

**GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE OPENS**  
**WEST COAST PREMIERE OF RED HOT PATRIOT**

**Kathleen Turner Stars in Feisty Molly Ivins Bioplay**  
**Directed by David Esbjornson**

LOS ANGELES, January 9, 2012 — The West Coast premiere of *Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins* opens at the **Geffen Playhouse** tonight with two-time Tony and Oscar nominee **Kathleen Turner** in the title role. Turner sizzles as the brassy Texan reporter whose liberal journalism skyrocketed her to the national stage. From writing Elvis Presley's *New York Times* obituary to becoming the most widely-read self-proclaimed "pain in the ass to whatever powers come to be," Ivins – often described as a modern-day Mark Twain – made rabid fans and enemies alike with her sharp-tongued humor and unabashed political criticism. Ms. Turner is periodically joined on stage by a "helper," played by **Matthew Van Oss**, who will be making his Geffen Playhouse debut.

Written by twin sisters **Margaret Engel** and **Allison Engel** and helmed by acclaimed director and Geffen alum **David Esbjornson** (Neil Simon's *Rose & Walsh* and Bill Cain's *Equivocation*), this acclaimed production captures the red-headed reporter's indomitable character by weaving personal anecdotes with her colorful take on national politics.

*Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins* had its world premiere at the Philadelphia Theatre Company, where Kathleen Turner originated the role. A subsequent production (featuring Barbara Chisholm) was produced by the ZACH Theatre in Austin. The Geffen Playhouse production marks the West Coast premiere.

Opening night festivities, which are sponsored by Audi of America and *Los Angeles* magazine, will be held at Napa Valley Grille in Westwood Village. The evening will feature culinary delights provided by Napa Valley Grille as well as a unique *Red Hot Patriot* themed cake designed by Montage Beverly Hills pastry chef Richard Ruskell with drinks provided by Malibu Family Wines, Smartwater and specialty beverages by Herradura Tequila and Krol Vodka.

**RED HOT PATRIOT: THE KICK ASS WIT OF MOLLY IVINS**

Written by Margaret Engel and Allison Engel

Directed by David Esbjornson

**Opening Night: Wednesday, January 11, 2012**

**Closing Night: Sunday, February 12, 2012**

**Cast**

Kathleen Turner

Molly Ivins

Helper

Matthew Van Oss

-more-

**Production Credits**

Set Designer	John Arnone
Costume Designer	Beth Clancy
Lighting Designer	Daniel Ionazzi
Sound Design / Composition	Robert Milburn and Michael Bodeen
Projection Designer	Maya Ciarrocchi
Wig Designer	Paul Huntley
Production Stage Manager	Mary Michele Miner

**Performance Schedule**

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

**Ticket Info**

Ticket prices currently range from \$72 - \$87. Contact the Geffen Playhouse box office in-person, via phone at 310-208-5454 or online at [www.geffenplayhouse.com](http://www.geffenplayhouse.com) for updated pricing and seating availability.

**BIOGRAPHIES****Kathleen Turner** (*Molly Ivins*)

Screen icon Kathleen Turner has garnered critical acclaim for her performances in various movies including *Body Heat*, for which she was nominated for a Golden Globe; *Romancing The Stone* and *Prizzi's Honor*, which earned her a Golden Globe Award for each; *Peggy Sue Got Married*, which brought Turner both an Academy Award nomination and a Golden Globe nomination; and *War of the Roses*, and yet another Golden Globe nomination. Turner's extensive film credits also include *The Man with Two Brains*, with Steve Martin; *Jewel of the Nile*, with Michael Douglas; *The Accidental Tourist*; *V.I. Warshawski*; John Waters' *Serial Mom*; *Naked in New York*; *Moonlight and Valentino*; *The Real Blonde*; and Sofia Coppola's *The Virgin Suicides*. Ms. Turner has also starred on Broadway in *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof*, for which she received a Tony nomination; *Indiscretions*; *The Graduate*; and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, for which she received a second Tony nomination. Ms. Turner had a major recurring role last season playing the role of Sue Collini on Showtime's hit series, *Californication*. In the spring of 2010 Ms. Turner starred as Molly Ivins in the world premiere of *Red Hot Patriot: The Kick Ass Wit of Molly Ivins* at Philadelphia Theater Center and immediately following that shot the starring role in an independent film called *The Perfect Family*. Ms. Turner recently starred on Broadway in *High*, and in addition to her film and stage credits, Turner wrote of her many accomplishments and life experiences in her 2008 autobiography titled *Send Yourself Roses: Thoughts on my Life, Love, and Leading Roles*, which secured a position on the New York Times Best-Seller List.

**Matthew Van Oss** (*Helper*)

Matthew Van Oss is brand new to Los Angeles from Green Bay, WI and is thrilled to be performing at the Geffen Playhouse. Favorite roles include: Howard Morgan in *The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial* starring Ed Asner, Mike Farrell and Sharon Gless with LA Theatre Works; Justin in *Sunlight in December* as part of the Bonderman Festival at the Indiana Repertory Theatre; as well as Nelson in *End Days* (world premiere) and John Boy in *With a Bang* at the Phoenix Theatre. Thank you to Phyllis and David for the opportunity – it's a dream come true! For more, visit [www.matthewvanoss.com](http://www.matthewvanoss.com).

**Allison Engel** (Playwright)

Allison Engel has been a newspaper reporter for the *Des Moines Tribune*, *San Jose Mercury* and *Pacific News Service* and was a Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University. She has also been a political speechwriter and aide for former Iowa governor Tom Vilsack and lieutenant governor Sally Pederson. In Iowa, she was active in the Des Moines Playhouse, serving as president and head of play selection. She has been a food columnist for *Saveur*, an architecture columnist for *Renovation Style*, and has written for many other national publications. She recently spent five years as director of communications at USC before becoming the associate director of the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities at the university. She received an MA in screenwriting from USC in 2009. She is married to Scott Kirkpatrick, and they have two children, Miles and Nora.

**Margaret Engel** (Playwright)

Margaret Engel was a reporter for the *Washington Post*, *Des Moines Register* and *Lorain Journal*, and was a Nieman fellow at Harvard University. She directs the Alicia Patterson Journalism Foundation and was the

managing editor of the Newseum, the museum for news, in Washington, D.C. She co-wrote *Food Finds: America's Best Local Foods and the People Who Produce Them* with her twin, Allison, and helped turn the book into a show for Food Network, where it ran for seven years. It appears today on the Travel Channel. She serves on the TheatreWashington / Helen Hayes Awards board, the Fund for Investigative Journalism and chairs the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism awards board. She and her husband, Bruce Adams, wrote three editions of a travel guide to America's baseball parks, with the help of their children, Emily and Hugh.

**David Esbjornson** (Director)

Premieres include: Edward Albee's *The Goat or Who is Sylvia?* (Broadway) and the *Play About the Baby* (Century), *The Ride Down Mt. Morgan* (Broadway) and *Resurrection Blues* by Arthur Miller (Guthrie), *Angels in America: Millenium Approaches* and the first staged presentation of *Perestroika* (Eureka), *Homebody/Kabul* (London), Neal Bell's *Therese Raquin* (CSC), *In the Blood* by Suzan-Lori Parks (Public), Albom/Hatcher's *Tuesdays With Morrie* (Minetta Lane) Israel Horowitz' *My Old Lady* (Promenade), Kathleen Tolan's *Memory House* (Playwrights), Ariel Dorfman's *Purgatorio*, and Kevin Kling's *How? How? Why? Why? Why?* (SRT). Recent work: *Measure for Measure* (NYSF Delacorte), Moira Buffini's *Gabriel* and Peter Parnell's *Trumpet* (Atlantic), Allison and Margaret Engels' *Molly Ivins* (PTC). Revivals include: *Driving Miss Daisy* (Broadway and West End), *Death of a Salesman* (Gate-Dublin), *Hamlet* (TFNY), *A Few Good Men* (West End), *All My Sons* (Huntington), *Much Ado About Nothing* (NYSF), *The Normal Heart* (Public), *Mud and Drowning* (Signature), *The Entertainer*, *The Maids*, *Endgame*, *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* (CSC), *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Summer and Smoke* (Guthrie), *Twelfth Night* and *Lady From Dubuque*., *Farmyard* (NYTW). David has served as Artistic Director of NYC Classic Stage Company and Seattle Repertory Theatre and is the current Chair of Theatre at Rutger's University.

**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](http://geffenplayhouse.com).

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