

THE PRESIDENTS GETS YOUTH ROCKIN FOR POLITICS

*Childsplay's National Tour Engages Students in an Election Year
Rocking the Geffen Playhouse Saturday Scene April 14 at 11:00 a.m.*

LOS ANGELES, March 27, 2012 – Arizona's nationally recognized youth theater company **Childsplay** returns to the **Geffen Playhouse** with a high-energy musical, *Rock the Presidents*, just in time for election season fever. Described by *USA Today* as "a blast of guitar-crunching, fist-pumping, lighter-flicking awesomeness," this production is all about cool and all about politics, getting young people pumped for the upcoming presidency. In a catchy pop-music style, this world premiere national tour is traveling across the country and will arrive full force to the Gil Cates Theater at the **Geffen Playhouse** on **Saturday, April 14 at 11:00 a.m.**

This rollicking, multi-media-filled musical revue of the 44 men who already have led our country reminds all kids that they too can become president! From George Washington to Barack Obama in under an hour, this high octane production features stories spanning the 223 years of the American presidency, brought to life by an all-original rock, pop and folk music soundtrack. With songs like "The Sons of Washington," a rock anthem honoring Washington's revolutionary idea of peacefully giving up power and the jazz-inspired "Who in the World is Millard Fillmore?" celebrating some of the lesser-known commanders in chief, *Rock the Presidents* is sure to entertain and inform the whole family.

Rock the Presidents is recommended for ages six and older and will be followed by complimentary snacks donated by returning sponsors Gelson's Market and Pretzel Crisps. Tickets are \$10 for children and \$15 for adults or can be purchased as part of a subscription (which packages three or more shows and begins at \$30). Tickets can be purchased through the Geffen Playhouse box office and online at geffenplayhouse.com.

In addition to this Saturday Scene performance, *Rock the Presidents* will return to the Geffen Playhouse on Monday, April 16 as a part of the **2nd Annual Gifted Day at the Geffen**, hosted by L.A. philanthropist and Geffen Board Member **Cynthia Stafford** to honor gifted students from underserved area schools with a day of theater education. And, with the help of the Geffen education and outreach team, *Rock the Presidents* will also visit (free-of-charge) **10 Title I public schools** during its stay in the L.A. area.

ROCK THE PRESIDENTS

Saturday, April 14 at 11:00 a.m.
Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse
Recommend for kids age six and older
Featuring Yolanda London, Eric Boudreau and Colin Ross
Book and Lyrics by Dwayne Hartford
Music by Sarah Roberts
Directed by Anthony Runfola

TICKET INFO:

Ticket prices are \$10 for children and \$15 for adults or can be purchased as part of a subscription (which packages three or more shows and begins at \$30). Contact the Geffen Playhouse box office in-person, via phone at 310-208-5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.com for updated pricing and seating availability.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

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ABOUT GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE'S EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The Geffen's education and outreach programs seek to make the cultural resources of the Geffen Playhouse available to all of Los Angeles' diverse communities. The wide range of programs focuses on serving populations in need from ages 3 to 100 through programs such as Saturday Scene, School Tours, Student Matinees and the theater's award-winning CREATE program.

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 CHILDSPLAY

Founded in 1977, Childsplay is a nationally and internationally respected professional theater company based in Tempe, Arizona that performs for young audiences and families. At Childsplay, we believe that young people deserve to experience Strikingly Original Theater of the highest artistic quality. Our respect for children's intelligence and creativity drives us to produce new and innovative works by theater's finest artists. Equally, our understanding of the challenges facing classroom teachers leads us to offer arts education resources to more than 300 Arizona schools each year. Since adding a national tour in 2007, Childsplay has taken its touring productions to more than 100 venues around the United States. In the past 34 years, we have educated and inspired nearly four million young people and families. We have grown to serve an average annual audience of 300,000 students, teachers, and families.

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