

\* NOTE: NEW DIRECTOR AND ADDITIONAL AWARDS FOR PLAYWRIGHT/ACTRESS JENNIFER BOGUSH\*

Sumo Productions, LLC Presents

**TRAFFIC JAM**

A New Play by Jennifer Bogush

Directed by Melinda Prom

Part of The New York International Fringe Festival (FringeNYC)

August 9<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008

SoHo Playhouse, 15 Vandam Street (between 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Varick / 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue)

August 7, 2008 – Jennifer Bogush's play, *TRAFFIC JAM*, will be presented as part of **The New York International Fringe Festival (FringeNYC)**. Ms. Bogush will lead a cast of three in this new dark comedy. Performances will be at SoHo Playhouse, located at 15 Vandam Street. Performances will begin on **August 9<sup>th</sup>** and will continue through **August 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

**About The Play**

In *TRAFFIC JAM*, Cassie, an absolute train wreck, is eagerly waiting for Death to arrive (in a hospital waiting room, no less.) When she shows her vulnerability to a handsome stranger named Gary, he betrays her, like everyone else in her life.

*TRAFFIC JAM* won 3rd place in the Playwright's Theatre's Plays for the 21st Century Contest (Cash Prize), the Emerging Artist's (NYC) Contest, and was a Semi-finalist in the Moondance International Film Festival. The Woolly Mammoth Theater Company was "impressed by [Traffic Jam's] humor and the vividness of [the] characters." Jack Marshall, the Artistic Director of the Playwright's Theatre, said, "Jennifer Bogush [is] an extraordinarily talented playwright. *Traffic Jam* was beautifully conceived and executed. The dialog grabs and holds your attention."

**About The Cast and Creative Team**

The cast for *TRAFFIC JAM* will be as follows: The role of "Gary" will be played by **Jeff Branson**, who is best known for his three years playing "Jonathan Lavery" on the ABC Soap Opera "All My Children", for which he received an Daytime Emmy Award nomination. He also appeared in the film "The Big Bad Swim", "Shaft" and many off-Broadway shows. **Joe Tuttle** will play "Death"; in addition to playing "Hal" in *Proof* and Wesley in *Curse of the Starving Class*, Joe recently appeared on "As The World Turns". Author **Jennifer Bogush** will play "Cassie". Jennifer's acting credits include "Guiding Light", "As the World Turns", and the lead role in her film, "TRIO" under the direction of Danny Aiello III. "TRIO" won Best Short Screenplay in the Queens International Film Festival in 2007, was a Semi-Finalist in The Moondance International Film Festival, and is currently a Semi-Finalist in the SoCal Independent Film Festival.

Set design will be handled by **Bryan Kenneth Parsons** ("Blood Sisters" at the D.U.M.B.O arts festival); **Mariel Matos** will be the Stage Manager.

The director will be **Melinda Prom**. Melinda most recently directed the world premiere of *The Good News* by Dennis Jones in the 2008 Algonquin Theater One-Act Festival. She is a member of Brief Acts Company, a division of Love Creek Productions, for which she has directed numerous original plays, including *Jack's Choice* by J. Snodgrass, *A Change of Plans* by Dennis Jones, *Dating is Dead* by Warren Schultz, and *Not a Good Move* by Marcus Jones. Melinda has also performed in several regional and NYC productions, including the role of Nancy in *The Elevation of Thieves*, written and directed by the award winning Nagle Jackson. This year she originated the role of Jane Blaine in Warren Schultz's *Brooklyn Does Not Want You* at the Player's Theatre Shortened Attention Span Festival. She has recently taken up playwriting, and is thrilled that her first short play *Table Service* will be performed this month at the Parker Theater at the Algonquin Theater. Melinda holds a B.A. from Carleton College, and is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts (NY).

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**About the Author**

**Jennifer Bogush** has written both plays and screenplays. Her play *Low Grade Chocolate* received honorable mention in the Writer’s Digest Competition out of 19,000 submissions. Her screenplay for the short film “TRIO” won Best Short Screenplay in the Queens International Film Festival 2007, and was co-produced and directed by Danny Aiello III. “TRIO” is currently a Semi-Finalist in the SoCal Independent Film Festival. Another screenplay, “LIVIN’ IN A ‘V’ WORLD,” won Best Short Screenplay in the Terror Film Festival, was a 1st Round Qualifier in the American Gem Screenwriting Contest, a Semi-Finalist in the BlueCat Screenplay Competition, and is currently a Semi-Finalist in the SoCal Independent Film Festival Finalist, a Quarter-Finalist in The Page Awards out of 3,895 scripts, and a Finalist in both The Writer’s Place screenwriting contest, and the Reel Women script contest. “Livin’ in a ‘V’ World” is also nominated for Best Action Sequence, and Best Sci-Fi Short in The Action on Film Festival in LA. Her just completed, original TV pilot, “SIDES,” was a Semi-Finalist in the Moondance International Film Festival.

**TRAFFIC JAM** will play the following schedule:

**SAT 8/9 @ 6:30 pm**

**THUR 8/14 @ 10:00 pm**

**MON 8/18 @ 3:30 pm**

**THUR 8/21 @ 6:30 pm**

**FRI 8/22 @ 10:00 pm**

The running time will be 40 minutes.

Tickets will be \$15.00 for all performances. Tickets may be purchased by calling **866-468-7619**, or online at **FringeNYC.org**. For more information about **TRAFFIC JAM** please visit **www.TrafficJamThePlay.com**.

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**At SoHo Playhouse, 15 Vandam Street (between 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Varick / 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue)**

**August 9<sup>th</sup> through August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

August 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 6:30pm
10	11	12	13	14 10:00pm	15	16
17	18 3:30pm	19	20	21 6:30pm	22 10:00pm	23

**Running time: 40 minutes**

**TICKETS: \$15; Call 866-468-7619, or order online at FringeNYC.org**

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