

# JUST THEATER

For Immediate Release:

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JUST THEATER  
In Association with  
CUSTOM MADE THEATRE

***CRY IT OUT***

by Molly Smith Metzler

Directed by Molly Aaronson-Gelb

Bay Area Premiere

Aug 9 – Sep 1

Thu, Fri, Sat at 8pm, Sun at 5pm

**Opening: Monday, Aug 12 at 8pm**

(Previews: Aug, 9, 10, at 8pm and Aug 11 at 5pm)

at

Custom Made Theater

533 Sutter Street, San Francisco

**San Francisco**— Just Theater, in association with Custom Made Theatre, presents the Bay Area Premiere of Molly Smith Metzler’s *CRY IT OUT*. A winner of the ACTA/Steinberg Citation and the hit of the 2017 Humana Festival, *Cry It Out* is a hilarious, provocative, honest look at parenthood, class and the impossibility of “having it all.” Set in a part of Long Island where class lines and property lines bump up against each other, *Cry It Out* is the story of Jesse, a Manhattan lawyer trapped in the suburbs with her newborn, and her next-door neighbor Lina, a working class Long-Islander and college drop out. With nothing in common but baby bjorns, sleep deprivation, and nose fridas, they form a quick bond that reaches as far as their baby monitors will stretch. *Cry It Out* is directed by Molly Aaronson-Gelb, who directed Just Theater’s hit productions of *A Maze* and *We Are Proud to Present...*

It’s an appropriate play for Just Theater as the Artistic Directors of the company are now parents of a young child, resulting in the company producing fewer shows in recent years than it once did. Co-Artistic Director Molly Aaronson-Gelb said, “In addition to being a brilliant piece of writing, it’s also a deeply personal play. The schedule of theater-making isn’t always conducive to the demands of being a parent, and all of us who are parents and theater-makers struggle in some way to strike the balance that feels right. It’s an issue that the field is just now beginning to address.”

Artistic Director Jonathan Spector said, “I’ve been a huge fan of Molly Smith-Metzler’s writing for a long time, particularly the way she tackles class issues in a nuanced and complicated way. I’m thrilled we’re able to bring this play to Bay Area audiences for the first time.”

The cast comprises some of the Bay Area's leading actors including Martha Bringham, Justin Dupuis, Lauren English and Lauren Spencer.

## CALENDAR LISTING

**WHAT:** *Cry It Out* is a hilarious, provocative, honest look at parenthood, class and the impossibility of "having it all."

**WHO:** *Cry It Out* is written by Molly Smith Metzler, directed by Molly Aaronson-Gelb and the cast includes Martha Bringham, Justin Dupuis, Lauren English, and Lauren Spencer

**WHEN:** Previews for *Cry It Out...* are August 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> at 8pm and August 11<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

Opens Monday August 12th at 8pm.

Runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8PM, Sunday at 5PM through Sept 1st. (No performance Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>).

**WHERE:** Custom Made Theatre, 533 Sutter Street, San Francisco

**TICKET PRICES:** Ticket start at Advance reservations strongly advised.

**For more information go to [www.justtheater.org](http://www.justtheater.org) or call 415.798.2682**

### Bios:

**Molly Smith Metzler (Playwright)** is the author of *Cry It Out*, *Elemeno Pea*, *The May Queen*, *Carve*, *Close Space*, and *Training Wisteria*. Her regional credits include Northlight Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, South Coast Repertory, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Chautauqua Theater Company, City Theatre, PlayMakers Repertory Company, Geva Theatre Center, Mixed Blood Theatre Company, and more. New York credits include Manhattan Theatre Club (MTC). Metzler's awards include the Lecomte du Nouy Prize from Lincoln Center, the Harold and Mimi Steinberg National Student Playwriting Award from The Kennedy Center, the Association for Theatre in Higher Education's David Mark Cohen National Playwriting Award, the Mark Twain Prize for Comic Playwriting, and a finalist nod for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. She is a proud alumna of the Ars Nova Play Group, the Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group at Primary Stages, and the Cherry Lane Mentor Project. She is currently under commission at Manhattan Theatre Club and South Coast Repertory. In television, Metzler has written for *Casual* (Hulu), *Orange Is the New Black* (Netflix), *Codes of Conduct* (HBO), and is currently a writer and producer on *Shameless* (Showtime). Metzler was educated at the State University of New York at Geneseo, Boston University, New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and the Juilliard School.

**Molly Aaronson-Gelb (Director)** is the founder and Co-Artistic Director of Just Theater, for whom she directed *We Are Proud to Present...* (TBA Award for Outstanding Direction), *A Maze* (TBA Finalist for Outstanding Direction), *Down A Little Dirt Road*, *Take Me To The Bridge*, *Far Away*, *The World Is Round*, and *Three Plays About Your Mom*. Other directing credits include *Spring Awakening* (CenterREP), *Living Together* in the Norman Conquests Trilogy (Shotgun Players), the premiere of *Blastosphere* by Aaron Loeb and Geetha Reddy (Central Works), Aaron Loeb's *First Person Shooter* (Capital Stage) and *Oliver!* (Berkeley Playhouse). She has also directed for Crowded Fire, the SF Fringe Festival, and the Hangar Theater in Ithaca, NY. She has worked as an assistant director at Berkeley Rep, ACT, Cal Shakes, and The Women's Project, is a member of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab, and hold an MA in Performance Studies from Northwestern University. She is the

Drama teacher at the College Preparatory School in Oakland.

**Martha Brigham** (Lina) Stage credits include *The Resting Place* (Magic Theater) *Dry Land* (Shotgun Players), *Coming Of Age* (Jewel Theatre Company), *Leni* (Aurora Theatre Company), *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberly* (Marin Theatre Company, TBA Award Winner), *The Birds* (Symmetry Theatre) *Value Over Replacement* (Playground-SF), *The How and The Why* (Aurora Theatre Company) *Stupid Fucking Bird* (San Francisco Playhouse) *The Tall Girls* (La Jolla Playhouse), *The Cat and Squirrel Dialogues/ The Man in the Red Suit* (Secret Rose Theatre).

**Justin Dupuis** (Mitchell) has been an active part of the Bay Area theater community for over a decade as an actor, director, teacher, and fight choreographer, as well as a scenic carpenter, painter and props artisan. His most recent roles include Ezra Chater in *Arcadia* (Shotgun Players) and Scurvy Sam in *Judy Moody* and *Stink and the Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt* (Bay Area Children's Theater).

**Lauren English** (Jesse) credits include *The Baltimore Waltz* and *Why We Have a Body* (Magic Theater) *Talley's Folly* (The Aurora Theatre) *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Cal Shakes) *Lasso of Truth* (Marin Theatre Co.) as well as many roles at SF Playhouse where she is a founding member and Artistic Associate, including *Grounded*, *Cabaret*, *Our Town*, *Seminar*, *Reasons to be Pretty* and *The Glory of Living*. New York Theater performance credits: TACT's Off Broadway Production of *The Cocktail Party*, *Hamlet* at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, and *The Idealist* at The New York Times Theatre. Also in NY she worked at The Public Theater, Ensemble Studio Theater, Lark Theatre and Playwrights Realm. MFA, NYU Grad Acting.

**Lauren Spencer** (Adrienne) With Just Theater: *A Maze*. Other credits include *Rhinoceros*, *Men on Boats*, *King Charles III* (American Conservatory Theater); *Candlestick*, *H.O.M.E.* (Campo Santo); *Party People* (Berkeley Repertory Theater); *Anne Boleyn*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Marin Theatre Company); *Good Goods*, *The Late Wedding*, *Blackademics*, *Mechanics of Love* (Crowded Fire); *Romeo and Juliet*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* (San Francisco Shakespeare Festival).

## ABOUT JUST THEATER

Just Theater presents new plays that are smart, funny and unusual, with enigmatic narratives, distinctive use of language and big ideas. Our aim is to provide an artistic home to theatrically adventurous voices addressing morally complex questions. To this end, we develop unique new plays by local playwrights and seek out plays and playwrights from around the world who are pushing the boundaries of structure and form.

Since 2006, we have produced fifteen full productions (nine West Coast or World Premieres), three ensemble-devised pieces, and commissioned over thirty-six original full-length plays in our New Play Lab. We regularly partner with other organizations and have collaborated on projects and productions with Shotgun Players, Custom Made Theatre, Mugwumpin, Cutting Ball, PlayGround and Playwrights Foundation.

Our main stage shows have won TBA and Bay Area Theater Critics Circle Awards, and appear regularly on year-end critics' 'Best of' lists. Our production *We Are Proud to Present* was a finalist for four TBA awards (winning Best Director) and cited by critic Chad Jones as a highlight of the theatrical year under the headline "Just Theater blows us away. Again." Our production of *A Maze* was included in KQED's 'Top Ten Plays of 2013' and SF Weekly listed Just Theater in their 2013 end of year "Best Of Theater" list, calling the company "the talk of the town." *A Maze* was remounted in spring 2014 for a sold-out run at Ashby Stage in where Robert Hurwitt wrote about it in the Chronicle

as “one of the most talked about shows of the season.”

Plays commissioned and developed in our New Play Lab have gone on to be produced locally and around the country including Aaron Loeb’s Glickman Award-winning *Ideation*, Lauren Gunderson’s *Toil and Trouble*, Michelle Carter’s *Rose in America*, Andrew Saito’s *Mt. Misery* and Christopher Chen’s *Home Invasion*.