



Director's Vision **Daniel Goldstein**

What is your vision for *Samantha Brown*? Tell us about your inspirations.

The Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown is about a high school senior who is taking the leap into the great unknown of adulthood and begins to struggle with the things we all struggle with—relationships with her family and friends, the future, her past, and her own mortality. Sam may be a young woman, but there are elements of all of us in her. And the specificity of Kait and Brian's writing makes her all that much more universal.

In terms of what you'll see, the design team and I took our inspiration from research of Sam's world, both Middle America suburban life and her fantasy life on the open road. I also take a bit of inspiration from my own daydreams, the what-ifs that play through your head, where you can live an entire alternate life in the blink of an eye. The speed and deftness of those daydreams is the language of our show.

**What plans do you have for working on your show at The Norma Terris Theatre?
Do you expect to make many changes during the rehearsal period or run of show?**

Samantha Brown has been developed for a number of years and every time we work on it we think it's finished. But what makes theater so magical is the immediacy of it. And in that way, I don't think we'll ever be finished with it. So we'll certainly be making changes. At this point, it will be all about continuing to clarify and specify Sam's journey, and Kait and Brian are the best there are at finding ways of making the already clear more meaningful and layered.

Tell us what the audience can expect to see.

You will see a beautiful and funny story with some terrific music (one of the best scores I've ever been privileged to work with) and an incredible cast that we are so lucky to have found. It's ninety minutes that will have something for everyone if you allow yourself to be open to the journey. Sam Brown is in all of us.



*Director Daniel Goldstein at the first day of rehearsals for
The Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown.
Photo by Diane Sobolewski.*

DANIEL GOLDSTEIN (*Director*) is the director of the upcoming Broadway revival of *Godspell* beginning previews October 13 at Circle in the Square, www.Godspell.com. Also upcoming: *God of Carnage* (Huntington Theater Company). As a writer, his musical *Unknown Soldier*, written with Michael Friedman, was developed at the 2011 O'Neill National Musical Theater Conference. Recent projects include *Artificial Fellow Traveler* with Ethan Sandler; *The Ride* (NYC); *Golden Boy* (Juilliard); *Annie* (St. Louis MUNY); *Clear* (O'Neill National Musical Theater Conference); *True West* (Williamstown Theater Festival); *Miss Margarida's Way* with Julie Halston (Bay Street Theater); *A New Brain* (Toho Theater, Tokyo); *Mary's Wedding* (Two Rivers Theater); a highly praised revival of *Godspell* at the Paper Mill Playhouse; Beau Willimon's *Lower Ninth* (Flea and SPF); *Walmartopia* (Minetta Lane Theatre); Kenny Finkle's *Indoor/Outdoor* (DR2 and SPF); Sinan Unel's *The Cry of the Reed*, *Falsettos* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Huntington Theatre Company); *But I'm A Cheerleader* (New York Musical Theater Festival); and Bathsheba Doran's *Living Room in Africa* (Gloucester Stage). He was Associate Director for *All Shook Up!* and *Fully Committed*, and Resident Director for the First National Tour of *Mamma Mia!*. He is a graduate of Northwestern University with a degree in Performance Studies. He and his wife Melissa are expecting their first daughter on September 25 and he is more excited about that than anything ever.