

# DAVID MAMET'S CLASSIC *AMERICAN BUFFALO* OPENS AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

Cast Features Ron Eldard, Freddy Rodriguez and Bill Smitrovich,  
Helmed by Geffen Playhouse Artistic Director Randall Arney  
*Opens April 10, 2013*

LOS ANGELES, April 9, 2013 – Pulitzer Prize winner **David Mamet's** classic *American Buffalo*, starring **Ron Eldard** (*Justified, ER*), **Freddy Rodriguez** (*Six Feet Under*) and **Bill Smitrovich** (*Life Goes On*) opens in the Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse on April 10, 2013.

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*.

One of 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 American plays of the last decade." Mamet is the winner of a Pulitzer Prize for *Glengary Glen Ross*, he also received Tony nominations for *Glengary Glen Ross* and *Speed-the-Plow* and Oscar nominations for *The Verdict* and *Wag the Dog*.

Now, Randall Arney takes a fresh look at these three misguided characters 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.

Opening night festivities for *American Buffalo* will be sponsored by **Audi of America, Los Angeles magazine, Malibu Family Wines, Napa Valley Grille** and **St. Germain**. Post-show reception will be at Napa Valley Grille. The specialty cocktail is by St. Germain.

Special events during the run include the theater's **Signature Series** performances for no additional cost to ticket-holders. These evenings include:

**Talk Back Tuesdays – April 16, 23, 30 & May 7, 2013:**

Enjoy complimentary Peet's Coffee & Tea before the show in the Gil Cates Theater lobby starting at 7:00 pm and dig deeper into plot, characters and themes with Geffen artists post-performance. It's interactive, intellectual and thought-provoking.

**Girls Night Out – April 18, 2013:**

Girls Night Meets Guys Night Out at this after-party held at Westwood's Skylight Gardens featuring a complimentary buffet, Martian Ranch & Vineyards wine bar, Becks Sapphire beer & Krol Vodka signature drinks plus fashion brand NOMA. No Girls Night Out would be complete without our photo booth and a take away Pixi beauty gift!

**Lounge Fridays – April 26 & May 3, 2013:**

Ease into your weekend with an enticing cultural happy hour, hosted by LAArtsOnline.com! Enjoy tray passed sparkling wine & non-alcoholic sparkling beverages in the Gil Cates Theater lobby during this festive, pre-show reception starting at 7:00 pm.

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**Wine Down Sundays - April 14, 21, 28, May 5 & 12, 2013:**

Marvelous ambiance enhances the mood Sunday nights with complimentary pre-show wine sampling in the Gil Cates Theater lobby courtesy of 3Twenty Wine Lounge and 100.3 FM The Sound playing real vinyl live starting at 6:00 pm.

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

**AMERICAN BUFFALO**

Written by David Mamet

Directed by Randall Arney

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

**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*

**Production Credits**

Scenic Designer	Takeshi Kata
Costume Designer	Chrisi Karvonides-Dushenko
Lighting Designer	Daniel Ionazzi
Violence Designer	Ned Mochel
Production Stage Manager	Young Ji
Assistant Stage Manager	Maggie Swing
Casting	Phyllis Schuringa
Dramaturg	Amy Levinson

**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 \$47 to \$77 for the regular run. 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).

**Biographies**

**Ron Eldard** is excited to be making his Geffen Playhouse debut. His Broadway credits include *On the Waterfront*, *Doubt* and *Death of a Salesman* (seen in Los Angeles at the Ahmanson Theatre and filmed for Showtime). Among his off-Broadway credits are *Servy N Bernice 4Ever*, *Aven'U Boys* and Neil LaBute's *Bash: Latterday Plays* (also seen in Los Angeles and filmed for Showtime). His film credits include, most recently, Michael Cuesta's *Roadie*, *Super 8*, *Black Hawk Down*, *House of Sand and Fog*, *Sleepers*, *Deep Impact*, *The Last Supper*, *Drop Dead Fred* and *True Love*. He also appears in the upcoming film *jOBS*, produced by Gil Cates, Jr. Television credits include the current season of *Justified*, *ER*, *Bakersfield P.D.*, *Arresting Behavior*, *Blind Justice*, *Men Behaving Badly* and two feature length pieces: *When Trumpets Fade* (HBO) and *Bastard out of Carolina* (Showtime).

Chicago born and raised, **Freddy Rodriguez** earned an Emmy nomination, two SAG Awards, and numerous Alma, Nosotros and Imagen Awards, for his work on 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* (for which he won the 2007 Sho-West Award for Best Supporting Actor), *Lady In The Water*, *Dreamer*, *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.

**Bill Smitrovich** is excited to be part of the Geffen family and this great American classic. A stage, film and television actor for over 30 years, Bill Smitrovich started his professional career in the world premiere of Arthur Miller's *The American Clock* and since has continued to return to the stage in between leading roles in television series such as *Life Goes On*, *Law & Order*, *The Practice*, *Millennium*, *Crime Story*, *Miami Vice* and *Nero Wolf Mysteries*. His films are numerous; among them are *Thirteen Days*, *The Rum Diary*, *Air Force One*, *Independence Day*, *Splash*, *Seven Pounds*, *Crazy People*, *Iron Man* and Bill was seen last summer, in a short, but critical cameo in Seth MacFarlane's film *Ted*. Broadway: *The American Clock*, Arthur Miller. Off Broadway: The premier of A.R. Gurney's *Far East* (Lincoln Center), *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair De Lune* at West Side Arts, *The Elephant Man* at The Performance Garage (SOHO). Regional: Williamstown Theatre Festival; *Skin of Our Teeth*, *A Winter's Tale* and *Far East*. The West Coast premiere of C. Churchill's *A Number* at A.C.T. in S.F. Seattle Rep, People's Light and Theatre Co., with Actors' Theatre of Louisville, *Of Mice and Men* at the Hong Kong International Arts Festival '85.

### **David Mamet - Playwright**

David Mamet is the author of the plays *November*, *Boston Marriage*, *Faustus*, *Oleanna*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1984 Pulitzer Prize and New York Drama Critics Circle Award), *American Buffalo*, *The Old Neighborhood*, *A Life in the Theatre*, *Speed-the-Plow*, *Edmond*, *Lakeboat*, *The Water Engine*, *The Woods*, *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*, *Reunion* and *The Cryptogram* (1995 Obie Award). His translations and adaptations include *Faustus*, *Red River* by Pierre Laville and *The Cherry Orchard*, *Three Sisters* and *Uncle Vanya* by Anton Chekov. His films include *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, *The Verdict*, *The Untouchables*, *House of Games* (writer/director) *Oleanna* (writer/director), *Homicide* (writer/director), *The Spanish Prisoner* (writer/director), *Heist* (writer/director), *Spartan* (writer/director) and *Redbelt* (writer/director). Mr. Mamet is also the author of *Warm and Cold*, a book for children with drawings by Donald Sultan, and two other children's books, *Passover* and *The Duck and the Goat*; *Writing in Restaurants*, *Some Freaks*, and *Make-Believe Town*, three volumes of essays; *The Hero Pony* and *The China Man*; a book of poems; *Three Children's Plays*, *On Directing Film*, *The Cabin*, and the novels *The Village*, *The Old Religion*, and *Wilson*. His most recent books include *True and False*, *Three Uses of the Knife*, *The Wicked Son*, and *Bambi Vs. Godzilla*.

### **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 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](http://geffenplayhouse.com).