

Going to See the Kid

The Merrimack Repertory Theatre solidifies its Reputation as a Leader in New Play Production with a Holiday Play Premier by Steven Drukman

by **Emilie-Noelle Provost** *main photo by Meghan Moore*

What do the Boston Red Sox, Ted Williams, a pair of traveling journalists and the December holidays have in common? All four will converge in "Going To See The Kid," a heartwarming new play by New York University Tisch School of the Arts professor and notable playwright Steven Drukman. The play will premiere on Nov. 30 at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre in Lowell and run through Dec. 24. "Going To See The Kid" was commissioned by the MRT especially for the 2016 holiday season.

"The MRT wants to be a leader in new play production in the country," says Alexander Greenfield, MRT's director of new play development and the director of "Going To See The Kid." "We also wanted to give something to the community at the holidays." Merrimack Rep's artistic director, Sean Daniels, commissioned the play last spring, according to Drukman, a Massachusetts native described by Greenfield as a Red Sox "super fan." Drukman has



Director Alexander Greenfield runs lines with principal actor Veronika Duerr.

“Going To See The Kid” stars Merrimack Repertory Theatre veteran actors Veronika Duerr, Joel Colodner and John Gregorio. Tickets are available now for all shows at MRT.org or by calling (978) 654-4678.

the theme of the play.”
He wouldn't be what it is without Alex. He and I mirror. He unlocked the play for me with his great insight; it Drukman says. “He has been a delight — fantastic. “Alex was the student of a colleague at NYU,” before “Going To See The Kid.”
Drukman also has enjoyed teaming up with Greenfield, although the two hadn't worked together he says. “I wanted to be a part of it.”
“I was in New York and saw one of the MRT's press releases and was impressed with what Sean was doing.”
The MRT's commitment to producing new plays is one reason Greenfield wanted to work in Lowell.

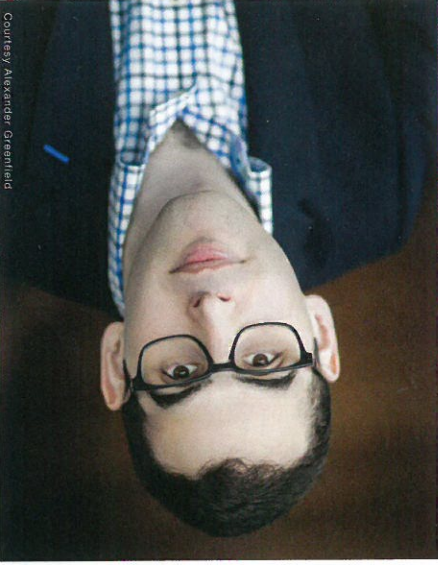
them cross class divides.”
intersection between baseball and theater. Both of play about them,” Greenfield says. “There is a great of his passions, so it made sense to have him write a interest in working with Steve. The Red Sox are one enjoyed working with Drukman. “Sean had a great on several on- and off-Broadway shows, says he has summer after working for a decade in New York City Greenfield, who joined the MRT staff this past experience great original theater.”

but would also provide an opportunity for people to a Christmas show that would not only be wonderful, Sometimes it's their first time seeing a play. He wanted to the theater only one time of year — at the holidays. our mission. Sean [Daniels] feels that people often go would have sold out for sure. But that wouldn't fulfill have been easy to do “It's a Wonderful Life” again. We director of marketing & development, says, “It would Kate Brandt, Merrimack Repertory Theatre's But why combine baseball with Christmas?

to reach a nice holiday sentiment,” Drukman says. [play] reaches across what appears to be a great divide Williams, the legendary Red Sox left fielder. “[The in an attempt to land a final interview with Ted a veteran and the other a rookie, who travel to Florida of the play, which tells the tale of two journalists, one “It's an ‘Odd Couple’ kind of story,” Drukman says November to oversee rehearsals and previews.

which premiered in 2011. He will be in Lowell in 2014's “Death of the Author” and “The Innocents,” film industries, and has penned several plays, including written for the New York Times and the television and

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~ Alexander Greenfield



Courtesy MRT

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