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**Son of Semele Ensemble
presents Sheila Callaghan's
That Pretty Pretty; or, The Rape Play
May 28 – June 19, 2016**

LOS ANGELES (September 21, 2015) – Son of Semele Ensemble will present the Los Angeles premiere of *That Pretty Pretty; or, The Rape Play*, Sheila Callaghan's raucous and raunchy subversion of Hollywood's distorted — often downright violent — representations of women. The production opens May 28, 2016, at the Son of Semele Theater. The company presented Callaghan's *Roadkill Confidential* in 2012, and her work has enjoyed hit productions at several LA theaters over the past 24 months.

ABOUT THE PLAY: Agnes and Valerie are half-sister strippers on a rampage, screwing and killing their way across America. Or are they? Perceptions of reality shift with the arrival of Desert Storm vet Rodney and his best friend, a wannabe screenwriter named Owen, whose ambition and twisted fantasies seem to bleed into the sisters' story with help from an aerobicizing Jane Fonda.

Callaghan spoke of her inspirations for the play in an interview with *American Theatre* magazine:

"I think anybody who grew up in our generation has a complicated idea of females in media. We're aware people, but we're also fed on a steady diet of objectification. We're turned on by the sexiness of it, but we also sort of hate that part of ourselves that is turned on by it." Callaghan added, "Where do we start talking about it? And who do you blame? You can't blame the media, because we're participating. I think that's where the play lives. It is in that ambivalent space. I wanted to be able to start some sort of conversation."

That Pretty Pretty is directed by Marya Mazor, a critically acclaimed, award-winning director of theatre and film whose work has been seen across the United States. The cast comprises

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Son of Semele Ensemble members Betsy Moore, Cindy Nguyen, Tope Oni and Paula Rebelo, plus guest performer Will Bradley (Theater @ Boston Court's *Stupid Fucking Bird*). The design team includes **NEED NAMES**.

PERFORMANCES: Saturday, May 28 through Sunday, June 19, 2015

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays @ 8pm, Sundays @ 5pm

Monday performances May 30 & June 6 @ 7pm

Preview performances May 21 @ 8pm and May 22 @ 5pm

LOCATION/PARKING: Son of Semele Theater

3301 Beverly Blvd. (@ Hoover), Los Angeles CA 90004

There is free street parking in the surrounding neighborhood. Son of Semele offers a complimentary beverage with taxi, Uber or Lyft receipt/proof of ride.

TICKETS:

\$25 (no online transaction fees)

\$5 discount for patrons 25 years of age and younger (with valid ID at the door)

\$18 for May 21 & 22 preview performances

Advance online purchases at sonofsemele.org. The Son of Semele box office is open on performance days only, 30 minutes prior to curtain.

Sheila Callaghan's plays have been produced and developed with Soho Rep, Playwright's Horizons, Yale Rep, South Coast Repertory, Clubbed Thumb, The LARK, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, New Georges, The Flea, Woolly Mammoth, Boston Court, and Rattlestick Playwright's Theatre, among others. In 2010, she was profiled by *Marie Claire* as one of "18 Successful Women Who Are Changing the World," and was named one of *Variety* magazine's "10 Screenwriters to Watch" that same year. Sheila is currently a writer/producer on the hit Showtime comedy *Shameless* and a founding member of the feminist activist group [The Kilroys](#). In 2016 she was nominated for a Golden Globe for her work on the Hulu comedy series *Casual*.

ABOUT SON OF SEMELE ENSEMBLE: Son of Semele Ensemble is a Los Angeles-based ensemble theatre company comprised of 30+ actors, directors, designers, dramaturgs and producers. In its 15-year history Son of Semele Ensemble productions have been honored with two LA Stage Alliance Ovation Awards (nine nominations), five *LA Weekly* Theatre Awards (eleven nominations), four Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards, two SAGE Awards, and an NAACP Theatre Award (four nominations). The company is also nominated in six categories at the inaugural Stage Raw Awards, to be handed out April 25, 2016.

SON OF SEMELE ENSEMBLE MISSION: We believe the impact of a theatrical experience should resonate beyond the theater door. As an ensemble of artists, we integrate complex design and performance, producing theatre that embraces the friction between emotion and intellect. Through a process of discovery, collaboration and creative risk-taking, we illuminate and amplify universal questions. To that end, we make an earnest commitment to the artistic sustainability of the greater community.