

## JON TENNEY MAKES *GOOD IN* DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE'S WEST COAST PREMIERE

*Tenney Joins Jane Kaczmarek in Good People  
at the Geffen Playhouse Helmed by Matt Shakman*

*Opens April 11, 2012*

LOS ANGELES, February 9, 2012 — Acclaimed stage and screen actor **Jon Tenney**, last seen at the Geffen Playhouse in David Mamet's *Speed-the-Plow* and best known as Agent Fritz Howard on the Emmy Award winning crime series *The Closer*, takes on the role of Mike Dillon in the Geffen Playhouse production of **David Lindsay-Abaire's *Good People***. Tenney joins the previously announced **Jane Kaczmarek** (Broadway's *Lost in Yonkers* and television's *Malcolm in the Middle*), in this West Coast premiere helmed by prominent local director **Matt Shakman** who is also the artistic director of LA's Black Dahlia theater. Presented by **One West Bank**, *Good People* begins in previews on April 3, 2012 and officially opens in the Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse on **April 11, 2012**.

Margie Walsh can't catch a break. Laid off from her job at the dollar store, Margie is faced with the reality that South Boston is providing her the same level of opportunity it always has: none. Wry, rough around the edges and ready to make a change, she goes to seek out the one who got away – both from "Southie" and from her. Instead, she finds herself in the burbs and out of her element, facing the question – is opportunity granted or earned? Nominated for a 2010 Tony Award for Best Play, Pulitzer Prize winner David Lindsay-Abaire's *Good People* takes an affectionate look at the 'haves' and 'have nots' through the eyes of characters who won't be ignored.

*Good People*, a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award, was commissioned by Manhattan Theatre Club (MTC) in New York where it had its world premiere in the spring of 2011. In addition to being nominated for a Tony Award, *Good People* was named Best Play of 2010-11 by the New York Drama Critics Circle, as well as featured on the 2011 "Top Ten" theater lists of *New York Magazine*, *Newsday*, *Time Out New York* and the *Associated Press*.

Special events during the run of *Good People* include the theater's special Signature Series performances for no additional cost. These evenings include an intellectual, thought-provoking post show Q&A at Talk Back Tuesdays; a scintillating, one-of-a kind after-party at Girls Night Out; a cultural happy hour with Lounge Fridays and complimentary wine tastings during Wine Down Sundays. For more information, please view [www.geffenplayhouse.com/goodevents](http://www.geffenplayhouse.com/goodevents).

### **GOOD PEOPLE**

Written by David Lindsay-Abaire

Directed by Matt Shakman

*Preview Performances:* Tuesday, April 3 – Tuesday, April 10, 2012

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

***Closing Night: Sunday, May 13, 2012***

**Cast**

Jane Kaczmarek                      Margie Walsh  
 Jon Tenney                              Mike Dillon  
 (Additional actors to be announced)

**Production Credits**

Set Designer                              Craig Siebels  
 Costume Designer                      E.B. Brooks  
 Lighting Designer                      Elizabeth Harper  
 Sound Designer                         Jonathan Snipes  
 Production Stage Manager          Jill Gold

**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 \$37 - \$57 for preview performances and from \$47 - \$77 for the regular run. 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****JANE KACZMAREK** (*Margie Walsh*)

Jane Kaczmarek has appeared on Broadway in *Lost in Yonkers* and in plays at the Manhattan Theatre Club, The Public, Second Stage, Long Wharf, New York Stage and Film, and the Berkshire and Williamstown Theatre Festivals. In Los Angeles, she has appeared in *Awake and Sing* and *Death of a Salesman* at LA Theatre Works; *Kindertransport* (Ovation Award – Best Actress), *Dinner With Friends* and *Raised in Captivity* (LA Drama Critics Award – Featured Performance) at South Coast Repertory; and *In Mother Words* at the Geffen Playhouse. Kaczmarek starred for seven years in the Emmy Award winning TV series *Malcolm in the Middle* (Emmy Award nominations, Golden Globe Award nominations, SAG Award nominations, American Comedy Award – Funniest Female Performer – TV Series, TCA Award – Individual Achievement in Comedy, AFI Actor of the Year Award – Female – Series). Other TV credits include: *Raising the Bar*, *The Simpsons*, *Felicity*, *Party of Five*, *Frasier* and *Whitney and Wilfred*. Kaczmarek is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and Yale School of Drama.

**JON TENNEY** (*Mike Dillon*)

Jon Tenney's professional career includes extensive work on stage, as well as in feature films and television. He launched his TV career with a guest-starring role on *Murphy Brown* and has been a series regular on several shows. He has had recurring roles on *CSI* and *Will & Grace*, and recently wrapped eight years on *The Closer*, starring opposite Kyra Sedgwick. Other television credits include: co-starring in the Showtime films *Twilight of the Golds* (co-starring Jennifer Beals and Faye Dunaway) and *Homecoming*, and appearing in *Crime & Punishment*, *Equal Justice* and *The Division*. Tenney has been successful on the big screen as well, beginning with his debut in *Watch It* opposite Tom Sizemore, John C. McGinley and Peter Gallagher. He went on to appear in *Fools Rush In* (co-starring Matthew Perry and Salma Hayek), Albert Brooks' *Looking for Comedy in the Muslim World*, the Western drama *Tombstone* and Oliver Stone's *Nixon*. Tenney recently co-starred in *Legion*, opposite Dennis Quaid; the thriller *The Stepfather*, with Penn Badgley and Dylan Walsh; and *Rabbit Hole*, with Nicole Kidman and Aaron Eckhart. He was recently seen in the comic-book action flick *Green Lantern* with Ryan Reynolds and will be seen this year in Max Mayer's *As Cool as I am*.

**DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE** (Playwright)

David Lindsay-Abair premiered his play *Good People* on Broadway last season, and was awarded the 2011 New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play of the Year, as well as two Tony Award nominations. His previous play, *Rabbit Hole* received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, as well as five Tony Award nominations, and the Spirit of America Award. David, along with composer Jeanine Tesori, was nominated for a Grammy and two Tony Awards for their work on *Shrek The Musical*: Best Score, and Best Book of a Musical. Prior to that David was awarded the Kleban Award as America's most promising musical theatre lyricist. His other shows include *Fuddy Meers*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, *Wonder of the World* and *A Devil Inside*, among others. In addition to his work in theatre, David's screen credits include his film adaptation of *Rabbit Hole* (starring Nicole Kidman – Oscar Nomination), as well as the upcoming features *Rise of the Guardians* (Dreamworks), and *Oz: The Great and Powerful* (Disney.) David is a proud New Dramatists alum, a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College and the Juilliard School, as well as a member of the WGA and the Dramatists Guild Council.

-more-

**MATT SHAKMAN** (Director)

Matt Shakman is the founder and artistic director of the Black Dahlia Theatre in Los Angeles, which was named “one of a dozen young American companies you need to know” by *American Theatre Magazine* and “Best Small Theatre” by Los Angeles Magazine. His work at the Dahlia includes the hit world premiere musical *Hey, Morgan!* (now in its fourth month); David Schulner’s *Forgiveness* (LA Drama Critics Circle nomination, Direction); Jonathan Tolins’ *Secrets of the Trade* starring John Glover (Ovation and Garland Award, Direction; GLAAD Award, LA Production); Austin Pendleton’s *Orson’s Shadow* (LADCC nomination and Garland Award, Direction), Richard Kramer’s *Theater District* (LADCC and Garland Award, Direction); and Adam Rapp’s *Nocturne* (Ovation Award nomination, Direction). He has directed several plays by Stephen Adly Guirgis, including the premiere of *Den of Thieves* and the West Coast Premiere of *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. Matt recently directed the Off-Broadway production of *Secrets of the Trade* at Primary Stages. Other credits include the NY premiere of Jamie Pachino’s *Splitting Infinity* (SPF), *Better Angels* by Wayne Liebman (inaugural production at the Broad Performing Arts Center) with Dustin Hoffman, James Cromwell, and Amy Ryan, and the Live Nation tour of *The Nightman Cometh* featuring the cast of *It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia* (Beacon, NYC; Palladium, Troubadour, & Universal Amphitheater, Los Angeles, etc). Matt’s television directing credits include *Mad Men*, *Six Feet Under*, *The Riches*, *It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, *House*, *Hung* and *Weeds*.

**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).

# # #