

THEATER

Prominent Producers Hope to Bring 'Indecent' to Broadway

By MICHAEL PAULSON AUG. 25, 2016

Two Tony-winning producers say they are hoping to bring to Broadway a production of "Indecent," by the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel.

The play would be the first by Ms. Vogel to reach Broadway. Also of note: So far the current Broadway season features no new plays written by women.

The producers, Daryl Roth ("Kinky Boots") and Elizabeth McCann ("The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?," who produced with Ms. Roth), said that in collaboration with Cody Lassen ("Spring Awakening"), they would present "Indecent" this season if they were able to secure a theater. (With multiple long-running musicals and record-level audiences on Broadway, there are more producers seeking theaters than there are theaters available.)

Ms. Roth said it would cost \$3.2 million to mount the show. "We loved the play so much and feel compelled to make it happen so more people can see it," she said. "I don't know that it is a commercially successful offering, but I wish that it could be."

"Indecent," which ran earlier this year Off Broadway at the Vineyard Theater, is a play (with music) about a play. It examines the controversy over a 1923 Broadway show, "God of Vengeance," that was shut down after the police charged the cast members with obscenity, at least in part because of a lesbian relationship in the plot. ("God of Vengeance," by Sholem Asch, was originally written in Yiddish in 1907, and

was performed in Europe and the United States before its abortive run on Broadway.) The producers said they aimed to bring it to Broadway with the Vineyard cast.

Writing in The New York Times, the critic Charles Isherwood called the new play, which was directed by Rebecca Taichman (also a creator of the show), “powerful” and the production “superbly realized.”

Ms. Vogel won a Pulitzer in 1998 for “How I Learned to Drive,” which has been produced twice in New York, both times Off Broadway.

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