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Michael French
Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator
College of Performing and Visual Arts
Southern Utah University
Office: 435-865-8667
michaelfrench@suu.edu

**SUU ALUMNA KEALA SETTLE
ONSTAGE IN *WAITRESS A NEW MUSICAL*
BY ACCLAIMED SINGER AND SONGWRITER SARA BAREILLES
AND ONSCREEN IN NEW FILM *RICKI AND THE FLASH***

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: She's serving up song with every scene as well as making her film debut nationwide. SUU alumna and Tony Award nominee **Keala Settle** is once again winning audience praise for her performance in *Waitress A New Musical*, now having its world premiere at **American Repertory Theater** in **Cambridge, Massachusetts, at Harvard University**. Based on the acclaimed independent film of the same name written by **Adrienne Shelly**, this tuneful stage adaptation features music and lyrics by the five-time Grammy Award nominated singer and songwriter **Sara Bareilles**, a book by **Jessie Nelson** and direction by Tony Award winner **Diane Paulus**, Artistic Director of American Repertory Theater.

In the musical, Keala plays the role of Becky, a hard-working waitress in a small town diner and friend of the show's heroine, Jenna, who dreams of escaping her loveless marriage through her expert pie-making skills. The musical, currently in previews, is scheduled to run through **September 27** at the **Loeb Drama Center**. For more information, visit <http://americanrepertorytheater.org>

In addition to her role in *Waitress*, Keala makes her big screen debut in the newly released film *Ricki and the Flash* which stars the Academy Award-winning actors **Meryl Streep** and **Kevin Kline**. The film is directed by Academy Award winner **Jonathan Demme** (*The Silence of the Lambs*) and features an original screenplay by another Academy Award winner **Diablo Cody** (*Juno*). For more information about the film, visit <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3623726/>

Keala Settle received a 2013 Tony Award® nomination for her performance in *Hands on a Hardbody* on Broadway. Her portrayal of Norma Valverde in the musical also garnered her Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations and a Theatre World Award. Her other Broadway/New York appearances include *Les Misérables* as Madame Thénardier, *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert* and *Violet* (Encores).

Across the country, she has appeared in the National Tours of *South Pacific* (Bloody Mary) and *Hairspray* (Tracy Turnblad). She has appeared as the Fortune Teller in *Side Show* at the La Jolla Playhouse and played the Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Ogunquit Playhouse. On television, Keala was featured on Showtime's *The Big C*. At SUU, she is best remembered for her performances in the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance productions of *South Pacific* and *Nunsense*.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The **Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts** is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as a graduate program in Arts Administration and the new Center for Shakespeare Studies. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and a Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration degree. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 550 majors in the College. Over 1100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College's affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Utah Shakespeare Festival and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, contact the Office of the Dean at (435) 865-8561, or by e-mail at cpvamktg@suu.edu.