

## COME EARLY, STAY LATE AND BE SURE TO MEET VERA STARK

*Talk Back Tuesdays, Girls Night Out, Lounge Fridays and Wine Down Sundays  
Enhance the Run of *By the Way*, Meet Vera Stark at the Geffen Playhouse*

**LOS ANGELES, September 25, 2012** — As Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage's West Coast premiere introduces us to the legendary Vera Stark, the Geffen Playhouse invites patrons to stick around in old Hollywood a little longer with the theater's Signature Series. The Signature Series for *By the Way*, *Meet Vera Stark* features unique special events at no additional cost and includes:

### **Talk Back Tuesdays – October 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2012**

Talk Back Tuesdays give theater lovers with a thirst for deeper conversation a chance to discuss plot, character, themes or any other questions they might have directly with the artists themselves. This stimulating series includes pre-show beverages, compliments of **Peet's Coffee & Tea**, as well as a chance to interact with the actors – and the occasional playwright or director – when they come out on stage after the show and take questions from the audience. These thought-provoking evenings are moderated by a member of the Geffen Playhouse artistic staff.

### **Girls Night Out – October 4, 2012**

Everyone knows that girls just wanna have fun, and this Signature Series was designed with that in mind; although of course, gentlemen are welcome to join as well. Grab friends or bring a date and turn your ordinary Thursday evening into a scintillating, one-of-a-kind night out. Join us post-play in the "Fall into Fashion" lounge by **Bloomington's Sherman Oaks** and meet their fashion experts for the best advice this season! In addition, fashion illustrator and designer **Simone Elum** will be offering complimentary fashion illustrations, so wear your finest vintage ensemble to be captured in a whimsical and creative keepsake. The fun continues with our photo booth, delicious buffets, **Tito's Handmade Vodka** signature cocktails, **Martian Ranch & Vineyard** wine bar and take-away gift from **Pixi Beauty!**

### **Lounge Fridays – October 12 and 19, 2012**

Ease into your weekend with an enticing cultural happy hour, hosted by **LAArtsOnline.com!** Enjoy tray passed champagne and sparkling cider in the Gil Cates Theater lobby during this festive, pre-show reception.

### **Wine Down Sundays – September 30, October 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2012**

Marvelous ambiance enhances the mood Sunday nights with complimentary pre-show wine tastings in the Gil Cates Theater lobby courtesy of Peju, a hidden gem in the heart of Napa Valley. Wine Down Sundays are sponsored by **The Sound 100.3 FM.**

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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, Nottage's West Coast premiere, helmed by Jo Bonney, uses today's fascination with celebrity and controversy to get to the truth behind the legend.

*By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* had its world premiere in 2011 at Second Stage Theatre in New York. The Geffen Playhouse production marks the West Coast premiere.

For more information in regards to each of these signature evenings please view:  
[www.geffenplayhouse.com/meetvera](http://www.geffenplayhouse.com/meetvera).

#### **Ticket Info**

Ticket prices currently range from \$47 to \$77. Tickets are available in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, via phone at 310-208-5454 or online at [www.geffenplayhouse.com](http://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. 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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