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Blue Spruce Theatre Presents

## *The Last Five Years*

April 5-15 at the Arsenal Center for the Arts

*New local theatre producing Off-Broadway favorite for its inaugural production*

(Watertown, MA) Blue Spruce Theatre announces its production of Jason Robert Brown's *The Last Five Years* April 5-15, 2007 at the Black Box Theatre in the Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, Massachusetts. Performances run Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets (\$18-22) are available now by calling 617-923-8487 or at [www.bluesprucetheatre.org](http://www.bluesprucetheatre.org).

*The Last Five Years* is Blue Spruce Theatre's inaugural production directed by Jesse Strachman and music directed by Michael Kreutz. This contemporary chamber musical chronicles the five-year relationship of up-and-coming writer Jamie (played by Jeffrey Prescott) and aspiring actress Cathy (played by Alyson Van De Giesen) from their first date through marriage, infidelity, and break-up. Jason Robert Brown's touching off-Broadway score tells Jamie's side of the story from beginning to end and Cathy's in reverse, showing how couples fall in and out of love based on timing and circumstances.

Making his directorial debut, **Jesse Strachman** believes *The Last Five Years* "says mountains about the mistakes we all make in relationships, so if we're lucky, we can take something really valuable away from the show." The North Billerica resident has previously appeared with Wheelock Family Theatre, Overture Productions, Up You Mighty Race Theatre Company, and other local theatre companies.

Music Director **Michael Kreutz** has music directed at the Lyric Stage Company, Gloucester Stage, Metro Stage Company, Turtle Lane Playhouse, and for the gala Hard-Hat Concert at the Boston Opera House. Also active as a cabaret director and accompanist, he lives in the South End and teaches at the music theatre department in Emerson College and at his studios in Newton and Boston.

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Lowell resident **Jeffrey Prescott** plays the role of Jamie, the hotshot writer and charming husband to Cathy. The UMass-Lowell graduate teaches music in New Hampshire and has worked as an actor and director with numerous theatre companies, including Newton Country Players, Acting Up Theatre Company, and Bay Colony Productions.

Boston Conservatory graduate **Alyson Van De Giesen** plays Cathy, summerstock actress and Jamie's "shiksa goddess." A native of Old Tappan, New Jersey, Van De Giesen sings in a wedding band called "No Limit" and recently got engaged. She has spent the past two years performing at Tokyo Disney and sang back-up for Jai Rodriguez (*Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*) on the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Lighting Designer **P.J. Strachman** has recently designed Stoneham Theatre's *A Christmas Story* and Boston TheatreWorks' East Coast Premiere of *The Sweetest Swing in Baseball* and New England Premiere of *Gorilla Man*. She is the regular designer for Chamber Repertory Theatre and Stonehill College. In addition to the *The Last Five Years*, she is also working on *Into the Woods* for Stonehill College. Photos of her work can be seen at [www.pjelex.com](http://www.pjelex.com).

Community response to Blue Spruce Theatre has been overwhelmingly positive. So far, dozens of supporters from Boston, Cambridge, Brookline, Watertown, and beyond have volunteered their time, services, and financial support to make the show a success. "There's a real demand to expand intimate theater to areas outside of Boston, and people want to support that," Strachman says.

**Media review night is scheduled for Friday, April 6 at 8 p.m. To reserve a pair of complementary tickets, please email [press@bluesprucetheatre.org](mailto:press@bluesprucetheatre.org) or call 978-667-0512.**

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*Blue Spruce Theatre was created in September, 2006 to bring high-quality, intimate musical theatre to audiences beyond Boston. The mission is to produce works that connect us to each other as people and provide us with a better understanding of who we are, where we came from, and where we are headed.*