

**RON ELDARD, FREDDY RODRIGUEZ
AND BILL SMITROVICH
SET FOR AMERICAN BUFFALO BY DAVID MAMET**

*Production helmed by Geffen Playhouse Artistic Director Randall Arney
Opening Night Wednesday, April 10
Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse*

LOS ANGELES, March 8, 2013 – **Ron Eldard** (*Justified*, *ER*), **Freddy Rodriguez** (Rico in *Six Feet Under*) and **Bill Smitrovich** (Drew Thatcher in *Life Goes On*) are set to appear in *American Buffalo*, a revival of **David Mamet's** American classic.

The production is directed by Geffen Playhouse Artistic Director **Randall Arney**, whose previous work at the theater includes *Superior Donuts* by Tracy Letts, *Speed-the-Plow* by David Mamet, *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller, *Take Me Out* by Richard Greenberg, *Boy Gets Girl* by Rebecca Gilman, and David Rambo's *God's Man in Texas* by David Rambo.

American Buffalo begins previews in the Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse on Tuesday, April 2, with the official opening on Wednesday, April 10. Tickets are available in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, via phone at 310-208-5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.com.

One of Pulitzer Prize winner, and Tony and Oscar nominee David Mamet's defining works, *American Buffalo* was instantly hailed as a new American classic when it opened on Broadway in 1977. *The New York Times* reviewer Frank Rich said it was "one of the best America plays of the last decade."

Now, 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 promises a mesmerizing night whether seeing it for the first time or rediscovering this groundbreaking work.

Ron Eldard is making his Geffen Playhouse debut. Other theater credits include the Broadway productions of *On the Waterfront*, *Doubt* and *Death of A Salesman*. The latter of which, along with Neil LaBute's *Bash: Latter Day Plays*, was filmed by Showtime.

This is **Freddy Rodriguez'** Los Angeles stage debut. He earned an Emmy nomination, two SAG Awards, and numerous Alma, Nosotros and Imagen Awards, for the critically acclaimed HBO series, *Six Feet Under*. He is also known for playing El Wray in Robert Rodriguez's *Planet Terror* segment from *Grindhouse*. Recently, he was a recurring cast member on the series *Ugly Betty* as Giovanni "Gio" Rossi.

Bill Smitrovich began his professional stage career in the world premiere of Arthur Miller's *The American Clock*, directed by Dan Sullivan, which went from the Spoleto Festival to Broadway. Smitrovich's other theater credits include A.R. Gurney's *Far East* at Lincoln Center directed by Sullivan, and Williamstown Theatre Festival productions of *A Winter's Tale* and *The Skin of our Teeth*, both directed by Darko Tresnjak.

AMERICAN BUFFALO

Written by David Mamet

Directed by Randall Arney

Preview Performances: Tuesday, April 2 to Tuesday, April 9, 2013

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Opening Night: Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Closing Night: Sunday, May 12, 2013

Cast

Ron Eldard as *Walter Cole*

Freddy Rodriguez as *Bob*

Bill Smitrovich as *Don Dubrow*

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 to 57 for preview performances and from \$47 to \$77 for the regular run.

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www.geffenplayhouse.com.

Biographies

Ron Eldard is making his Geffen Playhouse debut. Other theater credits include the Broadway productions of *On the Waterfront*, *Doubt* and *Death of A Salesman*. The latter of which, along with Neil LaBute's *Bash: Latterday Plays*, was filmed by Showtime; Eldard was also seen off-Broadway in *Aven'U Boys*. His film credits include, most recently, Michael Cuesta's *Roadie*, *Super 8*, *Black Hawk Down*, *House of Sand and Fog*, *Sleepers*, *Deep Impact* and *True Love*. He also appears in the upcoming film *JOBS*, co-produced by Gil Cates, Jr. Television credits include the current season of *Justified*, *ER*, *Bakersfield P.D.*, *Men Behaving Badly* and two feature length pieces: *When Trumpets Fade* and *Bastard out of Carolina*.

Chicago born and raised, **Freddy Rodriguez** earned an Emmy nomination, two SAG Awards, and numerous Alma, Nosotros and Imagen Awards, for the critically acclaimed HBO series, *Six Feet Under*. Soon to be seen opposite Michelle Monaghan in *Fort Bliss* and *CBGB* opposite Alan Rickman and Malin Akerman. Other films include: *Seal Team Six: The Raid on Osama Bin Laden*, *Grindhouse*, *Nothing Like The Holidays*, which he also served as Executive Producer, *Bottle Shock*, *Harsh Times*, *Bobby*, *Lady In The Water*, *Poseidon*, *Payback*, *A Walk In The Clouds* and *Dead Presidents*. Other Television credits, the soon to be seen NBC series *After Hours*, *Chaos*, *Ugly Betty*, *Scrubs* and the HBO film *For Love or Country: The Arturo Sandoval Story* with Andy Garcia. He is the voice of Chavez on Hub's animated series *Kajjudo*, Caesar on Cartoon Network's *Generator Rex*, as well as roles on *American Dad!*, *Teen Titans* and *Young Justice*. Rodriguez lives in Los Angeles with his wife and two sons.

Bill Smitrovich began his professional stage career in the world premiere of Arthur Miller's *The American Clock*, directed by Dan Sullivan, which went from the Spoleto Festival to Broadway. Smitrovich's other theater credits include A.R. Gurney's *Far East* at Lincoln Center directed by Sullivan, and Williamstown Theatre Festival productions of *A Winter's Tale* and *The Skin of our Teeth*, both directed by Darko Tresnjak. His films include *Independence Day*, *Thirteen Days*, *Ghosts of Mississippi* and *The Trigger Effect*; he was most recently seen in Seth McFarlane's *Ted* and in *The Rum Diary* with Johnny Depp. He has appeared in the television films *While I Was Gone*, *The Reagans* as Alexander Haig, *The 60s* and *Failsafe*, and regular and recurring roles on *The Event*, *Life Goes On*, *Millennium*, *Nero Wolfe Mysteries*, *Without a Trace*, *The Practice* and *Crime Story*.

David Mamet - Playwright

David Mamet is a director as well as the author of numerous acclaimed plays, books, and screenplays. His play *Glengarry Glen Ross* won a Pulitzer Prize, and his screenplays for *The Verdict* and *Wag the Dog* were nominated for Academy Awards.

Randall Arney - Director

Randall Arney has been a theater professional for over 30 years, and has served as Artistic Director of the Geffen Playhouse since 1999. In addition to his artistic programming and oversight at the Geffen, Arney has helmed more than ten productions for the theater, most recently *Superior Donuts*, *The Female of the Species*, *The Seafarer*, *Speed-the-Plow* and *All My Sons*. Arney is an ensemble member and former Artistic Director of Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre where his directing credits include: *The Seafarer*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Death and the Maiden*, *Curse of the Starving Class*, *Killers* and *The Geography of Luck*, among others. Arney also directed Steppenwolf's world premiere of Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, as well as the subsequent national and

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international acclaimed productions. Mr. Arney's acting credits with Steppenwolf include *Born Yesterday*, *Ghost in the Machine*, *The Homecoming*, *Frank's Wild Years*, *You Can't Take it with You*, *Fool for Love*, *True West*, *Balm in Gilead* and *Coyote Ugly*. As the Artistic Director for Steppenwolf from 1987 to 1995, he oversaw the creation of a new state-of-the-art theater which is Steppenwolf's current home. Broadway transfers under his leadership include *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, *The Song of Jacob Zulu* (six Tony Award nominations) and *The Grapes of Wrath* (1990 Tony Award, Best Play). Mr. Arney has an MFA degree in Acting from Illinois State University and has taught master classes and workshops at UCLA, Steppenwolf, around the U.S. and in Tokyo.

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.

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