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New Stage Unframed Series presents
WHAT EVERY GIRL SHOULD KNOW
By Monica Byrne

Jackson, Mississippi – The Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre presents *What Every Girl Should Know* by Monica Byrne April 7-9, 2023 at 7:30 p.m Tickets may be purchased online at newstagetheatre.com for \$10 until April 7th at 4pm. If there is seating available, tickets may also be purchased for \$15 half hour before each show. *What Every Girl Should Know* is a 90-minute show with no intermission. The performances are staged at New Stage’s Warehouse Theatre, which is located at 1000 Monroe Street in the Belhaven Heights neighborhood. *What Every Girl Should Know* IS FOR MATURE AUDIENCES ONLY 18+ due to strong language, sexual content, depiction of childbirth complications including miscarriage, and discussion of sexual abuse.

What Every Girl Should Know directed by Lindsey Neville, through both text and movement, tells the story of four girls in a Catholic reformatory in 1914. Though sent there for different reasons and with very different personalities, the girls discover just how much they have in common. When the young women begin reading Margaret Sanger’s feminist literature, including the play’s namesake publications in the New York Call, they begin to worship Margaret Sanger and build an intense bond as they create their own worship rituals. They share dreams and fears, let their passions soar, discuss new ideas, and dare to dream up a better world for themselves. Neville shares that “as a reflection of girlhood, this play is equally joyous and devastating.”

Monica Byrne’s other work includes *Tarantino’s Yellow Speedo*, *The Pentaeon*, as well as two science fiction novels, *The Girl In The Road* and *The Actual Star*. *Girl* won her the 2015 James Tiptree Jr. Award, and led to her nomination for the Locus and Kitschies Awards; both being awards for progressive sci-fi or fantasy work. Byrne utilizes her families Catholic upbringing, heart for social justice, and centrality of art to create discussion about the very real issues of the 1910’s and today.

Francine Reynolds, the artistic director of New Stage Theatre says, “Unframed has already had two very strong productions this season. I am confident that our next production will continue this trend. It is exciting that Lindsey Neville and the Unframed Producing team have focused on assembling a female featured company for *What Every Girl Should Know*. Unframed was initiated with the idea of developing a company for emerging artists. *What Every Girl Should Know* fulfills that original promise with debuts from many amazing young female artists.”

Unframed’s *What Every Girl Should Know* is a female-led production. Directed by Lindsey Neville, the cast includes Claire Justice Porter (Lucy), RaKaela Thompson (Anne), Mary Frances Dickie (Theresa), and Olivia Mathews (Joan). The production team includes Stage Manager Carlisle Shelson, Set Designer Nora Katz,

Lighting Designer Anna Dunbar, Sound Designer Clara Seitz, Costume Designer Nina Frost, Props Designer Oliver Morgan, Fight Choreographer Austin Russell and Movement Captain Lizzie Delp.

The play's Director, Neville says, "The cast has not shied away from delving into the complexities of girlhood and putting in the work to portray those intricacies on the stage. The crew is committed to immersing the audience in the singular reformatory room, which transforms into the whole world for four girls discovering feminist literature in 1914. We hope the audience will join them as they make discoveries about themselves, their world, and each other."

Created in 2006, The Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre provides a distinctive theatre experience to the community. The focus is on producing new works and contemporary drama as an alternative to the traditional New Stage subscription series. Unframed at New Stage provides artistic opportunities to emerging artists allowing them to get more experience working with a professional theatre company and on fresh, exciting material that's not typically produced on the main stage. In the past the series has produced works such as *Race*, *The Pillowman*, *Stop Kiss*, *Smart People*, *Steal Away!*, and *The Laramie Project*. We are excited to start Season 14, after the pause during the pandemic, with a season full of intriguing new drama that is equally engaging and thought provoking.

What Every Girl Should Know opens Friday, April 7th, 2023 at 7:30 pm. Additional performances are Saturday, April 8th at 7:30pm and Sunday, April 9th at 7:30pm. Tickets may be purchased online in advance at newstagetheatre.com for \$10 until April 7th at 4pm. If there is seating available, tickets may also be purchased at the door for \$15 half hour before each show. *What Every Girl Should Know* IS FOR MATURE AUDIENCES ONLY 18+ due to strong language, sexual content, depiction of childbirth complications including miscarriage, and discussion of sexual abuse. *What Every Girl Should Know* is a 90-minute show with no intermission. The performances are staged at New Stage's Warehouse Theatre. The theatre is located at 1000 Monroe Street in the Belhaven Heights neighborhood. For more information on The Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre, find us on Facebook or Instagram (@newstage.unframed) at Unframed at New Stage Theatre or call 601.948.3533 (ex. 222.)