



A Guide to the Play

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How to Use This Guide

Welcome to the Globe Theatre!

We are glad you are able to join us for the production of *Becky's New Car* – we hope this guide will enhance your experience, inspire thought-provoking discussion and increase your understanding of the production. Throughout the guide, we will introduce you to the crew and artistic team, provide background information on the production, a summary of each act and more. There will also be discussion questions and links you can use for further research.

Teachers, there will be a section of discussion questions at the end of the guide. You may choose to prepare your students prior to the production by giving them the questions to consider. Conversely, you can use the questions for a class discussion after your students have seen the play.

Please keep in mind that the content in this guide reveals key plot points and character information you may wish to experience during the live production. We would suggest reading the play guide after seeing the production, if you wish to avoid any potential spoilers.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email Ashley Seidler at ashleys@globetheatrelive.com

Enjoy the show!

Meet the Artistic Team

Valerie Ann Pearson | Director

Valerie is a Calgary-based actor, director, and teacher. She received a B.Ed. with a major in drama and a minor in music from the University of Calgary. Since 1979, she has worked in professional theatres across the country. She returns to the Globe after directing *Henry And Alice: Into The Wild* in 2013 and *Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story* in 2011.

Terry Gunvordahl | Set and Costume Designer

Terry has designed sets and costumes throughout Canada and the United States, but is bringing his talents to the Globe Theatre for the first time. He received his MFA in Design from the University of Minnesota

Tristan Tidswell | Lighting Designer

Tristan first worked at Globe Theatre last season as lighting designer for *Henry And Alice: Into The Wild*. He is a graduate of the Performance Production program at Ryerson University.

Lisa Russell | Stage Manager

Lisa has many credits with the Globe Theatre including *Henry and Alice: Into The Wild*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Shout Sister*, *Robin Hood*, *A Doll's House*, *Marion Bridge*, *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl*, *Death and the Maiden*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *Dogbarked*, *Just So*, *George Dandin*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Trying*, *Blithe Spirit*, *A Man For All Season*, *The Secret Garden*, *Honk!* and *A Guide to Mourning and Grace*.

Tracey Ferencz | Becky Foster

Catherine Finch | Ginger

Neil Foster | Steve

Neil is no stranger to Globe Theatre, having acted in *The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon*, *A Man For All Seasons*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Clean House* and *Death And The Maiden*. He also has several film and television credits including *The Secrets of Edenand*, *Dan 4 Mayor*, *Being Erica*, *Living In Your Car*, *Politics Is Cruel*, *Hello October* and *This Is Wonderland*.

Alexandria Hartshorn | Kensington Flood

Alex is a graduate of the 2012 Globe Theatre Conservatory Actor Training Program and made her Main Stage debut in *Pride and Prejudice* last season. She also obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting from the University of Saskatchewan.

Nathan Howe | Chris Foster

Nathan made his first appearance on the Globe Theatre Main Stage last season, playing Toto in *The Wizard of Oz*. He also played Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice* last season. Nathan is a graduate of The Globe Theatre Conservatory Actor Training Program (2012) and has his BFA in Acting from The University of Saskatchewan (2011).

Allan Morgan | Walter Flood

Tony Munch | Joe Foster

Tony debuted at the Globe Theatre in 2011 when he played Walter of Weybridge, Robert de Passy and King Richard in *Robin Hood*. He has several film and television credits including *The Mountie*, *Dolan's Cadillac*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Shoot 'Em Up*, *Puppets Who Kill*, *This Is Wonderland* as well as regular and recurring roles on *Strange Days*, *Naturally Sadie* and *Jett Jackson*.

Act One

The play opens with Becky Foster cleaning her house. She notices the audience and welcomes them to her home. She apologizes for the mess and explains that her husband, Joe, ran late at work and that her adult son, Chris, still lives at home and is relatively useless when it comes to housework. Becky tells the audience that the family needs a new house – a wish that her late friend Rita attributes to actually wanting a new husband.

The scene quickly changes to Becky's office. She works at a car dealership and it is clear she works long, busy hours. She has worked this job for nine years and cites the economy as the reason for her not being able to move to a more appealing job.

We are back in Becky's living room. She asks Chris to pick up pizza. After he refuses they begin to argue about what he is doing with his life – clearly a regular topic in the house. Chris turns the conversation around on her, using his psychology knowledge, and informs her that “generativity” – the point at which someone has the impulse to do something more productive with their life – usually occurs in middle age. He then poses the question, “Mom, what are you doing with your life?” Becky is exasperated. Joe enters before she can answer.

Back at Becky's office she is busy with client calls. Joe calls her and asks when she is coming home. He reminds her that it is past nine and it is just a job and she is just selling cars – another conversation that is obviously regularly had. Becky gets upset and hangs up. She is trying to appease Mrs. Tipton – a wealthy client whose husband has just left her. The woman has given all her money away only keeping enough for a manicure and a fully loaded vehicle. The vehicle is being customized and is not due to be delivered for a few weeks. Becky has promised to call Mrs. Tipton as soon as the vehicle arrives.

Walter, a wealthy businessman, enters the car dealership. Becky explains that they are closed, but Walter is persistent and explains that he needs to buy several cars for his employees. He is in a bit of a panic as he needs these employee gifts for tomorrow morning. He explains that he has been searching all day, but just couldn't find anything. His late wife was the one in charge of purchasing gifts. He lets Becky pick out pretty much everything and is very grateful that she has agreed to help. After a bit of discussion, the cars are purchased. Walter comments on Becky still wearing her wedding ring. It is clear that there has been a misunderstanding – Walter believes that Becky is a widow. She does not correct him. He takes one of her cards and asks if he may call her.

Later that evening Becky is at home, still working. Joe, clearly concerned about his wife's well-being, insists she go to bed and relax. Walter calls Becky's cell phone. She attempts to dismiss the call and get him off the phone, but right before he hangs up she has a change of heart. He asks to see her. The call ends without Becky answering.

The following morning Chris is up earlier than normal. He explains to his parents that he has met a girl, a runner, and it is obvious he is very excited about her.

Becky is back at work and Steve is questioning whether or not she slept at the office. This leads him to tell her about how he slept at the office numerous times after his wife passed. Becky is very short with him. Steve is persistent and it is clear that he needs to talk to someone, but Becky continuously dismisses him. The conversation eventually changes to plans for the weekend and Becky mentions that she might have plans on Sunday. Steve invites her and Joe to a fundraiser.

Becky finds audience participants and begins getting ready. She speaks to these women as confidants and they assist her in getting ready. Joe interrupts and informs Becky that he has filled her car with gas, packed an extra battery. He also tells her she looks “like a million bucks”. Joe believes that she is attending a corporate event for work. Joe gives Becky a key to an apartment that he has been working on insisting that she stay if it gets too late to drive back. Becky inquires as to why he is so good to her, which leads to her telling him that if he ever found someone else, she hopes that he would lie about it. She insists that she wouldn’t want to know. Joe tells Becky that he would want to know, so he could kill the other man.

On the way to Walter’s, Becky is edgy. She quickly realizes that she has left her cell phone at home. Walter calls and Joe answers. The two men have a conversation – Joe thinking that it is a work friend calling and Walter being left completely confused.

Act Two

Becky enjoys her evening at Walter’s cottage. She feels badly about lying to Joe, but justifies it on the thought that no one has been hurt. Becky’s courage increases and now, for the first time, she actually states that her husband has passed away. Walter is smitten with Becky. He suggests that they throw their wedding rings in the water, symbolizing a new life and a fresh start. Walter hurls his into the water; Becky feigns doing so and pockets hers.

Back at the house, Joe is chatting with Steve. Steve is distraught because no one has attended his fundraising event. It comes to light that Becky is at the “fancy shindig” that the company is throwing, and Steve is clearly confused as to why he was not informed.

Becky’s boss has offered a new job. It requires quite a bit of travel, but comes with a raise, extra vacation and a top of the line vehicle. After some discussion, the couple decides that Becky will use the extra apartment during the week rather than driving home.

The relationship between Becky and Walter progresses and she stays with him during the week. Walter’s daughter, Kenni, is also quite fond of Becky.

Steve confronts Becky. He believes she is having an affair with Buckley, the head of the dealership. Steve insists that he is going to blackmail Buckley to keep his wife from finding out. Becky attempts to convince him otherwise, but to no use.

Chris answers the door to the living room and Walter's daughter, Kenni, is there. This is the girl he has been seeing. Becky just misses "meeting" her.

Becky is beginning to get worn down. The double life is beginning to wear on her. Walter is pushing for more involvement in her life and Joe is suggesting a surprise visit to the apartment.

Steve apologizes to Becky for accusing her of having an affair. He has confronted Buckley and received a promotion and a major donation for his charity.

Chris asks Becky if she thinks that Joe is cheating. He mentions that the vibe in the house is different, and that Joe has increasingly been difficult to contact.

Joe is at Walter's cottage. He is giving an estimate on the roof. Walter decides to throw an impromptu dinner party. Becky's boss is there, as well as Kenni's new boyfriend. Becky immediately makes an excuse and leaves the cottage – just narrowly missing getting caught.

Walter and Joe both call Becky. Walter is on his way to the city and Joe is on his way to the apartment. Becky is at neither place.

Walter and Joe are in the family living room together, having a beer. Walter asks Joe if he is planning to kill him. Joe has clearly known for a while. Chris enters the living room. He asks Joe where his mother is, oblivious to Walter. Kenni enters and the young couple notice Walter. Their confusion is quickly forgotten by their excitement – they are getting married. The kids leave to go pick out an engagement ring. Joe convinces Walter to call Becky. They each call her from one another's phones and impersonate each other.

Becky is at her office, hiding. She notices that the car she received for her promotion has finally arrived. It is identical to Mrs. Tipton's. The client is on her way to get the vehicle. Becky inspects her new car and then registers it. Mrs. Tipton accidentally drives away in Becky's new vehicle. Becky has left her purse inside. Becky jumps inside Mrs. Tipton's vehicle and chases after her. She can't find her, but keeps driving anyways. She ends up in a motel room, 600 miles from home. After turning on the television, she realizes that Mrs. Tipton has driven her car over the bridge and is dead. The woman's body was not found, but the purse and vehicle were – both of which belong to Becky.

The family and Walter mourn Becky's death. Becky returns to the house. She apologizes to Joe who informs her Mrs. Tipton's body was found a few days prior. Joe hadn't shared this news with anyone else. He lets Becky explain the situation to everyone.

Joe and Becky stay together. Joe admitting that he'll likely never forgive or forget, but assures her that they will be alright. The couple ends the play by speaking to the audience together.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the purpose of Becky speaking to the audience throughout the play?
2. Becky's son, Chris, frequently refers to the psychological theories he is studying. Why do you think this is? Are his theories undermined by Becky's seeming distaste of his current life choices?
3. What is your opinion of Becky? Does her likability change throughout the play?
4. Why does Becky change her mind and go to Walter's cottage? Is she having a nervous breakdown? Is she unhappy with her marriage?
5. Why does Becky let her family think she has died? How would you react if you were part of her family?