

BIG STARS TREK TO GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE FOR WEST COAST PREMIERE OF *FARRAGUT NORTH*

*Beau Willimon's Acclaimed New Play Featuring
Sex and the City's Chris Noth and Star Trek's Chris Pine
Replaces Previously Announced Production of Nightmare Alley*

Opens June 24, 2009

Los Angeles, March 11, 2009 – The Geffen Playhouse is postponing the previously announced production of *Nightmare Alley*, set to occupy the final slot in the theater's 08/09 season, and replacing it with **Beau Willimon's** acclaimed new political play *Farragut North*. The production, helmed by Tony Award winner **Doug Hughes** (*Doubt*), will feature **Chris Noth** and **Chris Pine**. Noth is best known for his longtime stint as Detective Mike Logan on *Law & Order* and on *Sex and the City* as Mr. Big, the steamy on-again/off-again (on-again) love interest of Carrie Bradshaw. Pine was recently seen in the Geffen's 2007 production of Neil LaBute's *Fat Pig* and stars as the young Captain Kirk in the upcoming Paramount film *Star Trek*.

"Two things happened at once," said Producing Director Gil Cates. "First, due to the economic climate, we knew we needed to make the fiscally responsible choice regarding the costs of producing a full-scale world premiere musical. And second, we were given a timely opportunity to do a second production of a new play that came with a great director and wonderful actors."

"We will present *Nightmare Alley* as soon as we've had the opportunity to secure additional funding," continued Cates. "In the meantime, this change is a win-win for the theater and our audience."

Set against the backdrop of a close presidential race, Stephen (Chris Pine) is a young press secretary working for a fast-rising candidate. With confidence and power beyond his years, Stephen is convinced he and seasoned campaign manager, Paul (Chris Noth), can steer this team into the west wing without breaking a sweat. But before the polls close at the primaries, Stephen's perceived invincibility is shattered as he falls prey to backroom politics and the manipulations of veteran operatives. With quick-witted banter and an inside look into the world of politics, *Farragut North* is a timely tale of hubris, loyalty and the lust for power.

Farragut North, which is a 2007 recipient of an Edgerton Foundation grant for New American Plays, originally opened at New York's Atlantic Theater Company in fall of 2008, also directed by Doug Hughes and featuring Chris Noth. The Geffen Playhouse production marks the West Coast Premiere and second production of Willimon's new play.

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The Geffen Playhouse isn't the only LA organization interested in this script; according to *Variety*, Warner Bros is developing a feature adaptation with George Clooney and Leonardo DiCaprio attached to produce.

In the meantime, the Geffen Playhouse production of *Farragut North* runs from June 18 through July 26, 2009 on the Geffen Playhouse main stage, with the official opening night on Wednesday, June 24, 2009. Ticket prices range from \$35 to \$74 and can be purchased at geffenplayhouse.com or by calling 310-208-5454.

FARRAGUT NORTH (*West Coast Premiere*)

By Beau Willimon

Directed by Doug Hughes

Previews: June 16 to June 23, 2009

Opening Night: June 24, 2009

Closing Night: July 26, 2009

Performance Schedule

Monday	No performances
Tuesday – Thursday	7:30pm
Friday	8:00pm
Saturday	4:00pm; 8:30pm
Sunday	2:00pm; 7:00pm

Ticket Info

Tickets (\$45 to \$79) are on sale now at the Geffen Playhouse box office, online at GeffenPlayhouse.com, via credit card phone order at (310) 208-5454, at all Ticketmaster outlets, or by calling Ticketmaster at (213) 480-3232.

Student rush tickets are available one hour prior to curtain for \$15.

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.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

Geffen Playhouse

10886 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles (Westwood), CA 90024

310.208.5454

www.GeffenPlayhouse.com

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