

ALLEY THEATRE

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Alley Theatre Kicks Off Season 80 with Summer Chills Production of *The Girl on the Train*

HOUSTON, TX—Tony Award-winning Alley Theatre and Artistic Director **Rob Melrose** announce the cast and creative team of *The Girl on the Train*. This adaptation by **Rachel Wagstaff** and **Duncan Abel** is based on the bestselling novel by **Paula Hawkins** and **DreamWorks Film** and directed by **Casey Stangl**. This modern psychological thriller follows Rachel, a woman struggling with dependency, as she pieces together her fragmented memories to find a girl who's gone missing.

"I'm excited to bring Alley's Summer Chills into the 21st Century," remarked **Melrose**. "Obviously, I love the work of Dame Agatha Christie and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (and you can see Agatha Christie's work later in the season with *Death on the Nile*); but it has been fun exploring more contemporary thrillers with last season's *The Da Vinci Code* and *Misery*. After the success of Paula Hawkins's novel and the movie that followed it, I'm excited for Alley audiences to experience this modern thriller live on stage."

Stangl, known for her boldness and creativity in storytelling, shared her insights on the production, "Who doesn't love a great thriller? I'm so excited to do my first show at the Alley and get to work with their legendary acting company. This train won't stop!"

The cast includes Resident Acting Company Members **Elizabeth Bunch** as Rachel Watson, **Michelle Elaine** as Anna Watson, **Dylan Godwin** as Scott Hipwell, **Chris Hutchison** as Tom Watson, **David Rainey** as D.I. Gaskill, and **Christopher Salazar** as Kamal Abdic.

They will be joined by **Emily Neves** (Former Resident Acting Company Member) as Megan Hipwell. Understudies include **Brandon Hearnberger** and **Molly Wetzel**.

The creative team includes Scenic Designer **Klara Zieglerova**, Costume Designer **Trevor Dion Scoggin-Bowen**, Lighting Designer **Elizabeth Harper**, Sound Designer **Paul James Prendergast**, Projection Designer **Yee Eun Nam**, Assistant Director **Brenda Palestina**, Fight Director & Intimacy Specialist **Alan Brincks**, Dialect Coach **Molly Wetzel**, Stage Manager **Kristen Larson**, and Assistant Stage Manager **Kaylee Sarton McCray**.

Advanced Photos: [Elizabeth Bunch as Rachel Watson. Photos by Tasha Gorel.](#)

SPONSORS: *The Girl on the Train* is generously sponsored by Connie and Roger Plank (Associate Producers). Alley Theatre is supported by the Season 80 sponsor United Airlines, the official airline of Alley Theatre, and The District, the official hotel of Alley Theatre.

TICKETS: Performances begin **Friday, July 24 to Sunday, August 30, 2026** in the Hubbard Theatre. Tickets are now on sale, starting at \$36. Discounted tickets are available for groups, military, seniors, educators and any student, regardless of age, with a valid ID for designated performances in designated sections. Tickets can be ordered online (alleytheatre.org) or by phone (713.220.5700).

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ABOUT ALLEY THEATRE:

Alley Theatre, one of America's leading nonprofit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts

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company led by Artistic Director Rob Melrose and Managing Director Jennifer Bielstein. The Alley is committed to developing and producing theatre that is as diverse as the Houston community. The Alley produces up to 11 plays and nearly 400 performances each season, ranging from the best current work and classic plays to new plays by contemporary writers. Home to a full-time resident company of actors and expert artisans in all theatre crafts, the Alley engages theatre artists of every discipline – actors, directors, designers, composers, playwrights – who work on individual productions throughout each season as visiting artists.

Alley Theatre performs at the Meredith J. Long Theatre Center which is comprised of two state-of-the-art theatres: the 774-seat Hubbard Theatre and the 296-seat Neuhaus Theatre. The Alley reaches over 200,000 people each year through its performance, education, and community engagement programs.

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