

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Internet's long memory subject of thoughtful drama

By Debbie L. Hochberg
Correspondent

The American Theater Group hits another home run with “Right to Be Forgotten,” a timely play by Sharyn Rothstein, which tells the story of a young man’s misstep early in life, how the Internet magnifies it – and his quest to have it erased so he could live a normal life.

Rothstein’s fast-moving snappy dialogue, along with Kathy Gail MacGowan’s clever direction and the outstanding cast are a perfect recipe for an interesting, complex and thought-provoking experience exploring the dangers of social media. The right to be forgotten is an actual term-of-art which refers to the right to have private information about a person be removed from Internet searches under certain circumstances.

The play opens with Seth Clayton as Derril Lark, a comparative literature PhD student, having a first meetup over coffee with a young woman, Sarita Imari, played by Leela Bassuk. This shy pair immediately convey the feeling of a young couple’s first awkward meeting - and yet we feel the bond these two are creating as they both realize they are each a bit on the quirky side.

We are drawn in by Bassuk’s delivery of Imari’s train-of-thought about every single thing she is thinking and feeling - which is funny and so real. We can also relate to the quiet, poetry-reciting Lark who is clearly beginning to be smitten with Imari.

All is going well and then as they discuss possibly getting together again – Lark reveals he has not given Imari his real name. At this moment the atmosphere completely changes and she is frightened and wants to know why.

He reveals that he once followed a girl around in high school, to the point that it rose to the level of stalking. He realized it was wrong and stopped, but not before the Internet was flooded with “Lurking Lark” and similar name calling. He said that now, even though it is 10 years later, if he had given Imari his real name, she would have looked him up online and never would have met with him.



Photo Courtesy of Lianne Schoenwiesner, Spotlights Photography

From left are Amanda Kristin Nichols as Annie Zahirovic and Chelsie Sutherland as Eve Selinsky in ‘Right to Be Forgotten.’

The story unfolds from there as Lark seeks out an attorney, Marta Lee, played by Maria Jung who agrees to represent Lark pro bono to go against the tech companies to try to erase all the negativity about Lark from the Internet. Jung is outstanding as the fast-talking, quick-witted attorney who wants to do good in the world – and yet also

make a name for herself.

We also meet the attorney who represents some of the tech companies, Annie Zahirovic played by Amanda Kristin Nichols. Zahirovic, it turns out, is Lee’s old friend from law school, and does not want her to proceed with the case, as it is not in the best interests of her tech-world clients. The two former friends are on

opposite ends of the spectrum in terms of one attempting to be altruistic and the other representing corporate greed. Nichols is terrific as the attorney we love to hate, as she uses underhanded means to try to stop the case from moving forward.

Zaven Ovian plays Alvaro Santos, the state attorney general who decides whether the case will be brought to court. We soon learn that he is married and having an affair with Zahirovic. Yes, the plot thickens.

Chelsie Sutherland gives a moving performance as Eve Selinsky, the girl who was stalked by Lark. Lee advises Lark to contact her to see if she will forgive him and testify in the case. Her emotions range from anger, to sadness to forgiveness and everything in between. Although her life was also made difficult by the events that took place in high school, she also became part of the problem as we learn later in the play. In fact, all but one of the characters in this play are guilty of some form of wrongdoing.

Within the framework of the overall theme of the right to be forgotten, this play also explores friendship, deceit and forgiveness. It shows that nothing is black-and-white and life is always filled with grays - even if it is not immediately apparent. The six actors in this play each deliver a stellar performance and although the subject matter is serious, there are many funny, tender and light-hearted moments.

The sets are bare, mostly consisting of tables and chairs, which keeps the attention focused on the action of the play, including the social media and newspaper headlines which are projected onto the backdrop of the set at various times.

“The Right to Be Forgotten” opened at the Jewish Community Center in West Orange last weekend and will be performed Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2:30 pm at The Sieminski Theater on the campus of the Fellowship Village at 8000 Fellowship Road in Basking Ridge. Tickets can be purchased at www.americantheatergroup.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE

WCN-LEGALS

BELLEVILLE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
CHANCERY DIVISION
ESSEX COUNTY

DOCKET NO. F-13118-22

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS

STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO:

GUILLERMO RIVERA
MIGUEL BONILLA
COUNTRY GOURMET FOOD INC.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon Fein, Such, Kahn & Shepard, P.C., plaintiff's attorneys, whose

PUBLIC NOTICE

address is 7 Century Drive, Suite 201, Parsippany, NJ 07054, telephone number (973) 538-4700, an Answer to the Complaint and Amended Complaint, filed in a civil action, in which WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO WELLS FARGO BANK MINNESOTA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, F/K/A NORWEST BANK MINNESOTA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR SACO 1 INC. MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 1999-2 is Plaintiff and KATHRYN RIVERA-HENWOOD, et al., are Defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Essex County and bearing Docket No. F-13118-22 within thirty-five (35) days after 06/15/2023, or if published after 06/15/2023, thirty-five (35) days after the actual date of such publication, exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, Judgment by Default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. You shall file your answer

PUBLIC NOTICE

and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Hughes Justice Complex, CN- 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the Rules of Civil Practice and Procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated 03/20/1992 made by KATHRYN RIVERA-HENWOOD, ROBERT HENWOOD AND MIGUEL BONILLA as mortgagors to EASTERN AMERICAN MORTGAGE, CO. recorded on 04/01/1992, in Book 6031 of Mortgages for Essex County, Page 0717, et seq., which said mortgage was duly assigned to the Plaintiff named above, who is the present holder of said Mortgage, and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 114 DIVISION AVENUE, BELLEVILLE, NJ, 07109, Block 7004 F/K/A 207, Lot 33 F/K/A 44. Advice would require a detailed and careful analysis of the facts and applicable law. Unless explicitly indicated in the content of this communication, we have not

PUBLIC NOTICE

made, and have not been engaged to conduct, that type of analysis in connection with any advice given in this communication. Accordingly, any advice rendered in this communication cannot be used for the purposes of avoiding penalties that may be imposed by the IRS. In the event you would like us to perform the requisite analysis and research to render an opinion without the aforementioned disclaimer, please feel free to contact us.

If you cannot afford or are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services Office of the County of venue by calling:
ESSEX COUNTY LAWYER REFERRAL:
(973) 622-6207
ESSEX COUNTY LEGAL SERVICES:
(973) 624-4500

YOU, GUILLERMO RIVERA are made party defendant(s) to this foreclosure action because you are one of the mortgagors and may be liable for any deficiency and for any lien, claim, or interest you may have in, to or

PUBLIC NOTICE

against the mortgaged premises by reason of the Mortgage made by you, KATHRYN RIVERA-HENWOOD, ROBERT HENWOOD AND MIGUEL BONILLA, as set forth above. YOU, MIGUEL BONILLA are made party defendant(s) to this foreclosure action because you are one of the mortgagors and may be liable for any deficiency and for any lien, claim, or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises by reason of the Mortgage made by you, KATHRYN RIVERA-HENWOOD, ROBERT HENWOOD AND MIGUEL BONILLA, as set forth above. YOU, COUNTRY GOURMET FOOD INC. are made party defendant to this foreclosure action because you hold a judgment/lien/mortgage which may be against the owner/mortgagors and for any right, title and interest you may have in, to or against the subject property. Upon request, a copy of the Complaint and Amended Complaint, if any, will be supplied to you for particularity.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE