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Press Night: February 2, 2019



FRESH INK THEATRE PRESENTS

Girlish

A WORLD PREMIERE

Written by Alexa Derman, Directed by Melanie Garber

**February 1-16, 2019 | Plaza Black Box Theatre at the
Boston Center for the Arts**

Windy loves painting her nails, goofing off with her BFF, and every one of her American Girl dolls — even though loving AG is totally embarrassing when you're fifteen. But when her obsession brings Instagram celebrity and the digital attention of a cute older guy, things get complicated IRL. Adolescence meets online culture in this story about figuring out what it means to grow up.

(Boston, MA) [Fresh Ink Theatre](http://freshinktheatre.org) opens its 2018/2019 season with the world premiere of *Girlish* by Alexa Derman. Performances begin Friday, February 1st, 2019 and continue through February 16 at the Plaza Black Box at the Boston Center for the Arts.

When discussing the themes of girlhood explored in the play, the dramaturgical team hopes, "Audience members who were once teenage girls feel something familiar in this play. The dynamics of the friendship and emotions that the girls experience in the play bring up a lot of long-buried, often unpleasant, sometimes comforting memories. Teenage girls are super weird. They get flattened in a lot of pop culture, but this play shows them in all their dimensions, good and bad."

The world of this play is built for and highly affected by the age of social media. Playwright Alexa Derman reveals her relationship to it and what sparked her inspiration: "My Internet and the Internet of this play is more like the weird Internet. I wasn't super into Instagram or Facebook, but I am super into weird, shady drop-shipped products advertised on Instagram, Moms sharing minion memes, the way

adults comment on profile pictures as though they're having a private conversation with the person, this one Facebook group that's just pictures of aspics and some people are into it and some people are truly revolted and amused and that means the same thing, when Amazon tries to sell me a product because I bought something like it and the algorithm doesn't realize I would obviously never need *more* of that purchase...and so I think my writing style includes a lot of references and shout outs that are left unresolved. Usually things that bother me inspire my plays, things I can't shake, that are sticky. Sometimes I joke that my plays are one big, 'Isn't that thing weird?! It's weird right! Look how weird it is! Why is it like that?'"

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE AND TICKETS:

Performances

February 1-16, 2019

Wednesdays and Thursdays 7:30pm, Fridays and Saturdays 8pm

Preview: Friday, February 1 at 8pm

Industry Night: Tuesday, February 5 at 7:30pm

Matinee: Saturday, February 16 at 3pm

PRESS NIGHT is Saturday, February 2 at 8pm

february

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Single tickets are \$25

Website: <https://www.bostontheatrescene.com/season/girlish/>

Box Office: Calderwood Pavilion Box Office, 527 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02116

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

Alexa Derman (playwright) writes about young women. Development of ages past includes Cutting Ball Theatre, Fresh Ink, the Yale Playwrights Festival (2018, 2017), Runaways Lab Theatre, The Blank Theatre (3-time national winner), Young Playwrights Inc. (2-time national winner), Yale Dramatic Association, Yale Drama Coalition. Relentless Award Honorable Mention; Marina Keegan Award for Excellence; O'Neill NPC Semifinalist 2017, 2015; Jane Chambers Student Award for Feminist Playwriting Honorable Mention; Stage Left Downstage Left Residency Semifinalist; Echo Young Playwrights In Residence Finalist; Bay Area Playwrights Festival Semifinalist; Sanguine Project Playwrights Finalist; Kitchen Dog New Works Festival Finalist. BA in Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies from Yale.

Melanie Garber (director) is thrilled to be partnering once again with Fresh Ink Theatre after directing their inaugural production, *Priscilla Dreams the Answer* by Walt McGough. Ms. Garber is a Boston-base director, actor and playwright. Some select past credits include: *Crave* by Sarah Kane (Heart & Dagger productions), *The American Plan* by Richard Greenberg (Happy Medium Theatre). Melanie's collection of short plays, *Two People*, received a stage reading at The Provincetown Theatre. Emerson College 2019.

For a full cast and production team listing, please visit: <http://freshinktheatre.org/girlish/>

ABOUT FRESH INK:

Fresh Ink Theatre provides an avenue for the development of new work on the Boston small theatre scene in a collaborative, playwright-centered manner. The company was born in the summer of 2011 and debuted at the Factory Theatre the following December with the nearly sold-out run of *Priscilla Dreams the Answer* by Walt McGough. Fresh Ink's unique submission model and development process have led to successful runs of plays by local playwrights including Laura Neill, MJ Halberstadt, Ginger Lazarus, Walt McGough, Patrick Gabridge, and many more. Fresh Ink also created the Ink Spot staged reading series as another avenue to showcase new work in process, as well as the annual Mad Dash 24-hour play festival, which brings together theatre artists from across Boston to create eight new plays in a single day. Now in its eighth season, Fresh Ink Theatre is a continuing part of the BCA's Performing Arts Residency Program.

MISSION

Fresh Ink Theatre Company is committed to developing new work with emerging theatre artists in the New England area. We seek to empower writers with the tools to craft plays that showcase their creative vision, and we challenge the Boston community to engage in the evolution of new work as it transforms from first draft to first production, and beyond. We

value artistic excellence, institutional transparency, community involvement and ongoing collaboration.

www.freshinktheatre.org
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FRESH INK IS

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