

BACKSTAGE AT THE GEFFEN RAISES
MORE THAN \$1.4 MILLION
TO BENEFIT ARTS EDUCATION

*Record Breaking, Sold Out Evening Honored Alan Horn and Steve Martin;
Steve Carell Emceed*

LOS ANGELES, March 24th, 2014 — Saturday (March 22) night's star-studded event at the Geffen Playhouse and the pre-show host committee dinner grossed over \$1.4 million for the Geffen Playhouse's education, outreach and artistic initiatives. Actor-writer-producer **Rob Reiner** presented the **Distinction in Service Award** to Walt Disney Studios Chairman **Alan F. Horn**; award-winning composer/musician **Mason Williams** presented the **Distinction in Theater Award** to **Steve Martin**. In addition to the awards presentations, the irreverent evening of laughter, music and stories featured personal "backstage" stories and songs by stars of the stage and screen including **Sean Hayes, Nathan Fillion, Marcia Gay Harden, Anna Kendrick, Mason Williams, Jennifer Garner, Carrie Fisher, Norman Jewison and Rob Reiner**. **Steve Carell** served as Master of Ceremonies; Honorary Co-Chairs were **Robert Iger** and **Willow Bay** and **Ron and Kelly Meyer**.

Monies raised benefit 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 15,000 disadvantaged youth, seniors and veterans annually.

Backstage at the Geffen title sponsor **City National Bank**, returning for the fifth year, was joined by presenting sponsors **Audi of America** and **Social by Samantha Sackler and Tammy Ratner** with special thanks to **UCLA** and **The Walt Disney Co.**

Event Highlights:

- **Let the Show Begin** - To the strains of Pharrell Williams mega hit "Happy," dancers opened the show in a foot-stomping number conceived by "So You Think You Can Dance" choreographers Tabitha and Napoleon D'umo.
- **Bring on the Laughs** - Host Steve Carell regaled the audience with his version of how honorees Steve Martin and Alan Horn first met ... as the vaudeville team of "Martin and Horn." Carell's hilarious "biographical" journey through the years was accompanied by on screen photos of the supposed duo superimposed on the faces of legendary teams ranging from Laurel and Hardy to circa 60's Studio 54 clubbers.
- **Break a Leg** – Sean Hayes proved that that some of your biggest disasters can be your greatest stories. Case in point, as a failed stagehand in an early school production, his notorious "klutziness" resulted in his first award ... "The Golden Crutch." Bounding onto the stage, he lived up to his reputation, by tripping and knocking out the tooth of his fellow classmate who was presenting him the award.
- **Music to our Ears** – Anna Kendrick moved the audience with her rendition of "Being Alive" from Stephen Sondheim's "Company." Kendrick is currently filming the motion picture version of the Sondheim musical *Into the Woods* with Chris Pine, a Geffen Playhouse alum.
- **Where it all Began** – Jennifer Garner reminisced about her days as an intern in summer stock, where she told a great story about her mentor in theatre and learning a tough lesson about how the show must always go on.

- **And the Award Goes To ... Alan Horn** – Daughters Cody and Cassidy Horn spoke fondly of their father before introducing Rob Reiner. Reiner noted that he had the privilege of incorporating a story he was told at a party by Alan Horn's father, Saul. The senior Horn had told Reiner of how he had met his wife 41 years earlier. It was such a touching story, that it was the catalyst for the opening of "When Harry Met Sally."
- **Surprise!** - Award winning composer/musician Mason Williams, responsible for setting a young performer, Steve Martin, on his road to stardom as a writer on the "Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour," surprised the honoree as his special guest presenter. Mason began with a performance of his 1968 mega-hit "Classical Gas." As Martin said, he appreciated the plaque, "but would have preferred a trophy." Martin premiered the first play that he had written at the Geffen playhouse, "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," in 1993.
- **Dining with the Stars** – Honorees, special guests and the event's Host Committee enjoyed a pre-event dinner in a giant tent designed by **Social & Designer 8** erected directly across the street from the Geffen Playhouse. Catered by **Ronen Levy Events**, it featured **Double Cross Vodka** Cocktails, **Malibu Family Wines** and **Source Water**, also part of the pre-show reception at the Playhouse.
- **Arriving in Style** – Guests were greeted at the foot of the red carpet by a 2014 **Audi R8 V10 Spyder** noted for its explosive performance and exotic presence.
- **Sweet Ending** - After the show, guests indulged in desserts ranging from **Deluscious Cookies** with shots of milk to a **My Vienna Gelato** bar, **Richard Ruskell Pastries**, **Gotta Have S'mores**, and **Pure Cheesecakes** along with contributions from **Seasons 52** and **Ronen Levy Events**.

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 Board Co-Chairs, Martha Henderson and Pamela Robinson Hollander. 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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