

OFF-BROADWAY HIT *MURDER FOR TWO* COMPLETES GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE 2014-2015 SEASON

“Who would have guessed that murder could be so fun?
A noir-tinged detective story elevated to the heights of delicious farce!”
- *The New York Observer*

LOS ANGELES (June 30, 2014) – The Off-Broadway hit *Murder for Two* is the eighth and final play to be announced in the 2014-2015 Geffen Playhouse season. The new musical will run from May 27 through July 7, 2015 in the Geffen Playhouse’s intimate Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater. *Murder for Two*, in which everyone is a suspect, is a hilarious musical murder mystery with a twist: one actor investigates the crime, the other plays all of the suspects – and they both play the piano! This 90-minute whodunit is a zany blend of classic musical comedy and madcap mystery, a highly theatrical duet loaded with killer laughs.

Featuring book and music by **Joe Kinosian**, book and lyrics by **Kellen Blair** and direction by **Scott Schwartz**, *Murder for Two* was nominated for the 2014 Drama League (Outstanding Production of A Musical), Outer Critics Circle (Outstanding New Off-Broadway Musical), Drama Desk (Outstanding Book of A Musical), and Off-Broadway Alliance (Outstanding New Musical) Awards.

Officer Marcus Moscovicz is a small town policeman with dreams of making it to detective. One fateful night, shots ring out at the surprise birthday party of great American novelist Arthur Whitney and the writer is killed ... fatally. With the nearest detective an hour away, Marcus jumps at the change to prove his sleuthing skills – with the help of his silent partner, Lou.

Murder for Two was developed at the Adirondack Theatre Festival and 42nd Street Moon. Chicago Shakespeare Theater presented the world premiere production in May 2011, which extended four times and ran for more than six months. Kinosian and Blair were recognized with a 2011 Joseph Jefferson Award for Best New Musical. The show then played a limited summer engagement at Second Stage Theatre Uptown (Carole Rothman, Artistic Director, Casey Reitz, Executive Director and Christopher Burney, Curator and Associate Artistic Director) and at the McGinn/Cazale Theatre in July 2013 before transferring Off-Broadway to New World Stages.

Charles Isherwood of *The New York Times* called *Murder for Two*, “Ingenious! A snazzy double-act.” *NY1* said, “A must see 90-minute jolt of caffeinated creativity!”

Murder for Two completes the eight-play 2014-2015 Geffen Playhouse season including four West Coast premieres and two world premieres. Previously announced productions include the West Coast premiere of *Choir Boy* written by 2013 MacArthur Fellow **Tarell Alvin McCraney**, directed by Trip Cullman; *The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord*, written by **Scott Carter** and directed by **Matt August**; the world premiere of *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin*, directed by **Trevor Hay**; the West Coast premiere of *The Night Alive*, written by Olivier and Tony nominee **Conor McPherson** and directed by Geffen Playhouse artistic director **Randall Arney**; the Geffen Playhouse-commission and co-world premiere of Joanna Murray-Smith’s

Switzerland with the Sydney Theatre Company; the West Coast premiere of *The Power of Duff*, written by **Stephen Belber** and helmed by Huntington Theatre Company's Artistic Director **Peter DuBois**; and the West Coast premiere of *Bad Jews*, written by **Joshua Harmon** and directed by **Matt Shakman**.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

MURDER FOR TWO

Book and Music by Joe Kinosian

Book and Lyrics by Kellen Blair

Directed by Scott Schwartz

May 27 – July 7, 2015

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Monday No performance*

Tuesday – Friday 8:00pm

Saturday 3:00pm; 8:00pm

Sunday 2:00pm; 7:00pm

*There will be no performance on 6/17/15 and an 8:00pm Monday performance on 6/15/15.

TICKET INFORMATION

Murder for Two is currently only available as part of a subscription though single tickets to all 2014-2015 Geffen Playhouse season productions will go on-sale tomorrow, July 1, 2014 at 10:00am. Single ticket prices for *Murder for Two* range from \$59-\$74.

LOCATION

Geffen Playhouse

Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater

10886 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024

www.geffenplayhouse.com or 310.208.5454

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 Atae, Chief Development Officer Regina Miller and Co-Chairs of the Board 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 www.geffenplayhouse.com.

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