

BILLY CRYSTAL AND FOUNDING GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE BOARD CHAIRMAN BRUCE RAMER TO BE HONORED AT ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Exclusive Backstage at the Geffen Event Set for May 13, 2013
City National Bank Returns as Title Sponsor

LOS ANGELES, April 5, 2013 — Artistic, entertainment and business leaders as well as some of the region's most prominent philanthropic companies and individuals will gather on May 13, 2013 to honor the accomplishments of two leaders in the theater community and support the Geffen Playhouse's artistic and outreach initiatives. This year, the **Distinction in Service Award** will be presented to founding Chairman of the Board **Bruce Ramer** and **Billy Crystal** will accept the **Distinction in Theater Award**. Both men had close ties to late Geffen Playhouse Founder, Gil Cates and the theater in which the program will take place is named in his honor.

The evening raises funds for the Geffen Playhouse's artistic initiatives including new play development, playwright commissions, second productions and artistic risks, as well as the theater's award-winning education and outreach programs, which help bring the excitement of live theater to more than 26,000 disadvantaged youth, seniors and veterans annually. Last year, the event raised over \$1 million for these programs, which helped the Geffen produce three world premieres, two American premieres and two new commissions.

Backstage at the Geffen title sponsor **City National Bank** is joined by presenting sponsors **Audi of America** and the **W Los Angeles-Westwood** along with its poolside restaurant, **The Backyard**, will be the site of an exclusive pre-show reception and dinner by Executive Chef **Dakota Weiss** for honorees, special guests and the event's host committee.

Emmy Award winning comedian and actor **Billy Crystal** will receive the **Distinction in Theater Award**. Known worldwide for his film roles in *When Harry Met Sally*, *City Slickers*, *The Princess Bride* and *Analyze This*; his 2005 Tony-winning Broadway show, *700 Sundays*; and as a cast member of *Saturday Night Live*, Crystal hosted the Academy Awards ceremonies a total of nine times. He directed the HBO film *61*, and is the recipient of the 2007 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. His previous books include *Absolutely Marvelous*, *700 Sundays* and two children's books, *I Already Know I Love You* and *Grandpa's Little One*. In addition to hosting the Oscars®, he has also hosted the Grammy Awards three times and, as a result of his work in television, has won six Emmy Awards. He will reprise his role as Mike Wazowski in Pixar's *Monsters University*, the prequel to *Monsters, Inc.* to be released in 2013. Crystal is currently working on a humorous memoir on aging that will be published by Henry Holt in 2013.

Bruce Ramer, this year's recipient of the **Distinction in Service Award**, is the Founding Geffen Playhouse Chairman of the Board. Ramer is the senior partner at the law firm of Gang, Tyre, Ramer & Brown. While he will not disclose his client list, the press mentions, among others, Clint Eastwood, Robert Zemeckis, Milos Forman, Cameron Crowe and David O. Russell. One of his early clients was a then unknown Steven Spielberg who bestowed Bruce's name on the shark in *Jaws*. While he has been called an "elite deal maker," Ramer hardly confines his performance to tending the rich and famous. As national president of the American Jewish Committee, he testified before Congress on terrorism matters. He is on the Board of Trustees of USC; the Herrhausen Institute for International Dialogue of Deutsch Bank; Councilors of the Shoah Foundation Institute; the Annenberg School of Communication and

Journalism; USC Law School; the Foundation for the National Archives; and served (now re-nominated) for the CPB Board (was Chair). He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and Chair of USC's Institute on Entertainment Law and Business. Shortly after September 11, 2001 Ramer hosted a confab of Bush administration and entertainment industry leaders to see what Hollywood could do to help defend our nation and is currently a member of the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Crystal and Ramer join an elite group of Geffen honorees -- including 2012 recipients Carol Burnett and Jim Gianopulos; 2011 recipients Julie Andrews and Creative Artists Agency; 2010 recipients Kristin Chenoweth and Barry Meyer; 2009 recipients Leslie Moonves and Rita Wilson; 2008 recipients Helen Mirren and Herb Gelfand; 2006 recipient Colin Callender; and 2004 recipient Karl Malden – each of whom have been celebrated at *Backstage at the Geffen*, an event that has become known throughout the city as a “must-attend” night at the theater.

BACKSTAGE AT THE GEFFEN

Monday, May 13, 2013

7pm – Reception

8pm – Program

9:30pm – Dessert

Distinction in Service Award – Bruce Ramer

Distinction in Theater Award – Billy Crystal

Ticket Information

Access to the full event is available exclusively through the Geffen Playhouse Development Department at 310.208.6500 ext. 128. A limited number of mezzanine tickets are available for the program portion of the evening for \$350 each. Those tickets are available in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, via phone at 310-208-5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.com/backstage.

A silent auction in which the general public can participate will further raise funds and opens at geffenplayhouse.com/backstage on April 23, 2013.

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, General Manager Behnaz Ataee, Chief Development Officer Regina Miller 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 CITY NATIONAL BANK

City National Bank is the wholly owned subsidiary of City National Corporation (NYSE: CYN). It is backed by \$26.3 billion in total assets, and provides banking, investment and trust services through 78 offices, including 16 full-service regional centers, in Southern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, Nevada, New York City, Nashville, Tenn., and Atlanta. The company and its investment affiliates manage or administer \$56.7 billion in client investment assets, including \$38 billion under direct management. For more information about City National, visit the company's website at cnb.com.

XXX

Media Contact: Katy Sweet / Pam Giangregorio
Katy Sweet & Associates Public Relations
(310) 479-2333 / Pam@KatySweetPR.com