

## ***Waitress*: A Refreshing Take on the Human Condition**

- Maeve Reilly

On Sunday night, the curtain closed after what was the final performance for the Cambridge, MA run of the brand new musical, *Waitress*. The stage production brings the story of a young woman working at a diner, originally told in the 2007 indie film of the same title, into a new light with the fresh, lively, and emotional score composed by singer-songwriter, Sara Bareilles.

While Bareilles has been nominated for a Grammy, a judge on the TV show *The Sing Off*, and has achieved great respect in the pop world, this is her first time ever composing for musical theatre. However, with the captivating score of *Waitress*, Bareilles has exceeded all expectations. Between the enchanting and soulful songs and the heartwarming honest story, it is no wonder that *Waitress* has had overwhelming success, both in selling out all tickets and in receiving glowing reviews.

In a post-show Question and Answer session with the cast, Keala Settle, playing the role of Becky, explained that this show is special because it portrays the human condition in an authentic way; it shows that there isn't always the happy ending you'd expect, and that's okay.

*Waitress* tells the story of Jenna, a young woman who, despite her undesirable life circumstances, finds comfort in baking pies. The story is a mixture of humor, tragedy, love, and new beginnings all in one. This musical is not a fairytale with a typical boy-gets-girl type of ending, rather it redefines what it means to find love, to feel fulfilled, and to be truly happy, and that is why *Waitress* feels surprisingly refreshing, and why it has been met with such widespread appreciation.

After over a month of successful performances, the musical will be hitting Broadway this April. With both funny and beautiful music enhancing the story particularly the show-stopping, powerful ballad, "She Used to Be Mine" *Waitress* is sure to be received with just as much, if not more, love when it resurfaces in New York this spring. Through laughter, and maybe even a few tears, *Waitress* has and will continue to move audiences, leaving everyone on their feet by the end of each performance feeling as though they've experienced something incredibly one-of-a-kind.