CHICAGOAN JENNIFER COOMBS TAKES ON THE ROLE OF CATHERINE IN GINA GIONFRIDDO’S RAPTURE, BLISTER, BURN, DIRECTED BY KIMBERLY SENIOR

***PREVIEWS FOR THE CHICAGO PREMIERE BEGIN JANUARY 17 TOWARDS A JANUARY 26 OPENING***

(Chicago, IL) Goodman Theatre announces that Jennifer Coombs will take over the role of Catherine in its production of Rapture, Blister, Burn, replacing Robin Weigert who has left the production due to scheduling conflicts. Kimberly Senior directs the Chicago premiere production of Gina Gionfriddo’s “fiercely funny” (New York Magazine) play with the previously announced ensemble cast including Mark L. Montgomery (Don), Cassidy Slaughter-Mason (Avery), Mary Ann Thebus (Alice) and Karen Janes Woditsch (Gwen). Rapture, Blister, Burn runs January 17 – February 22, 2015 in the Albert Theatre (opening night is Monday, January 26). Tickets ($25 - $81; subject to change) are on sale at GoodmanTheatre.org/Rapture, by phone at 312.443.3800 or at the box office (170 North Dearborn). Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP is the Major Corporate Sponsor and Marsh Private Client Services, PwC LLP and United Scrap Metal, Inc. are the Corporate Sponsor Partners for Rapture, Blister, Burn. Bella Bacinos is the Opening Night Party Sponsor.

“To have this opportunity to work at the Goodman with Kimberly on a play about women is a dream come true,” said Jennifer Coombs, who makes her Goodman mainstage debut with this role. “The character of Catherine is incredibly smart, self-reflective and bitingly funny. Kimberly is such an insightful and grounded director that has created a supportive environment for us to explore this play.”

Jennifer Coombs previously appeared at the Goodman in The Hairy Ape as part of its A Global Exploration: Eugene O’Neill in the 21st Century Festival. Other Chicago credits include Ski Dubai (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); The Threepenny Opera (The Hypocrites); Because They Have No Words (Piven Theatre Workshop, Jeff Award nomination for Best Ensemble) and One for the Road/Catastrophe and Power (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company). Regional credits include All the Happy People (Edinburgh Fringe Festival); Proof and How I Learned to Drive (Oregon Contemporary Theater); House of Yes and A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (Actors Cabaret of Eugene) and Twelfth Night (Willamette Repertory Theatre).

Can any woman have it all? After graduate school Catherine (Coombs) became a renowned feminist scholar, while her best friend Gwen (Woditsch) married and raised a family. When the women reunite 20 years later, they reflect on the choices they’ve made—and regretted making. Longing for what the other has, they decide to “trade places” to see what they’ve missed. Sparks fly, martinis flow and hilarity ensues as the women ponder their futures—and fates. The creative team includes Jack Magaw (sets), Emily Rebholz (costumes), Jennifer Schriever (lights) and Richard Woodbury (sound). Briana J. Fahey is the production stage manager. Jonathan L. Green is the dramaturg. Casting is by Adam Belcuore.

For more information about Rapture, Blister, Burn and a complete list of events around the production, visit GoodmanTheatre.org/Rapture

About Goodman Theatre

The Goodman’s 2014/2015 Season features nine productions on its two stages—six in the 856-seat Albert Theatre and three in the 400-seat flexible Owen Theatre, plus the annual New Stages Festival that includes additional developmental productions, and partner productions with The Second City and Albany Park Theater Project. Still to come in the 2014/2015 Season are Two Trains Running by August Wilson, directed by Chuck Smith, in conjunction with a citywide celebration of August Wilson (March 7 – April 12, 2015 in the Albert); The Upstairs Concierge by Kristoffer Diaz, directed by KJ Sanchez, a world premiere co-commission with Teatro Vista (March 28 – April 26, 2015 in the Owen); The Little Foxes by Lillian Hellman, directed by Henry Wishcamper (May 2 – June 7, 2015 in the Albert); stop. reset. written and directed by Regina Taylor, a Chicago premiere (May 23 – June 21, 2015 in the Owen); Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike by Christopher — continued —

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Previews for the Chicago Premiere Production Begin January 17, Directed by Kimberly Senior

Durang, directed by Steve Scott, a Chicago premiere (June 20 – July 26, 2015 in the Albert), and Albany Park Theater Project’s Feast (Summer dates TBA in the Owen).

Now celebrating its 90th year as Chicago’s flagship theater, Goodman Theatre is an artistic and community institution dedicated to the art of theater and to civic engagement in the issues of the contemporary world. The Goodman has transformed over the past 35 years into a world class theater and premier Chicago cultural institution distinguished by the quality and scope of its programming and its culturally and aesthetically diverse creative leadership; artistic priorities include new plays, reimagined classics, culturally specific works, musical theater and international collaborations. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Robert Falls and Executive Director Roche Schulfer, achievements include the Goodman’s state-of-the-art two-theater complex in the heart of the downtown Theatre District. Over the past three decades, the Goodman has generated more than 150 world or American premieres, and nearly 30 new-work commissions. Joan Clifford is Chairman of Goodman Theatre’s Board of Trustees, Swati Mehta is Women’s Board President and Gordon C.C. Liao is President of the Scenemakers Board for young professionals. American Airlines is the Exclusive Airline of Goodman Theatre.

“A mainstay of Chicago and beyond” (Chicago Sun-Times), the Goodman is internationally acclaimed for its “fresh work of magnitude and ambition (and) bold, risky theatrical choices” (Chicago Tribune). From new plays to “first-class revivals” (The New York Times), the Goodman has earned numerous awards for its productions: two Pulitzer Prizes; 22 Tony Awards, including Outstanding Regional Theatre (1992); and nearly 160 Joseph Jefferson Awards.

The 90th Anniversary “Season to Celebrate” programming is rooted in the same spirit that launched the Goodman in 1925—an array of dramatic fare, from classics to noteworthy contemporary works, innovative and often controversial, embracing genres from farces to searing social dramas—honoring the theater’s past and envisioning its future. The nine-play season begins with an All-New Fall of works fostered and developed in the Goodman’s new play development programs followed by an “August Wilson Celebration” in spring 2015, the 10th anniversary of the playwright’s death and the 70th anniversary of his birth. This city-wide Celebration honors the longstanding collaboration between Wilson and the Goodman, the first theater in the world to produce all 10 works in his “20th Century Cycle.”

Visit the special anniversary website, GoodmanTheatre.org/90, to see famous faces who’ve worked at the theater, browse photos of classic productions and read interviews with noted artists.