



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Shotgun Players presents *Blasted*, written by Sarah Kane, directed by Jon Tracy

***Blasted* probes our relationship to violence as participants, spectators, and artists and asks "How do we engage with brutality that happens every day?"**

Berkeley, CA – A middle-aged man and younger woman meet at a hotel room. As public and private violations collide, their world shatters around them. Acknowledged as the most provocative and influential British playwright of her generation, Sarah Kane weaves an unforgettable story of destruction, chaos, and, ultimately, redemption and love. When *Blasted* debuted in 1995, the production sparked outrage. Sarah Kane created characters living in a state of siege with a war mentality stripping away their humanity layer by layer. ***Blasted* begins previews on Thursday, September 21; opens on Saturday, September 29; and runs through Sunday, October 22, 2017, at The Ashby Stage.**

Violence in media is the norm for modern viewers, but *Blasted* isn't like anything you'll see on HBO! Rather than using violence as an easy trope that normalizes domestic violence, rape, and war, *Blasted*'s playwright Sarah Kane re-creates these horrors as an unavoidable topic for the nervous system. In an *Independent* interview with David Benedict, Kane says: "There is no real debate in this country about how you represent violence in art. We don't know how to talk about it, we don't know how to deal with it. The violence in this play is completely de-glamorised. It's just presented."

***Blasted* is 90 minutes long with no intermission and heavy use of graphic language, sexual violence, loud noises, strobing lights, and disturbing imagery. Audience members must be 18 or older to attend.** Shotgun Players box office and patron services manager Amy Langer reflects on the play's intense content: "For many people, attending this show may go beyond discomfort. It may be triggering. We're preparing for the emotional impact that *Blasted* will have on our production team and our audiences, but we strongly encourage everyone to listen to their needs for self-care."

**Audiences can take part in this conversation during post-show talkbacks and through a weekly podcast series of conversations among the *Blasted* production team that will happen over the course of the production.**

More at [shotgunplayers.org/online/blasted](http://shotgunplayers.org/online/blasted).

The cast of *Blasted* features **Adrienne Walters, Robert Parsons, and Joe Estlack**. The creative team features set design by **Nina Ball**, scenic design assistance by **Justine Law**, lighting design by **Heather Basarab**, costume design by **Miyuki Bierlein**, stage management by **Christina Larson** and **Nikita Kadam**, props design by **Devon LaBelle**, sound design by **Matt Stines**, production assistance by **Josh Van Eyken**, fight direction by **Elena Wright**, and theatrical violence consultation by **Dave Maier**.

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## Calendar Listing

**WHAT:** A middle-aged man and younger woman meet at a hotel room. As public and private violations collide, their world shatters around them. Acknowledged as the most provocative and influential British playwright of her generation, Sarah Kane weaves an unforgettable story of destruction, chaos, and, ultimately, redemption and love. When *Blasted* debuted in 1995, the production sparked outrage. Sarah Kane created characters living in a state of siege with a war mentality stripping away their humanity layer by layer. *Blasted* is 90 minutes long with no intermission and a heavy use of graphic language, sexual violence, loud noises, strobing lights, and disturbing imagery. Audience members must be 18 or older to attend.

**WHEN:** Thursday, September 21–Sunday, October 22, 2017

**WHERE:** [The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley](#)

**TICKET PRICES:** Pay-what-you-can previews: September 21–28. Regular tickets: \$25–\$40. Advance reservations strongly advised. Shows will sell out!

For more information, go to [shotgunplayers.org](http://shotgunplayers.org), email [boxoffice@shotgunplayers.org](mailto:boxoffice@shotgunplayers.org), or call 510.841.6500.

## About Shotgun Players

Shotgun Players is a company of artists determined to create bold, relevant, affordable theatre that inspires and challenges audience and artist alike to re-examine our lives, our community, and the ever-changing world around us. More at [shotgunplayers.org](http://shotgunplayers.org).