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Thank you!
Director's Note

1976 was an interesting time in our nation's history. It was the Bi-Centennial year, an event celebrated with pride in communities both small and large across the country. At the time of this play, Gerald Ford's presidency was coming to an end: he would soon be defeated by the relatively unknown Jimmy Carter, who would become the first man from the Deep South elected President in more than 125 years. Alabama Governor George Wallace sought the forgiveness of Civil Rights leaders by renouncing his previous segregationist behavior and sentiments. There were many similarities to our current national situation: the economy was slow and unemployment was high; a swine flu outbreak terrified the nation, the most popular music was fun to dance to, but ultimately failed to communicate anything of substance, and high school girls everywhere went out of their way to destroy each other.

This play has little to do with national politics, but a great deal to do with politics of a different sort: the terrifying politics of women. I was drawn to this play in large part because the dynamic between the characters in this play feels very familiar to me. The girls in this play, each on the verge of adulthood, represent a reality that is still very valid. Their goal is to seek and destroy, to attain and maintain power whatever the cost. They have no qualms about knocking their fellow female companion down in order to climb the ladder toward higher status, and sadly, not much has changed. Any number of recent movies comically reflect this reality: Drop Dead Gorgeous and Mean Girls are excellent examples, each revealing that it’s not always men who keep us down – we do it to ourselves. But who’s really to blame? Women destroy each other on middle school, high school and University campuses across the nation, and they go on to do it in the workplace. As women, these actions make us responsible for a lack of equality. However, ultimately, women everywhere who yearn for equal rights have a patriarchal culture to blame; it is this very culture that teaches women, young and old alike, to destroy each other for personal gain.

I hope this production encourages us to take responsibility for our own actions by recognizing the humanity inherent in each of us. I hope it motivates us to grow beyond what we imagine we can be, to reevaluate the way we treat each other. I hope it provokes us to consider the individual contribution to the collective experience, and teaches us that we are not alone, that our experiences are relative. I hope it reveals the vast superiority of ‘70s rock to disco. And: I hope you enjoy it.

Special Thanks
Rebecca Easton and square product theatre