

IMTA ALUM HALEY BENNETT AND *THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN*

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The Girl on the Train opens nationwide on Friday, October 7th

“Movies are really hard to make. You put a lot of work into them, and you want people to see them. If anything, I’m just very grateful I’m getting to work on these big movies that everyone can go see.” –
Haley Bennett

Fresh on the heels of the release of *The Magnificent Seven* comes the next feature film on IMTA alum Haley Bennett’s list of 2016 releases. In *The Girl on the Train*, Rachel Watson (played by Emily Blunt) takes the train in to work in New York, and every day the train passes by her old house. The house she lived in with her now ex-husband (Justin Theroux), who still lives there, with his new wife (Rebecca Ferguson) and child. As she attempts to not focus on her pain, she starts watching a couple who live a few houses down – Megan and Scott Hipwell (Bennett and Luke Evans). She creates a wonderful dream life for them in her head, about how they are a perfect happy family. And then one day, as the train passes, she sees something shocking, filling her with rage. The next day, she wakes up with a horrible hangover, various wounds and bruises, and no memory of the night before. She has only a feeling: something bad happened. Then come the TV reports: Megan Hipwell is missing. Rachel becomes invested in the case and trying to find out what happened to Megan, where she is, and what exactly she herself was up to that same night Megan went missing.



The Girl on the Train is based on Paula Hawkins’s 2015 novel of the same name, an immediate best-seller that went straight to the number one slot on the NY Times list and stayed there for 13 weeks. It stayed atop the hardcover charts in the UK, where the story is set, for longer than any other book ever. It has sold an estimated 11 million copies worldwide in just over eighteen months since its publication.

“I had read the novel,” said Bennett. “I found it on a bookshelf in Louisiana while I was shooting *The Magnificent Seven*. I was excited because it was a perspective of three female characters, versus working with seven guys on *The Magnificent Seven*. That was the gateway.”

But even with the main focus of the film being on the female characters, Bennett said that all of the roles are strong characters. “I think all the characters manipulate each other – I don’t think it was a matter of gender.... That’s one of Megan’s character traits, manipulation. That’s a place she feels comfortable. She manipulates men – well, actually it’s more of a challenge. I think all these characters are culpable of manipulation, and the same amount of negativity. They’re all equally flawed, men and women.”



On her eclectic cinematic résumé – that includes thrillers, action adventure, romantic comedy, a musical and a western – Bennett has a very pragmatic view: “For any actor – not just talking about myself – but if you’ve been fortunate enough to work for a long period of time, there’s going to be different choices you’re going to make.”