

## JULIE ANDREWS AND CAA HONORED AT ANNUAL 'BACKSTAGE AT THE GEFFEN'

*Carol Burnett to Present Distinction in Theater Award to Julie Andrews*

*Star-Studded Evening Co-Chaired by Ron & Kelly Meyer and Leslie Moonves & Julie Chen  
Raises Funds for Geffen Playhouse Education Programs*

LOS ANGELES, Feb 10, 2011 — Stage and screen icon **Julie Andrews** and powerhouse entertainment agency **Creative Artists Agency (CAA)** will be honored at this year's *Backstage at the Geffen* fundraiser, the playhouse's annual event which recognizes leadership in the theater community while raising awareness of the Geffen Playhouse's education and outreach programs. Ms. Andrews will receive the Distinction in Theater Award for her enduring and unforgettable commitment to the arts, and CAA will receive the Distinction in Service Award for the company's philanthropic spirit and generous support of the Geffen Playhouse. Ms. Andrew's longtime friend and fellow stage legend **Carol Burnett** will present her with the evening's honor; the presenter for the Distinction in Service Award will be announced shortly. The event, which is co-chaired by **Ron & Kelly Meyer** and **Leslie Moonves & Julie Chen**, will take place on **Monday, May 2, 2011**.

Each year, *Backstage at the Geffen* is a truly unique event. Geffen Playhouse Producing Director Gil Cates guides the audience on a virtual backstage tour with some of LA's most prominent performers telling behind-the-scenes stories. This year's performers will be announced shortly, but previous artists who have shared their backstage stories include: Annette Bening, Kristin Chenoweth, Ted Danson, Dick Van Dyke, Clint Eastwood, Brendan Fraser, Tom Hanks, Jane Lynch, Helen Mirren, David Hyde Pierce, Ray Romano and Martin Short.

This year's awards recipients represent a vital commitment to the performing arts. CAA has held a prominent philanthropic position in the greater Los Angeles area and across the globe by aiding causes with not only monetary support, but also building awareness of their needs amongst the entertainment community. A long time supporter of the Geffen Playhouse, CAA has aided the theater's education and outreach programs since 2002, which has been particularly meaningful in regards to the theater's student matinee program, an initiative that supplies Title I schools with transportation and tickets to Geffen Playhouse's main stage shows.

Julie Andrews has been a beloved and much-honored star of stage, screen, television and recordings for more than half a century. Ms. Andrews spent her youth in England as a stage and radio performer before making her Broadway debut in *The Boy Friend*. Her subsequent theater credits include *My Fair Lady* (NY Drama Critics Award, Tony nomination), *Camelot* (Tony nomination) and *Victor/Victoria*. Once established as a Broadway star, Ms. Andrews made her iconic film debut in *Mary Poppins* which earned her an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award and a BAFTA Award. Her other film credits include *The Sound of Music* (Academy Award nomination, Golden Globe Award), *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Darling Lili*, *10*, *Victor/Victoria* (Academy Award nomination, Golden Globe

Award), *The Princess Diaries* films, and most recently the *Shrek* films, *Enchanted*, *The Tooth Fairy* and *Despicable Me*, to name a few, and the list is still growing. Ms. Andrews received her honors as a Dame of the British Empire by Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II on New Year's Eve 1999, and she was a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Fund for Women from 1992 to 2006.

CAA and Julie Andrews join an elite group of Geffen honorees – including 2010 recipients Kristin Chenoweth (presented by Matthew Morrison) and Barry Meyer (presented by Clint Eastwood), 2009 recipients Leslie Moonves (presented by Mary Steenburgen) and Rita Wilson (presented by Martin Short), 2008 recipients Annette Bening (presented by Anjelica Huston) and Robert A. Iger (presented by Julie Taymor), 2007 recipients Helen Mirren (presented by John Lithgow) and Herb Gelfand (presented by Gil Cates), 2006 recipient Colin Callender (presented by Annette Bening) and 2004 recipient Karl Malden (presented by Tom Hanks) – each of whom have each been celebrated at *Backstage at the Geffen*, an event that has become known throughout the city as a “must-attend” night at the theater.

*Backstage at the Geffen* presenting sponsors include Audi of America, Los Angeles magazine, the W Los Angeles – Westwood and its acclaimed NINETHIRTY restaurant and Whiskey Blue bar, which will be the site of an exclusive pre-show reception and dinner by Executive Chef Dakota Weiss for honorees, special guests and the event's Host Committee. The evening will also include a silent auction, which will launch online at [www.geffenplayhouse.com/backstage](http://www.geffenplayhouse.com/backstage) on April 4.

The evening raises funds for the Geffen's education and outreach programs, which help bring the excitement of live theater to nearly 20,000 children, families and community members each year. The proceeds from *Backstage at the Geffen* help underwrite low ticket admissions to *Saturday Scene*, the popular theater performances for children; fully support the *Geffen School Tours* program that takes theater to participating elementary and middle-schools that have little or no resources for the performing arts; benefit CREATE (Community Representatives Engaged in Active Theater Education), a season-long, interactive exploration and analysis of live theater for community and social service groups, deemed a model program by the City of Los Angeles; and help support the Geffen Playhouse partnership with Story Pirates, a nationally recognized arts and literacy organization working to engage students in under-resourced public schools. Last year, the event raised more than half a million dollars for these theater programs.

### **BACKSTAGE AT THE GEFFEN**

Monday, May 2, 2011

7pm – Reception

8pm – Program

9:30pm – Dessert

Distinction in Theater Award – Julie Andrews, Presented by Carol Burnett

Distinction in Service Award – CAA

Geffen Playhouse  
10886 Le Conte Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90024

###