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Pre-Production Photos: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wp5iazwztfbzd9q/AAA-xMvoE0KpJqUtS8_rhzG1a?dl=0

UNEXPECTED STAGE COMPANY
Presents Samuel D. Hunter's
The Few
JULY 11-AUGUST 4
RIVER ROAD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION BUILDING

Montgomery County-based Unexpected Stage Company celebrates its 10th season

BETHESDA, MD (May 30, 2019) This summer marks the 10th season for **Unexpected Stage Company**, which will present *The Few*, a drama about the search for connection by MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Grant recipient **Samuel D. Hunter** (*A Bright New Boise*). The production will run July 11 to August 4 in the Fireside Room, an intimate 38-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 11, at 7:30 p.m.; reservations are recommended. For information, please call 301-337-8290 or visit www.unexpectedstage.org.

It's 1999; uncertainty and instability are in the air. Four years earlier, Bryan abandoned his labor of love, a newspaper for truckers that he founded with his friends. Now he's returned to small-town Idaho with no word of where he's been, and everything has changed. One friend is gone, the other – his former lover – has traded idealism for realism, and their new-ish co-worker is emotionally invested in a paper now filled with personal ads instead of perspectives. Hunter's play is a "compassionate, gently-hued drama about lonely lives" (*The New York Times*) desperately searching for a renewed faith in humanity.

"Wow – our 10th season! My wife Rachel and I planned to have three children, but in reality we have four," shares Unexpected Stage Company Co-founder Chris Goodrich, who also directs *The Few*. "We have nurtured this company, pampered it, soothed it, diapered it, and watched it grow, with the help of so many along the way. We hope to be kick-ass parents at this point as we

watch this child mature every day. This summer we dive into a new world for us – one with the compelling tropes of connection, disconnection, loneliness, and intimate humanity – but this time through the lens of the trucking community. Buckle up!”

The cast of *The Few* features **Baakari Wilder** (Broadway’s *Bring in Da Noise, Bring in Da Funk*; Unexpected Stage Company’s *Trifles*) as Bryan, **Dawn Thomas Reidy** (Unexpected Stage Company’s *Romeo and Juliet: Love Knows No Age*) as QZ, and **Andrew Flurer** (Pallas Theatre Collective’s *Assassins*) as Matthew. Voiceover actors currently include award-winning D.C.-area playwright **Audrey Cefaly**, **Ira Joe Fisher** (former weather reporter for the CBS Saturday Early Show), **Michael Grenham** (executive manager and conservatory director at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting), and **Zach Brewster-Geisz** (Unexpected Stage Company’s *Oblivion*).

Playwright **Samuel D. Hunter** is best known for captivating dramas set in his home state of Idaho, exploring themes of empathy and social isolation. A 2014 recipient of the MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Grant, Hunter’s work includes *A Bright New Boise*, *The Whale*, *The Healing*, and *A Great Wilderness*.

In addition to Goodrich, the creative team includes **Alison Mark** (set design), **Carrie Kirby** (costume design), **Andrew Dodge** (lighting design), and **Matthew Mills** (sound design).

Cast Biographies

Andrew Flurer (*Matthew*) is an actor and singer making his Unexpected Stage debut! Previous credits include *Oswald* (*Assassins*) with Pallas Theatre Collective, understudy to *Brother* (*Inside Out*) with Imagination Stage, and various works with Young Playwrights’ Theater. When offstage, Andrew does a lot of standardized patient work and gives tours of Washington, D.C. Andrew received his BA in Theatre and BS in Chemistry from The George Washington University. Many thanks to the cast and production team for support!

Dawn Thomas Reidy (*QZ*) is an actor and teaching artist in Maryland and D.C. She received a BFA in Acting from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and MFA from Indiana University. She is a company member and former teaching artist with Young Playwrights’ Theater. She is currently a teaching artist at Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, Creativity First, and Baltimore Shakespeare Factory. As an actor, Dawn has performed with Taffety Punk, Forum Theatre, Washington Stage Guild, Unexpected Stage Company, Brown County Playhouse, and the INTERSECTIONS Festival at the Atlas Performing Arts Center. She is also a member of Shakespeare for the Young, performing puppetry and Shakespeare for young audiences.

Baakari Wilder (*Bryan*) is happy to be returning to Unexpected Theatre Company for a second time around. Broadway credits include *Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk* (Lead/Ensemble) at the Ambassador Theatre. Regional credits include *Pearl* (Bill Bailey) at Kumble Theater. D.C. area credits include Hard Bargain Players’ *August Wilson’s Radio Golf* (Roosevelt); Mosaic Theatre Company’s *Unexplored Interior* (DJ/Guard); Bay Theatre Company’s *Master Harold and the Boys* (Willie); Unexpected Stage Company’s *Trifles* (Mr. Hale); and Spooky Action Theater’s *The Water Engine* (Barker). Film/Television credits include *Bamboozled* (Minstrel) and *House of Cards* (Speech Writer).

The Thursday, August 1, performance of *The Few* will benefit EveryMind, with half of all tickets sales going to support this local non-profit. EveryMind strengthens communities and empowers individuals to reach optimal mental wellness. A trusted mental health resource in the

National Capital Region since 1957, EveryMind works with vulnerable and underserved populations to improve mental wellness through counseling and case management, peer navigation to veterans, support to at-risk students and their families, crisis prevention and intervention, and community education. Last year, the non-profit provided 115,000 hours of direct support to 16,000 individuals in the region.

The Few

By Samuel D. Hunter

July 11-August 4

**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-Wish preview performance: Thursday, July 11 at 7:30 p.m.

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

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Saturday, July 27 at 2 p.m. – Post-show discussion with members of the cast and creative team
- Thursday, August 1 at 7:30 p.m. – Performance benefits [EveryMind](#), an organization committed to strengthening communities and empowering individuals to reach optimal mental wellness
- Thanks to funding from the Montgomery County Executive’s Ball, Unexpected Stage Company will be able to provide 50 **free** student/teacher tickets for *The Few*. 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 tenth season in 2019, **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 Helen Hayes Award Recommended productions of *Be a Good Little Widow*, *Oblivion*, *Candy and Dorothy*, and *The Lady in the Van*. Other audience or critical favorites include Alex and Olmsted’s *Milo the Magnificent*, Deb Margolin’s *8 STOPS*, and Kooman and Dimond’s *Dani Girl* (three Helen Hayes Award nominations). Visit www.unexpectedstage.org and www.facebook.com/unexpectedstage.

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The Few is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

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