

## LOUIS AND KEELY LIVE AT THE SAHARA ANNOUNCE FOUR WEEK EXTENSION DUE TO UNPRECEDENTED TICKET SALES

*Critically Acclaimed and Award-Winning Musical Extends Through May 24  
in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at the Geffen Playhouse*

**LOS ANGELES, March 30, 2009** — Similar to their namesake act that swept the strip in Vegas decades ago, *Louis & Keely: Live at the Sahara* is quickly becoming the hottest ticket in town. As such, the play, which was originally set to close on the last week of April, will now be extended for an additional four weeks. After lauded reviews from local media and a near sweep at the 2009 Garland Awards (production, playwriting, direction/musical direction, best actor/actress in a musical) as well as the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards (actor, production, director and music director), *Louis and Keely Live at the Sahara* has added 32 performances after nearly selling out its previously announced run. The musical, which follows the life and love of Las Vegas' infamous onstage couple Louis Prima and Keely Smith, will run at the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at the Geffen Playhouse through May 24.

Helmed by acclaimed Hollywood director/biographer **Taylor Hackford**, *Louis & Keely: Live at the Sahara* is a new production of last year's hit co-written by (and stars) **Jake Broder** and **Vanessa Claire Smith**. The play, which opened mid-February at the Geffen, won the 2008 Ovation Award for Best Musical, four Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards – including Best Production and Best Actor and is nominated for five LA Weekly Theater Awards – including Musical of the Year.

Originally developed by the authors at the Sacred Fools Theatre Company in June 2008, *Louis & Keely* has been substantially reworked for its current production at the Geffen. Hackford, who joined forces with Broder and Smith in late 2008 to guide the revision process, estimates about 40 percent of the script is different from the original production. This includes the addition of seven new songs – "I Wish You Love," "Hey Boy, Hey Girl," "What is this Thing Called Love," "Night Train," "Ai, Ai, Ai" and "I Can't Believe that You're in Love with Me," as well as new characters.

Creators Broder and Smith mine new emotional depths in the characters of Louis and Keely, and new cast members Nick Cagle and Erin Matthews play various other characters in the couple's story, including Old Blue Eyes himself, Frank Sinatra. In addition to the four actors, *Louis & Keely Live at the Sahara* features a seven-piece live swing band that brings down the house as the orchestra for the play and as well as Louis Prima's Vegas band 'The Witnesses.'

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**LOUIS & KEELY LIVE AT THE SAHARA**

An L&amp;K Production

By Jake Broder &amp; Vanessa Claire Smith

Directed by Taylor Hackford

Runs Through: Sunday, May 24th, 2009

**Cast** (Alphabetical order)

Jake Broder	Louis Prima
Nick Cagle	Frank Sinatra, Leon Prima
Vanessa Claire Smith	Keely Smith
Erin Matthews	Mrs. Keely, Louis' third wife, Various Prima dames
Crystal Keith	Keely Smith u/s, Female Swing
Michael Lanahan	Louis Prima u/s, Male Swing

**Design Team**

Choreography	Vernel Bagneris
Set / Projection Design	Joel Daavid
Lighting Design	Anne Militello
Sound Design	Lindsay Jones
Costume Design	Melissa Bruning
Production Stage Manager	Young Ji

**Musicians**

Colin Kupka	Sam Butera / Saxophone
Richard Levinson	Pee Wee / Piano
Nate Light u/s	Eddie / Bass
Paul Litteral	Hollywood / Trumpet
Jeff Markgraf	Eddie / Substitute Bass
Dan Sawyer	Doc / Guitar, Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute, Piccolo
Michael L. Solomon	Rocco / Drums
Brian Wallis	Jimmy / Trombone

**Performance Schedule**

Monday	No performances
Tuesday – Thursday	8:00pm
Friday	7:30pm
Saturday	3:30pm; 8:00pm
Sunday	2:30pm; 7:30pm

**Ticket Info**

Premium Stage Seating - \$65; Orchestra Seating – \$55

Tickets are on sale now at the Geffen Playhouse box office, online at [GeffenPlayhouse.com](http://GeffenPlayhouse.com), via credit card phone order at (310) 208-5454, at all Ticketmaster outlets, or by calling Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000.**ABOUT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE**

The Geffen Playhouse has been a hub of the Los Angeles theater scene since opening its doors in 1995. Noted for its intimacy and celebrated for its world-renowned mix of classic and contemporary plays, provocative new works and musicals, the Geffen Playhouse continues to present a body of work that has garnered national recognition. Named in honor of entertainment mogul and philanthropist David Geffen, who made the initial donation to the theater, the company is helmed by Producing Director and President of the Board Gilbert (Gil) Cates, Artistic Director Randall Arney, Managing Director Susan Barton and Chairman of the Board Frank Mancuso. Proudly associated with UCLA, the Geffen Playhouse welcomes an audience of more than 130,000 each year, and maintains an extensive education and outreach program, designed to engage young people and the community at large in the arts. For more information, please visit [GeffenPlayhouse.com](http://GeffenPlayhouse.com).

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