

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES AN UNPRECEDENTED EIGHT PLAYS FOR 2012/2013 SEASON

Three World Premieres Including a New Commission by Pulitzer Prize Winner Donald Margulies and an Adaptation by Neil LaBute

Playwrights Including Pulitzer Prize Winner David Mamet, Pulitzer Prize Winner Lynn Nottage and Olivier Award Nominee Joanna Murray-Smith Return with American, West Coast Premieres and New Productions

LOS ANGELES, April 13, 2011 — The Geffen Playhouse announces an unprecedented eight plays – five in the Gil Cates Theater and three in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater – for its 2012/2013 season. With an ongoing focus on introducing audiences to new plays, reimagined classics and emerging voices, the Geffen’s season features three world premieres – including a commission by **Pulitzer Prize winner Donald Margulies** (*Coney Island Christmas*), a classic adaptation by **Tony Award nominee Neil LaBute** (**August Strindberg’s *Miss Julie***) and a new work by **Michael Golamco** (*Build*); two American premieres – one marking the return of **Olivier Award nominee Joanna Murray-Smith** (*The Gift*) and the other a riotous British import by **Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn** (*Yes, Prime Minister*); two West Coast premieres – including **Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage’s** new work (*By the Way, Meet Vera Stark*) and comedienne **Judy Gold’s** acclaimed off-Broadway memoir (*The Judy Show*); and a brand new production of **David Mamet’s** defining work *American Buffalo* helmed by **Geffen Playhouse Artistic Director Randall Arney**.

In addition to Arney, the Geffen is hosting three returning directors including **Obie Award winner Jo Bonney** who will helm Nottage’s *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark*, L.A. favorite **Bart DeLorenzo** who will helm Margulies’ commission and **Neil LaBute**, who will be directing his own adaptation. Internationally acclaimed directors **Maria Aitken** and **Jonathan Lynn** will make their Geffen debut helming Murray-Smith’s *The Gift* and *Yes, Prime Minister*, respectively, along with **Will Frears** who will direct Golamco’s world premiere *Build* in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater.

“Every year we read dozens of scripts that move and inspire us, and this season I think we have selected eight remarkable shows that together promise something exciting for everyone,” said **Artistic Director Randall Arney**.

“With world premieres as well as classics that encompass social satire both serious and hilarious, this season welcomes back old friends and introduces new voices in a way that’s designed to enlighten and, of course, entertain.”

The complete Geffen Playhouse 2012-2013 season includes:

-more-

By the Way, Meet Vera Stark (West Coast Premiere)

Written by: Lynn Nottage

Directed by: Jo Bonney

Run: September 18 – October 28, 2012

Opening Night: September 26, 2012

It's Hollywood's heyday and the streets of Los Angeles are filled with glitz, glamour and the chance at stardom – that is as long as you have the "right" look. But when former maid Vera Stark lands a groundbreaking role in a new Southern epic, she turns Hollywood on its head and paves the way for future generations of black actresses. More than five decades later, Vera's influence on race, film and feminism has seeped its way into pop-culture. But who is the real Vera Stark? Part comedy and part commentary, Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage's West Coast premiere uses today's fascination with celebrity and controversy to get to the truth behind the legend.

Coney Island Christmas (World Premiere Commission)

Written by: Donald Margulies

Directed by: Bart DeLorenzo

Based on the short story "The Loudest Voice" by Grace Paley

Run: November 20 – December 30, 2012

Opening Night: November 28, 2012

Pulitzer Prize winner Donald Margulies weaves together nostalgia, music and merriment in the world premiere of this new seasonal classic. A holiday show for people of all ages and all faiths, *Coney Island Christmas* introduces us to Shirley Abramowitz, a young Jewish girl who (much to her immigrant parents' exasperation) is cast as Jesus in the school's Christmas pageant. As Shirley, now much older, recounts the memorable story to her great-granddaughter, the play captures a timeless and universal tale of what it means to be an American during the holidays.

The Gift (American Premiere)

Written by: Joanna Murray-Smith

Directed by: Maria Aitken

Run: January 29 – March 10, 2013

Opening Night: February 6, 2013

Acclaimed Australian playwright Joanna Murray-Smith brings this comedic American premiere to the Geffen Playhouse. When two couples meet while vacationing at a ritzy resort, they instantly transition from strangers to the best of friends. Despite their almost comical differences – Ed and Sadie are middle-aged, rich and traditional, while Martin and Chloe are young artists glowing with their potential to change the world – they find themselves spending the rest of their week together. When one seemingly inconsequential event throws both their lives into a tailspin, the couples find themselves wrestling with a moral dilemma: while it's human nature to want what you don't have, is it unnatural to abandon something that you do? This provocative new work draws audiences in with a beguiling hilarity that gives way to an unsettling twist, posing searing questions rather than providing comfortable answers.

-more-

American Buffalo

Written by: David Mamet

Directed by: Randall Arney

Run: April 2 – May 12, 2013

Opening Night: April 10, 2013

One of Pulitzer Prize winner David Mamet's defining works, *American Buffalo* was instantly hailed as a new American classic when it opened on Broadway in 1975. Now, Geffen Playhouse Artistic Director Randall Arney takes a fresh look at these misguided misfits who are a little out of luck and way out of their league as they plot the theft of a rare coin collection. As the time of the heist approaches, tension and anticipation build revealing loyalties and testing friendships. Negotiating explosive humor, frenetic energy and surprising tenderness, this play, which has not had a major Los Angeles production in more than a decade, promises a mesmerizing night whether seeing it for the first time or rediscovering this groundbreaking work.

Yes, Prime Minister (American Premiere)

Written by: Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn

Directed by: Jonathan Lynn

Run: June 4 – July 14, 2013

Opening Night: June 12, 2013

Join the Prime Minister and an always hilarious cast of characters, ranging from the scheming Cabinet Secretary, the morally confused Principal Private Secretary and the beautiful but ruthless Head of the PM's Policy Unit as they lurch from crisis to crisis, trying to survive a disastrous weekend that teeters on the edge of catastrophe despite their best (and worst) intentions. Will they manage to save the Euro from collapsing, resolve the energy crisis, solve the debt crisis, hide an embarrassing illegal immigrant, control the media and avoid public humiliation? Brits and Yanks alike can bank on the laughs in the American premiere of this uproarious satire fresh from an acclaimed West End run.

THE AUDREY SKIRBALL KENIS THEATER AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

Build (World Premiere)

Written by: Michael Golumco

Directed by: Will Frears

Run: October 9 – November 18, 2012

Opening Night: October 24, 2012

Kip and Will became Silicon Valley legends after the viral success of their blockbuster video game. But success has driven them apart: Will has become a suit obsessed with the bottom line, and the death of his wife has turned Kip into a total recluse. Now they've been thrown back together in a high-stakes gamble to complete and ship a new multi-billion dollar game; but as Will re-enters Kip's life, he realizes that his old friend has built a whole other world – complete with an artificial intelligence to whom Kip escapes to ease his loss. Now Will and Kip must work to resolve their differences, confront the past and face the fact that technology's brave new world often leaves us with little else but a yearning for the old one.

-more-

***Miss Julie* (World Premiere)**

Written by: August Strindberg

Adapted and Directed by: Neil LaBute

Run: February 26 – April 7, 2013

Opening Night: March 6, 2013

August Strindberg's classic play about sex, greed and manipulation is adapted by the modern master of such tantalizing topics: Neil LaBute. This scandalous turn of the century play that chronicles the night-long flirtation and seduction between the wealthy lady of the house and one of her father's footmen was banned in Britain until 1936. Set in its original time and place and featuring one of theater's most commanding female characters, this world premiere adaptation couples provocateurs Strindberg and LaBute to capture the timeless consequences of passion and power.

***The Judy Show – My Life as a Sitcom* (West Coast Premiere)**

Starring Judy Gold

Written by Judy Gold & Kate Moira Ryan

Directed by Amanda Charlton

In Association with Daryl Roth and Eva Price

Run: May 7 – June 16, 2013

Opening Night: May 15, 2013

Judy Gold has always dreamt big. Maybe because she is BIG (and by that, we mean tall). This six foot three inch Jewish mother of two is bringing her big, critically acclaimed off-Broadway hit to LA. A nonstop 90-minute ride, *The Judy Show* is Gold's chance to broadcast her hilarious life story through the sitcoms we all knew and loved. As an awkward kid growing up in New Jersey, Gold has fantasies of running away to *The Brady Bunch* house or climbing aboard the *The Partridge Family* bus, all while unabashedly recounting the mix of riotous, touching and otherwise embarrassing moments that taught her *The Facts of Life*. Infused with pop-culture references as well as her signature irreverent humor, *The Judy Show* covers life, love, showbiz and ultimately her quest for her very own show - all in a way that might make *Rhoda* proud.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

Geffen Playhouse
10886 Le Conte Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024
310.208.5454
www.geffenplayhouse.com

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. Honored with more than 40 regional theater awards, the playhouse is also a proud recipient of grants from the Edgerton New American Play Foundation and the Steinberg Charitable Trust, enabling the theater to continue contributing to the cultural canon by commissioning new works. 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.