WASSERSTEIN’S LAST IS A WEST COAST FIRST
AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

Multi Award-Winner Christine Lahti Leads Accomplished Cast Featuring
Jayne Brook, Matt Czuchry, Sarah Drew and M. Emmet Walsh in
Wendy Wasserstein’s Third

LOS ANGELES, August 21, 2007 — With a powerful lineup highlighting women in theater, the Geffen Playhouse inaugurates its 2007/2008 season with two prominent female stage veterans: Wendy Wasserstein and Christine Lahti. The vehicle for merging these talents is Third, Pulitzer Prize winning Wasserstein’s final play and a West Coast premiere opening September 19 at the Geffen Playhouse.

“Wendy and I were kindred spirits,” said Lahti, who plays the role of Laurie. “We were the same age, we had the same sort of political bent and the same passion for women’s rights. When I told Wendy during a New York preview of Third that I wanted to do it in L.A., she was very sick, but she seemed happy about it, so it’s gratifying I get to do it here.”

In addition to being the play’s title, “third” also marks the number of times Lahti has played one of Wasserstein’s leading ladies (her previous roles include Heidi in The Heidi Chronicles on Broadway and Lyssa in the television adaptation of An American Daughter). The Oscar, Golden Globe and Emmy award-winning actress leads an accomplished cast including Jayne Brook as Nancy, Matt Czuchry as Woodson Bull III (aka Third), Sarah Drew as Emily and M. Emmet Walsh as Jack.

Directed by Maria Mileaf, a New York-based director who also teaches at Columbia University School of the Arts, Third brings into question pre-conceived notions of liberalism and discrimination, all set against the backdrop of present day, red state versus blue state, America.

THIRD (West Coast premiere)
By Wendy Wasserstein
Directed by Maria Mileaf
Show runs September 11 through October 28, 2007
Previews: September 11 to September 18
Opening Night: September 19, 2007

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Cast
Jayne Brook   Nancy
Matt Czuchry  Third
Sarah Drew   Emily
Christine Lahti  Laurie
M. Emmet Walsh  Jack

JAYNE BROOK (Nancy):
Los Angeles: King Lear. London: Dreams in an Empty City, Every Black Day. Regional: Much Ado About Nothing, Danny and the Deep Blue Sea, You’re Gonna Love Tomorrow. Film: Kindergarten Cop,Gattaca, Bye Bye Love, Last Dance, Don’t Tell Mom the Babysitter’s Dead, Into the Heart. Television: Chicago Hope, The District, John Doe, Sirens, WIOU (series regular), Boston Legal (Prism Award), Sports Night, Everwood (recurring), Grey’s Anatomy, Without a Trace, Jack and Bobby, NCIS (guest star), Doing Time on Maple Drive, My Mother the Spy, Dan Jansen Story, Trauma (MOW).

MATT CZUCHRY (Woodson Bull III)

SARAH DREW (Emily)

CHRISTINE LAHTI (Laurie)

MARIA MILEAF (Director)
NEW YORK: The Argument (The Vineyard), Going to St Ives (Primary Stages), Lobster Alice (Playwright’s Horizons), Sakharam Binder and Monsieur Ibrahim and the Flowers of the Koran (The Play Company), Private Jokes Public Places (Center for Architecture), Hard Feelings (Women’s Project), Tomorrowland (New Georges), Maid (Lincoln Center Festival), 99 Histories (The Cherry Lane), Those Who Can Do (Clubbed Thumb), Laugh I Thought I’d Die (PS 122) Ha (DWT). REGIONAL: Sugar Syndrome [Williamstown Theatre Festival], Underneath the Lintel (George Street Playhouse), The Unexpected Man (The Geffen Playhouse) The Story (Barrmore Award for Outstanding Direction, Philadelphia Theatre Company), Nervous Smile (Williamstown Theatre Company), The Heidi Chronicles (Berkshire Theatre Festival). Maria recently helmed her first film, Chantal Biladeau’s musical short, The House in Capricorn.
M. EMMET WALSH (Jack)

Production Credits
Scenic Designer   Vince Mountain
Costume Designer  Alex Jaeger
Lighting Designer  David Lander
Composer   Michael Roth
Production Stage Manager Dana Anderson
Asst. Stage Manager: Chris Paul

Tickets ($35 to $74) are on sale now at the Geffen Playhouse box office, online at GeffenPlayhouse.com, via credit card phone order at 310.208.5454, at all Ticketmaster outlets, or by calling Ticketmaster at 213.365.3500. Performances are Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8:00 p.m., Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Student rush tickets are available one hour prior to curtain for $15.

ABOUT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE
Awarded the Preservation Award by the Los Angeles Conservancy, the Award of Excellence from the Society of American Registered Architects, and the Architectural Award of Excellence by the Los Angeles Business Council for its acclaimed 2005, $19 million renovation, the Geffen Playhouse begins its 12th season in 2007/2008, enjoying its stature as a leading West Coast theater company and the crown jewel of Los Angeles theater.
Noted for its intimacy and celebrated for its eclectic mix of classic and contemporary plays, provocative new works and musicals, the Geffen continues to present a body of work that has garnered national recognition. Named in honor of entertainment mogul and philanthropist David Geffen, who donated one of the largest gifts ever made to an already-constructed theater, the company is headed by Producing Director and President of the Board Gilbert (Gil) Cates, Artistic Director Randall Arney and Managing Director Stephen Eich, and has produced eight world premieres, four Tony, four Pulitzer, and seven Obie-award winning shows in its 12 season history. Proudly associated with UCLA, the Geffen 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.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:
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