

BRYAN CRANSTON, GLENNE HEADLY
AND JOSH STAMBERG JOIN
ANNETTE BENING IN
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

*Special One-Day-Only Reading Sponsored by One West Bank Benefits
Geffen Playhouse and The Actors Fund*

December 10, 2011 at 3:00pm and 8:00pm

LOS ANGELES, November 22, 2011 — Four-time Academy Award nominee **Annette Bening** (*The Kids Are All Right*, *Being Julia*, *American Beauty*, *The Grifters*), along with three-time Emmy Award winner **Bryan Cranston** (*Breaking Bad*), acclaimed stage and screen actress **Glenn Headly** (who will be seen later this season on the Geffen stage in *The Jacksonian*) and *Drop Dead Diva*'s **Josh Stamberg** (who was also seen alongside Annette Bening in *The Female of the Species* at the Geffen), will appear at the **Geffen Playhouse** for a special one-day-only reading of *It's a Wonderful Life*. Helmed by LA director **Bart DeLorenzo**, this special evening sponsored by **One West Bank** is a joint fundraiser for the Geffen Playhouse and The Actors Fund, a national human services organization that helps all professionals in performing arts and entertainment. *It's a Wonderful Life* will be performed in the Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse on **Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.**

This adaption of *It's a Wonderful Life* captures the heartwarming holiday spirit of the classic film with the nostalgia of a live radio play. Bening, who is playing the role of Mary, will be joined on stage by a cast of familiar characters currently being read by Bryan Cranston, Glenn Headly and Josh Stamberg as well as a sound effects artist who will be using a time-honored bag of tricks to create the world of the play. The role of George and other remaining characters will be announced shortly.

The merriment will extend well beyond the stage for this special event – guests are invited to arrive early and enjoy the decorated Geffen Playhouse lobby, which will be transformed to reflect a slice of winter life in picturesque Bedford Falls (the setting of the classic film) complete with tasty holiday-themed treats. Pre-show entertainment will be provided by the a capella trio **The Chantilly Sisters** who will be caroling around the lobby singing holiday favorites and timeless tunes dressed to the nines in classic 1940s style. To further extend the

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holiday spirit, the Geffen Playhouse will also be partnering with **Keys for Kids Toy Drive** to help bring gifts into the lives of children in need, primarily through the **Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission**. The Geffen Playhouse is encouraging all patrons who are attending the event to bring a new unwrapped toy.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Adapted for radio on-stage by **Tony Palermo**

Directed by **Bart DeLorenzo**

Performances: Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 3:00pm and 8:00pm

Featuring: **Annette Bening, Bryan Cranston, Glenna Headly, Josh Stamberg**

(additional actors still to be announced)

Ticket Info

Ticket prices currently range from \$69 - \$93 and go to benefit the Geffen Playhouse and The Actors Fund. Tickets can be purchased online at www.geffenplayhouse.com, in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office or by calling 310-208-5454.

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 second productions, 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 was founded by Gilbert Cates, and is currently helmed by Artistic Director Randall Arney, Managing Director Ken Novice 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.

ABOUT THE ACTORS FUND

The Actors Fund is a national human services organization that helps everyone—performers and those behind the scenes—who works in performing arts and entertainment, helping more than 12,000 people directly each year, and hundreds of thousands online. Serving professionals in film, theatre, television, music, opera, radio and dance, The Fund's programs include social services and emergency assistance, health care and insurance, housing, and employment and training services. With offices in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, The Actors Fund has—for nearly 130 years—been a safety net for those in need, crisis or transition. Visit www.actorsfund.org.

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