his own cathartic way with the release of his first album in nearly 15 years, *Pools of Mercury*. This combined his classic wounded poetry with song. In 1999, there was a comprehensive tribute release entitled *Put Your Tongue to the Rail*, a two record compilation showcasing 25 artists empowered by the work of Carroll, and a collaboration with The Doors' Ray Manzarek for an upcoming record.

At the turn of the century, Carroll released a live EP, *Runaway*, recorded in Seattle with a band comprised of musicians from Soundgarden, The Screaming Trees, and Truly.

He has continued performing spoken-word events at universities in almost every state, including Stanford, Penn, Cornell, Vassar, Yale, Michigan, Dartmouth, Sarah Lawrence, Radcliff and UCLA, as well as clubs and theaters throughout America, Europe, and Canada. Carroll has recently contributed to such magazines as *Interview*, *GQ*, and *Esquire*, and his poetry and prose been included in countless anthologies, including *The Best of Poetry*, *The Best of the Paris Review* and the definitive Norton *Anthology of Post-Modern Poetry*. His main work has been his long awaited first novel, *The Petting Zoo*, to be published by Viking Penguin Books in 2009. He lives in New York City.

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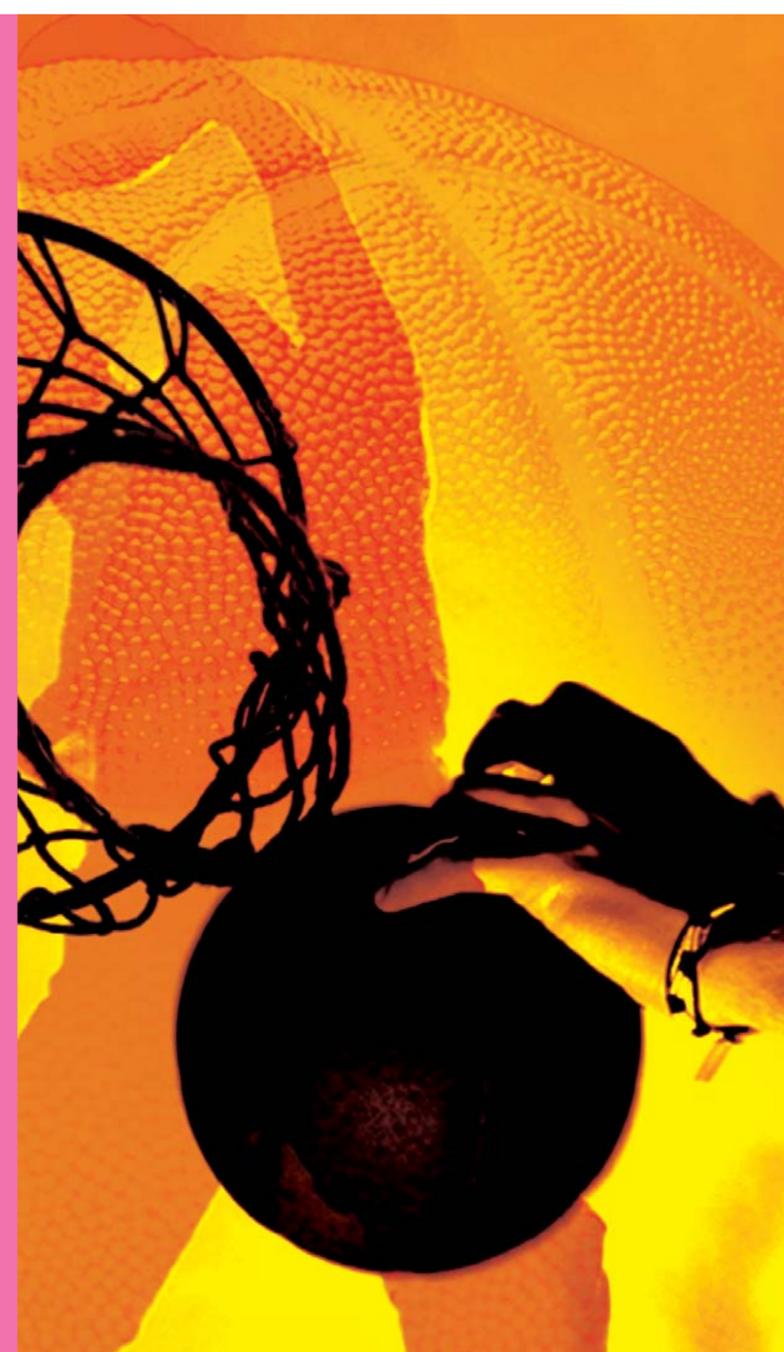
THE WORKSHOP PRODUCTION OF JIM CARROLL'S THE BASKETBALL DIARIES

BASED ON HIS BOOK OF THE SAME NAME

ADAPTED BY MATT PELFREY DIRECTED BY JOE TANTALO

JULY 15 - JULY 27

59: B I L L T H E A T E R B



THE WORKSHOP PRODUCTION OF

GODLIGHT
THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS

the **JIM CARROLL'S**
BASKETBALL
Diaries

BASED ON HIS BOOK OF THE SAME NAME

ADAPTED BY **MATT PELFREY**

DIRECTED BY **JOE TANTALO**

PRODUCTION DESIGN
ORIGINAL MUSIC AND SOUND DESIGN
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY
BASKETBALL CHOREOGRAPHY
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
STAGE MANAGER

MARUTI EVANS
ANDREW RECINOS
JOSH RENFREE
SAM WHITTEN
NICK TOCHELLI*
AMY VONVETT

FEATURING
JIM CARROLL **AARON PATERNOSTER** ACTOR #6
ACTOR #2 **SAM WHITTEN** ACTOR #7
ACTOR #3 **JOHN PORTO** ACTOR #8
ACTOR #4 **ALEX PAPPAS*** ACTOR #9
ACTOR #5 **NICK PAGLINO** ACTOR #10

MICHAEL SHIMKIN
ARTHUR JAMES SOLOMON*
DEANNA McGOVERN
KATHERINE BOYNTON
MIKE ROCHE*

This process has been a true labor of hard work and love all in a very short period of time. Profound thanks to Matt Pelfrey, the acting company, the designers and the stage managers for going the distance. Godlight Theatre Company would like to express a huge thank you to the Judson Memorial Church, Melissa Jameson, Leslie Dennis and Thom Fogarty for their support while rehearsing *The Basketball Diaries*.

And special thanks to the amazing Jim Carroll for the good conversations. We wouldn't be here without him.

Betsy Lerner, Rosemary Carroll, Pamela Sussman, 59E59 Theaters, Amy Acorn, Rayna Bourke, Sixpoint Brewery, John Porto, Deanna McGovern, Mr. Bigg's Bar and Grill, Sarabeth's, Relish Catering, Tarte Cosmetics, Lenny's, Carnegie Hall, American Ballet Theater, The Comic Strip, Jill Kuirsky, Gregory Konow, Michael Tranzilli, Dustin Olson, Colleen Britt, Amy Acorn, Amy Steinhaus, Jeff Batten, Ted Welsh.

AARON PATERNOSTER
(Jim Carroll)
Has worked with Godlight in various performance/production/design capacities since their 2004 season, most recently: *Kurt Vonnegut's Slaughterhouse-Five Or: The Children's Crusade* (New York premiere). Other work includes productions with The American Repertory Theatre, SpeakEasy Stage Co., Boston Theatre Works, Tufts University, The Williamstown Theater Festival, Studio42, Playwrights Horizons, Manhattan Theater Source, all of Manhattan Theatre Club's 2004-5 season, numerous productions at 59E59 and several productions at The Ensemble Studio Theatre including the *Marathon* '05 and '06. He would also like to join a softball league at some point in his life. To see Aaron tell boring stories check out www.youtube.com/thepaternoster.

SAMUEL WHITTEN
(Actor #2)
Godlight Theatre Company: *Blindness* (59E59), *Fahrenheit 451* (59E59 and the 2006 Edinburgh Festival Fringe). Other credits: *Cascade Falls* (Abingdon), *This is Our Youth* (Rita Wallach Theater). Film: *Trio* (dir. Danny Aiello), *White Noise* (dir. Manjoo Gupta), *In the City* (A-Head Productions), and *Sell Out* (Blatantly Subtle Productions). TV: *One Life to Live* (Eddie Barton), *Guiding Light*, and *As the World Turns*. Sam is thrilled to be a part of *Basketball Diaries*. Special thanks to Jim Carroll, Joe Tantaló, Matt Pelfrey, and everyone in and apart this amazing production.

JOHN PORTO
(Actor #3)
John is excited to be making his return to the stage with Godlight Theatre Company. He made his stage debut with Godlight in *Romeo and Juliet* and has since appeared in *Macbeth*, *Rain Delay* at the Yale University Cabaret, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Cymbeline*, *The Boar*, *Suburbia*, *All in the Timing* and *A Jimmy Stewart Kind of World*. Special thanks to his parents, sister, brother-in-law and grandparents for their love, strength and support. Without them he would not be here.

ALEX PAPPAS
(Actor #4)
Godlight Theatre Company: *The Third Man*, *The Adventures of Ashman*. Other credits include: Syracuse Stage, Bridgeport Free Shakespeare, Ellis Island. Training: BFA Drama, Syracuse University.

NICK PAGLINO
(Actor #5)
Godlight Theatre Company: *Blindness*, *Slaughterhouse-Five*. Other NYC credits include: *Our Country's Good*, *Mono*, *Così*, *Random Sexual Acts*. A member of Another Urban Riff Theatre Co. Training: Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. Special Thanks: Actors # 1-10, one day I hope to learn all of your names, my Mom and Dad, my brother, Uncle Buck, Helen Mirren, and whoever directed *Fried Green Tomatoes*.

MIKE SHIMKIN
(Actor #6)
Godlight Theatre Company: *Slaughterhouse-Five*, *Blindness*. Other theatre credits: *Kabbalah*, *Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Karaoke Night at the Suicide Shack*. TV credits: *One Life to Live*. Training: Orlando Pabotay, Charles Tuthill, Ted Sluberski, Deborah Mathieu-Byers. Special thanks to my sisters, Tami and Beth (we grew up together here in NYC, but it wasn't like Jim Carroll's childhood).

ARTHUR JAMES SOLOMON
(Actor #7)
Arthur is very excited to be a part of *The Basketball Diaries*. Credits: *Dream on Monkey Mountain* (Classical Theater of Harlem), *The Boys Next Door* (ATA), *Sitcom.com* (HERE/NYC). Regional: *The Time Of Your Life* (George Street Playhouse), *Our Country's Good*, *Say Goodnight Gracie*, *Charlotte's Web*. Arthur has toured with Theatreworks/USA and Shoestring Players. Film and TV: *Flatmates*, *Hard Facts* (PSA), *The Rise* (PBS). Other notable credit: the voice of Dijon on the episodic internet soap opera series *Moment to Moment*. Arthur received his BFA from Rutgers University Professional Actors Training Program. Special thanks to Joe Tantaló and Miss Peppa'. Proud member of AEA.

DEANNA McGOVERN
(Actor #8)
Godlight credits: *Blindness*, *Slaughterhouse-Five*. Other credits: *After Ashley* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Co.), *Goody F***ing Two Shoes*, *Dracula*, *Uncle Sam's Satiric Spectacular* (Actors Theatre of Louisville/Humana Festival), *Birds* (First Look Theatre Co., NYU), and *The Lost Colony*. Training: Actors Theatre of Louisville Apprentice Company, University of Tennessee (BA). Love and thanks to my parents, friends and Joe.

KATHERINE BOYNTON
(Actor #9)
Godlight Theatre Company at 59E59 Theaters: *Blindness*, *Fahrenheit 451* (also Edinburgh Festival Fringe), *A Clockwork Orange*. Other credits include: *Church* at The Public Theater, *The Bully* at New World Stages, *Cat's Cradle* at Walkerspace Theatre, *Out of Orbit* at Vital Theatre, *The Three Sisters* at The Players Club, *Blues for Mr. Charlie* at The Actor's Studio. Katherine has sung in Concerts at Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Rose Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, and Town Hall. Training: Graduated from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts; also studied at The Shakespeare Theatre's Summer Classical Acting Workshop. Special Thanks to cast and crew, Joe, family, friends and Mike.

MIKE ROCHE
(Actor #10)
For Godlight Theatre Company dir. Joe Tantaló: *Fahrenheit 451* (59E59 Theaters, Edinburgh Festival Fringe), *Blindness* (59E59 Theaters), *A Clockwork Orange* (EST, 59E59 Theaters, and Edinburgh Festival), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (attended by President Clinton and Senator Clinton), *The Third Man* (NY and CT). NY Theatre: *The Father* (with Al Pacino), *Night Over Taos* (INTAR, dir. Estelle Parsons), *Church* (The Public Theatre), *Billy the Kid* (Flea Theatre, dir. Jim Simpson), *Room Service* (The Actors Studio, dir. Arthur Storch), *Octoberfest* (EST, dir. Curt Dempster), *Psycho* (Norman Bates, dir. Thomas G. Waites), *St. George & the Dragon* (dir. William Carden, HB Playwrights). TV: *All My Children*. Training: Austin Pendleton, Marcia Haufrecht. Special Thanks: Joe Tantaló, family and Katherine.

MATT PELFREY
(Adaptation)
Matt Pelfrey plays include *An Impending Rupture of the Belly*, *Cockroach Nation*, *Terminus Americana*, *Honkies with Attitude*, *Gore Hounds*, *Drive Angry*, *FrEaK StORM*, *Jerry Springer is God*, *Monkey* and *A Feast of Famine*. They have been produced in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and South Africa by such companies as the Actors Theater of Louisville (Humana Festival '99), Furious Theatre Company, Roadworks, American Theater of Actors, (Mostly) Harmless Theater Company, Moving Arts, Hexagon Theatre and the Lodestone Theatre Ensemble. He is the recipient of the Heideman Award (National Ten-Minute Play Award) for his play *Drive Angry*. *Drive Angry* was subsequently produced in the prestigious Humana Festival of New American Plays. Mr. Pelfrey recently won a Back Stage Garland Award for playwriting. He has been nominated for an American Critic's New Play Award, LA Weekly Playwriting Award and a Los Angeles Ovation Award. In 2001 Mr. Pelfrey was a finalist for the Julliard Playwrights Program. *Jerry Springer is God* and *Drive Angry* are published by Samuel French and Smith & Kraus. *Cockroach Nation*, *Terminus Americana* and *Gore Hounds* are published by Original Works Publishing. *An Impending Rupture of the Belly* and *FrEaK StORM* are published by

Broadway Play Publishing. Matt received his BA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State and his MFA from UCLA where he is currently teaching undergraduate playwriting. He is the resident playwright at Furious Theatre. More info at www.blunforcedrama.org.

JOE TANTALO
(Director)
Has been the Artistic Director of Godlight Theatre Company since 1994. Directing highlights include: *Waiting on the Z Train* (NY Premiere by UK Playwright Sean Tyler), *The Third Man* (World Premiere), *A Clockwork Orange* (NY Premiere and 2003 OOB Critic's Choice Award Winner), *Principia* (World Premiere Musical), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (NY Revival), *The Manchurian Candidate*, *All in the Timing*, *Pilgrims of the Night* (NY Premiere), *The House of Yes*, *Escape from Happiness*, *Poor Superman* (NY Premiere and 2001 NYC Fringe Award Winner), *Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Raised in Captivity*, *subUrbia*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Wait Until Dark*, *The Unexpected Guest*, *The Exhibition: The Life of John Merrick*, *A New York Minute*, *Labor Pains*, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You*, *Theatre of the Film Noir*, *A Few Good Men*, *Soul in the Symphony of Confusion* (NY Premiere), and *Labor Day: A Community Struggle with AIDS* (World Premiere with AIDS Project USA/Long Wharf Theatre and Contra Sida), among others. Off-Broadway: *Kurt Vonnegut's Slaughterhouse-Five Or: The Children's Crusade* (New York Premiere 59E59 Theaters, adapted by Eric Simonson), Jose Saramago's *Blindness* (American Premiere Adaptation 59E59 Theaters), *Fahrenheit 451* (NY Premiere 59E59 Theaters), *A Clockwork Orange* (59E59 Theaters). Ensemble Studio Theatre: *A Clockwork Orange*, *Only We Who Guard The Mystery Shall Be Unhappy*, *Curious George Goes to Class*, *The Adventures of Ashman*, *The Trial of George W.*, *Brown*, *Big Al*, *Beds are Made to Lie In*. Regional: *Barbra's Wedding* (Bristol Valley Theatre). International: *Fahrenheit 451* (2006 Edinburgh Festival Fringe), *A Clockwork Orange* (2005 Edinburgh Festival Fringe). Mr. Tantaló has been trained at the Shakespeare Theatre, The Circle in the Square, the Kennedy Center, and Southern Connecticut State University. He was named Director of the Year (2002) by NYTheatre.com.

MARUTI EVANS
(Production Designer)
Is a graduate of the University of Miami with a BA in theatrical design. His work includes film, theatre, and dance for Lincoln Center, Manhattan Theatre Club, Here Performing Arts Center, The Access Theatre, Godlight Theatre Company, The Estrogenius Festival, Camilla Films, Braidwood Films, The Jerry Herman Ring Theatre, Viscaya Opera, The Kinesis Project, 59E59 Theaters, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Bristol Valley Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Source, and the New Duke Theatre. His honors include: the June and Bob Edwards Design Award in 1998, 1999 and 2000. He is a 2007 Drama Desk Nominee (Outstanding Lighting Design) for *Blindness* and a 2008 Drama Desk Nominee (Outstanding Lighting Design) for *Slaughterhouse-Five*.

ANDREW RECINOS
(Original Music and Sound Designer)
Has provided music and sound design for GTC productions of: *Slaughterhouse-Five*, *Blindness*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Third Man*, *A Clockwork Orange*, *All in the Timing*, *Pilgrims of the Night*, *House of Yes*, and *Escape from Happiness*. Other shows include: *The Seagull* and *Travels With My Aunt* with the Gallery Players and *The Storm* at the American Repertory Theatre.

His first musical, *Principia*, written with playwright Michael Maiello, was premiered by GTC in 2003 and was featured in the 2003 New York International Fringe Festival. Andrew lives in Portland with his wife Peg and their beautiful daughter Caroline.

JOSH RENFREE
(Associate Artistic Director/ Resident Fight Choreographer)
Godlight Theatre Company: New York Premiere of *Slaughterhouse-Five*, American Premiere of *Blindness*, World Premiere of *The Third Man*, *A Clockwork Orange* (OOBR Award Winning Prod./2005 Edinburgh Festival Fringe), *Pilgrims of the Night*, *The House of Yes*, *Escape from Happiness*, and *Raised in Captivity*. New York: *R.U.R.* (The Actors Company Theatre, TACT). Regional: *Mister Roberts*, (Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and The Cincinnati Playhouse), *The Foreigner* (The New Harmony Theatre, IN), *Inspecting Carol* (North Coast Repertory Theatre, CA), *Curse of the Starving Class* (Theatre in Old Town, CA), *Bosnia* (The Fritz Theatre, CA). Television/Film: *As the World Turns* (NBC), *Guiding Light* (CBS), *All My Children* (ABC), *Last Hand Standing*, *The Socratic Method*. Josh is a graduate of Circle in the Square Theatre School and a proud founding member of Godlight Theatre Company.

NICK TOCHELLI
(Production Stage Manager)
Nick is ecstatic to be back with Godlight again! He previously worked on Godlight's production of *Slaughterhouse-Five*. Nick has most recently been PSM on *Epitaph for George Dillon* directed by Larry Moss, ASM for *Jailbait* at the Cherry Lane Theatre, and ASM for *Ladies and Gents* at the Irish Arts Center. Next month, he will be the PSM for *Love Inc.* a new musical as part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival. Nick also works as a Sound Designer *Epitaph for George Dillon*, *American Psyche*, *The Laramie Project*, *Dearly Departed*, and *Eastern Standard*. Nick has a BA in Theatre from SUNY-Fredonia and is a proud member of Actor's Equity.

AMY VONVETT
(Stage Manager)
Godlight Theatre Company: *Blindness*, *Slaughterhouse-Five*. Other credits: *Blessed Unrest: The James Wilde Project*, *Nick, A Staged Reading*. Amy is also involved in the recently MAC nominated sketch comedy group City Hall.

GODLIGHT
THEATRE COMPANY

Godlight Theatre Company was formed for the purposes of fostering community appreciation for drama and the performing arts. Godlight is committed to bring new and underperformed texts to the stage by creating original adaptations of modern classical literature from the 20th and 21st centuries, as well as commissioning new dramatic works from emerging talent. The ensemble and creative team of Godlight Theatre Company explore new plays informed by the issues of life in contemporary America.
www.godlighttheatrecompany.org

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