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Production Photos: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3j98ibipuy6fhex/AABr8CwX1JbZVCsR2Ovf_u24a?dl=0

UNEXPECTED STAGE COMPANY
Presents
Bekah Brunstetter's
Be a Good Little Widow
JULY 12-AUGUST 5
RIVER ROAD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION BUILDING

*"There is always something good on the other side of horrible pain."
- Bekah Brunstetter*

BETHESDA, MD (May 1, 2018) As part of its ninth season, **Unexpected Stage Company** presents ***Be a Good Little Widow***, a comedy about life, grief, and longing by **Bekah Brunstetter** (*This Is Us, The Cake, The Oregon Trail*). The production will run July 12 to August 5 in the Fireside Room, an intimate 40-seat venue at the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation Building, located at 6301 River Road in Bethesda.

General admission tickets, priced \$10 to \$29.50, are on sale via phone at 800-838-3006, online at www.unexpectedstage.org, and at the door subject to availability. A special Pay-What-You-Wish preview performance is scheduled for Thursday, July 12, at 7:30 p.m.; reservations are recommended. For information, please call 301-337-8290 or visit www.unexpectedstage.org.

Life can be messy. Melody thought being a young wife was hard, until she became a widow. As she contemplates the proper way to grieve, her mother-in-law is by her side with expert, never-ending, yet well-meaning, advice. From dutiful black dresses to inappropriate outbursts, Melody navigates an uncharted course towards understanding what it means to find someone through losing them. Brunstetter's quirky comedy contemplates how devotion and hope can persevere in the midst of unexpected loss.

The New York Times declared ***Be a Good Little Widow*** to be "Delicately satisfying...[Ms. Brunstetter] writes fresh, unfussy dialogue and characters who earn their laughs and emotional moments by honest means." According to *Backstage*, "Bekah Brunstetter's powerful new play

marries the humor and sadness of grief. Brunstetter's words pierce the soul, and she makes the depths of the human experience profoundly relatable...."

The cast of *Be a Good Little Widow* features **Nick Duckworth** as Craig, **Emily Morrison** as Hope, **Lansing O'Leary** as Brad, and **Ruthie Rado** as Melody.

Playwright **Bekah Brunstetter** is currently a producer on NBC's television hit *This Is Us*. Brunstetter has written for *This Is Us*, as well as for ABC Family's *Switched at Birth* and Starz's series *American Gods* (co-producer). Her plays include *The Cake*, *Going to a Place where you already are* (Theater Alliance, 2016), and *The Oregon Trail* (Flying V, part of the Women's Voices Theater Festival 2015).

The production is directed by Unexpected Stage Company co-founder **Christopher Goodrich**. The creative team also includes **Michael Cherry** (set design), **Andrew Dodge** (lighting design), **Debra Klein** (costume design), and **Matthew Mills** (sound design).

On choosing *Be a Good Little Widow*, Goodrich explains, "Bekah's style of writing for the stage appeals to me. Her dialogue is sharp and short, and a little prickly - just as she writes for television. *Be a Good Little Widow* perfectly captures, in both poignant and humorous ways, our struggle to find a language for grief."

The Sunday, July 29, performance of *Be a Good Little Widow* will benefit the Wendt Center for Healing and Loss, with half of all tickets sales going to support this local non-profit. Since 1975, the Wendt Center for Loss and Healing has helped people in the greater Washington area rebuild a sense of safety and hope after experiencing a loss, life-threatening illness, violence, or other trauma. Nationally recognized for its expertise in grief, trauma and mental health, with a focus on the needs of the underserved, the Wendt Center provides an array of holistic services for children, teens, adults, families, and the local communities.

Be a Good Little Widow

By Bekah Brunstetter

July 12-August 5

**River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation Building – Fireside Room
6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD**

Show Schedule:

- Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Sundays at 2 p.m.

General Admission Tickets: \$10 - \$29.50

Pay-What-You-Can preview performance: Thursday, July 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Discounts available for students, seniors, military, and groups.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Saturday, July 28 at 2 p.m. – Post-show discussion with members of the cast and creative team
- Sunday, July 29 at 2 p.m. – Performance benefits the [Wendt Center for Healing and Loss](#)
- Thanks to funding from the Montgomery County Executive's Ball and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, Unexpected Stage Company will be able to provide 160 free student/teacher tickets for *Be a Good Little Widow*. Tickets are available on

a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets may be reserved at www.unexpectedstage.org or by calling 800-838-3006.

ABOUT UNEXPECTED STAGE COMPANY

Celebrating its ninth season in 2018, **Unexpected Stage Company** is a professional regional theater company founded by Christopher Goodrich and Rachel Stroud-Goodrich. The company dedicates itself to honoring the intricacies and intimacies of the complete human experience and, to that end, seeks to unite people, place and storytelling in order to explore interconnection. Past productions include Carly Mensch's *Oblivion*, Deb Margolin's *8 STOPS*, Helen Hayes Award Recommended *Candy and Dorothy*, Helen Hayes Award Recommended *The Lady in the Van*, Women's Voices Theater Festival entry *Trish Tinkler Gets Saved*, and Kooman and Dimond's *Dani Girl* (three Helen Hayes Award nominations). Visit www.unexpectedstage.org and www.facebook.com/unexpectedstage.

This project is supported in part by funding from the Montgomery County government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

Unexpected Stage Company is funded by an operating grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. Funding for the Maryland State Arts Council is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Unexpected Stage gratefully acknowledges The Center for Organizational Excellence for its generous support.

***Be a Good Little Widow** is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.*

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