



NEWS RELEASE

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WASSERSTEIN'S LAST IS A WEST COAST FIRST AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

Multi Award-Winner Christine Lahti Leads Accomplished Cast Featuring Jayne Brook, Matt Czuchry, Sarah Drew and M. Emmet Walsh in Wendy Wasserstein's *Third*

LOS ANGELES, August 21, 2007 — With a powerful lineup highlighting women in theater, the Geffen Playhouse inaugurates its 2007/2008 season with two prominent female stage veterans: **Wendy Wasserstein** and **Christine Lahti**. The vehicle for merging these talents is *Third*, Pulitzer Prize winning Wasserstein's final play and a West Coast premiere opening September 19 at the Geffen Playhouse.

"Wendy and I were kindred spirits," said Lahti, who plays the role of Laurie. "We were the same age, we had the same sort of political bent and the same passion for women's rights. When I told Wendy during a New York preview of *Third* that I wanted to do it in L.A., she was very sick, but she seemed happy about it, so it's gratifying I get to do it here."

In addition to being the play's title, "third" also marks the number of times Lahti has played one of Wasserstein's leading ladies (her previous roles include Heidi in *The Heidi Chronicles* on Broadway and Lyssa in the television adaptation of *An American Daughter*). The Oscar, Golden Globe and Emmy award-winning actress leads an accomplished cast including **Jayne Brook** as Nancy, **Matt Czuchry** as Woodson Bull III (aka Third), **Sarah Drew** as Emily and **M. Emmet Walsh** as Jack.

Directed by **Maria Mileaf**, a New York-based director who also teaches at Columbia University School of the Arts, *Third* brings into question pre-conceived notions of liberalism and discrimination, all set against the backdrop of present day, red state versus blue state, America.

THIRD (West Coast premiere)

By Wendy Wasserstein

Directed by Maria Mileaf

Show runs September 11 through October 28, 2007

Previews: September 11 to September 18

Opening Night: September 19, 2007

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Cast

Jayne Brook	Nancy
Matt Czuchry	Third
Sarah Drew	Emily
Christine Lahti	Laurie
M. Emmet Walsh	Jack

JAYNE BROOK (*Nancy*):

Los Angeles: *King Lear*. London: *Dreams in an Empty City, Every Black Day*. Regional: *Much Ado About Nothing, Danny and the Deep Blue Sea, You're Gonna Love Tomorrow*. Film: *Kindergarten Cop, Gattaca, Bye Bye Love, Last Dance, Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead, Into the Heart*. Television: *Chicago Hope, The District, John Doe, Sirens, WIOU*(series regular), *Boston Legal*(Prism Award), *Sports Night, Everwood*(recurring), *Grey's Anatomy, Without a Trace, Jack and Bobby, NCIS*(guest star), *Doing Time on Maple Drive, My Mother the Spy, Dan Jansen Story, Trauma*(MOW).

MATT CZUCHRY (*Woodson Bull III*)

Film: *Hooked, Advantage Hart, Eight Legged Freaks, A Midsummer Night's Rave, Slap Her...She's French, Swimming Upstream, Em and Me*. Television: *Gilmore Girls* (three Teen Choice nominations), *Veronica Mars, Hack, Justice League, Jake 2.0, The Practice, Young Americans, Freaks and Geeks*. Education: The College of Charleston, History/Political Science B.A. Cum Laude.

SARAH DREW (*Emily*)

Broadway: *Vincent in Brixton*. London's West End: *Vincent in Brixton*. Regional: *Romeo and Juliet, Heartbreak House, Three More Gone, The Secret Garden*. College (University of Virginia): *Arcadia, Godspell, Uncle Vanya, A Chorus Line, Six Characters in Search of an Author, The Miser, Agnes of God*. Film: *Radio, American Pastime, Wieners, The Baxter, The Violin*. Television: *Everwood, Wonderfalls, Cold Case, Law and Order SVU, Daria, Reinventing the Wheelers* (pilot: ABC), *Saving Sam* (pilot: FOX). Education: University of Virginia.

CHRISTINE LAHTI (*Laurie*)

Broadway: *The Heidi Chronicles, Loose Ends, Present Laughter, Division Street, Scenes & Revelations*. Off Broadway: *Three Hotels* (Drama Desk nomination), *Little Murders* (Obie Award), *Landscape of the Body, The Country Girl, The Woods* (Theatre World Award), *Hooters*. Los Angeles Theater: *Three Hotels* (Mark Taper Forum), *Summer & Smoke* (Ahmanson Theatre). Regional Theater: *Cat on A Hot Tin Roof* and *Two* (Longwharf Theatre), *Moon for the Misbegotten* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *The Lucky Spot* (Williamstown Theatre Festival). Film: *Yonkers Joe, Leaving Normal, The Doctor, Running on Empty* (LA Film Critics Award, Golden Globe nomination), *Gross Anatomy, Just Between Friends, Housekeeping, Swing Shift* (NY Film Critics award, Oscar and Golden Globe nominations), *Whose Life Is It Anyway?, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Fabulous Stains, ...And Justice for All*. Television Movies: *An American Daughter* (Golden Globe nomination), *The Book of Ruth, Out of the Ashes, Open House, Women vs. Men, The Pilot's Wife, Judgment Day: The Ellie Nesler Story, Hope, The Good Fight, The Fear Inside* (Cable Ace Nomination), *Crazy From the Heart* (Cable Ace Award), *No Place Like Home* (Golden Globe Award, Emmy nomination), *Amerika* (Emmy and Golden Globe nominations), *The Executioner's Song*. Television Episodic: *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip, Jack & Bobby* (SAG & Golden Globe nominations), *Chicago Hope* (Emmy Award and Golden Globe Award). Directing: *My First Mister* (Opening film, Sundance Film Festival), *Lieberman in Love* (Academy Award for Live Action Short Film).

MARIA MILEAF (*Director*)

NEW YORK: *The Argument* (The Vineyard), *Going to St Ives* (Primary Stages), *Lobster Alice* (Playwright's Horizons), *Sakharam Binder* and *Monsieur Ibrahim and the Flowers of the Koran* (The Play Company), *Private Jokes Public Places* (Center for Architecture), *Hard Feelings* (Women's Project), *Tomorrowland* (New Georges), *Maid* (Lincoln Center Festival), *99 Histories* (The Cherry Lane), *Those Who Can Do* (Clubbed Thumb), *Laugh I Thought I'd Die* (PS 122) *Ha* (DWT). REGIONAL: *Sugar Syndrome* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *Underneath the Lintel* (George Street Playhouse), *The Unexpected Man* (The Geffen Playhouse) *The Story* (Barrymore Award for Outstanding Direction, Philadelphia Theatre Company), *Nervous Smile* (Williamstown Theatre Company), *The Heidi Chronicles* (Berkshire Theatre Festival). Maria recently helmed her first film, Chantal Biladeau's musical short, *The House in Capricorn*.

M. EMMET WALSH (*Jack*)

Broadway: *That Championship Season*, *Does A Tiger Wear A Necktie*. London: *Buried Child*. Film: *Blood Simple*, *Blade Runner*, *A Time to Kill*, *My Best Friend's Wedding*, *Straight Time*, *Free Willy 2*, *Narrow Margin*, *White Sands*, *Missing in Action*, *Back to School*, *The Music of Chance*, *Ordinary People*, *Clean and Sober*, *Brubaker*, *Canary Row*, *The Jerk*, *Fletch*, *Racing Stripes*, *Christmas with the Kranks*. Television: HBO'S *Mind of the Married Man*, *Home Improvement*, *X-Files*, *NYPD Blue*, *Frasier*. Education: Clarkson University and The American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Production Credits

Scenic Designer	Vince Mountain
Costume Designer	Alex Jaeger
Lighting Designer	David Lander
Composer	Michael Roth
Production Stage Manager	Dana Anderson
Asst. Stage Manager:	Chris Paul

Tickets (\$35 to \$74) 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 213.365.3500. Performances are Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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

ABOUT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

Awarded the *Preservation Award* by the Los Angeles Conservancy, the *Award of Excellence* from the Society of American Registered Architects, and the *Architectural Award of Excellence* by the Los Angeles Business Council for its acclaimed 2005, \$19 million renovation, the Geffen Playhouse begins its 12th season in 2007/2008, enjoying its stature as a leading West Coast theater company and the crown jewel of Los Angeles theater. Noted for its intimacy and celebrated for its eclectic mix of classic and contemporary plays, provocative new works and musicals, the Geffen continues to present a body of work that has garnered national recognition. Named in honor of entertainment mogul and philanthropist David Geffen, who donated one of the largest gifts ever made to an already-constructed theater, the company is headed by Producing Director and President of the Board Gilbert (Gil) Cates, Artistic Director Randall Arney and Managing Director Stephen Eich, and has produced eight world premieres, four Tony, four Pulitzer, and seven Obie-award winning shows in its 12 season history. Proudly associated with UCLA, the Geffen 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:

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