

The Kid Grows Up: Decisions at the Sundance Institute



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Lives In Spokane, Washington



Neil LaBute grew up in Spokane, Washington. But LaBute was born in Detroit, Michigan. Growing up LaBute took a special interest in theater than later into writing and producing.

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Education

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LaBute went to collage at Brigham Young University in Provo

Status Update

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What the critics think about Neil LaBute:

" In his 2002 play, The Mercy Seat, a World Trade Centre worker contemplated running away with his mistress in the shadow of the 9/11 attacks, safe in the knowledge that his family would believe him dead. 'Some people said it came out too soon,' says LaBute now. 'They said I was making money from people's deaths. And I was like, 'Yes, I am'. Did they want me to wait three years? If I could have written the play six months earlier, I would have(The Independent)"". In this quote from website The Independent, really discredits the true nature of



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LuBute went to collage at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah were he studied theater. LuBute as did graduate work at University of Kansas, New York University; And writing workshops at London's Royal Court Theatre, and the Royal Academy of London.

Work Experience

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Neil LaBute writes in a rhythmic fashion. He also writes about issues like gender relations, political correctness, and masculinity.

Neil has been writing since he was in high school but his first movie *In the Company of Men* in 1997 and his most recent work is the play *The Way We Get By* which was published this year (2015).

Some of Neil's most recognized work is *In the Company of Men*, *Your Friends & Neighbors*, *Bash: Latter-Day Plays*, *The Shape of Things*, *The Mercy Seat*, *Reasons To Be Pretty*, *Filthy Talk for Troubled Times*, *Sixty Six Books*, and *The Way We Get By*.

LaBute has also won the Filmmakers Trophy at the Sundance Film Festival, Deauville Film Festival, the Independent Spirit Awards, the Thessaloniki Film Festival, the Society of Texas Film Critics Awards and the New York Film Critics Circle, American Academy of Arts and Letters' Arts and Letters Awards in Literature.

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The Mercy Seat



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In the exposition, we are in Abby's apartment where the whole story takes place. Ben is sitting on the couch fiddling with his phone debating about making an important phone call. Abby walks in with bags of food covered with dust from the fallen towers.

The rising actions promptly begin when Abby and Ben start to argue, this argument lasts the whole entire story with many different points. The main point of their argument is Abby wants Ben to call his wife and tell her he is leaving her and the kids and running away with Abby his boss.

The Climax for their argument is when Abby bullies Ben into making the important a decision about staying with his wife or staying with Abby. Ben confesses his love for Abby, he goes on to say he wants to be with her and save her from the misery of her job.

The falling action is when Ben makes that important phone call. He places his call and Abby's phone begins to ring. Panic sets in as she answers the phone. Ben explains he will spend the rest of his life with Abby but he will not choose Abby over his girls.

The resolution of the play is Abby getting her things and leaving Ben.

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This is a clip from The Mercy Seat. This clip does use profanity. Views desceshion advised.

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