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**The Geffen Playhouse Welcomes the
World-Premiere of *The Joan Rivers Theater Project***

One of the Greatest Female Comedians Replaces The Female of the Species

LOS ANGELES, November 9, 2007 — This February, Joan Rivers brings the world-premiere of her four-character autobiographical play, *The Joan Rivers Theater Project*, to the Geffen Playhouse. The comedy, which Rivers not only wrote, but also stars in, is a fitting peak to the Geffen's season highlighting women in theater. Set immediately before a big awards preshow, Rivers uses her dressing room (B, not A), her cheese plate (puny, not plentiful) and her producer (the bigwig's nephew, not the bigwig), as impetus for an introspective look at aging, going through life's ups and downs and being a woman in Hollywood.

"I'm so thrilled to be doing the project at the Geffen. One because it's a very prestigious and theatrically dedicated organization, and two because they're paying me," said Rivers, who launched her comedy career in the sixties as one of the first female talk show hosts, and has since risen to the rank of red carpet royalty.

The Joan Rivers Theater Project was workshopped at San Francisco's Magic Theater (directed by Mark Rucker) in August of this year to help develop the piece, and the upcoming Geffen Playhouse's production will mark the world premiere of Rivers' third full-length play. Rivers was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Actress for her last appearance on Broadway in *Sally Marr and Her Escorts* and gained international acclaim for her one-woman show *Broke and Alone*, both of which she coauthored as well. In addition, Rivers is a best-selling author, screenwriter, film director, columnist, syndicated radio host and Emmy Award-winning television talk show host.

"In a season that's focused on females, we feel like Joan's story is the epitome of what it's like to be a woman in Hollywood," said producing director Gil Cates. "The Geffen audience is lucky to have the first look at Joan's incredible play as well as the rare treat to see her perform live so up close and personal."

The Joan Rivers Theater Project is being presented as part of the Geffen Playhouse's 07/08 season during the dates in which *The Female of the Species* was originally announced. While there is still a possibility of rescheduling Joanne Murray-Smith's production next season, the Geffen has decided to move forward and replace the show while the play's Broadway producer is exploring casting options.

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THE JOAN RIVERS THEATER PROJECT (World Premiere)

By Joan Rivers, Douglas Bernstein and Denis Markell

Performances Tuesday, February 5 through Sunday, March 30, 2008

Previews: February 5 to February 12, 2008

Opening Night: February 13, 2008

TICKET INFO

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.

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

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

Monday	No performances
Tuesday – Thursday	7:30 pm
Friday	8:00 pm
Saturday	4:00 pm; 8:30 pm
Sunday	2:00 pm; 7:00 pm

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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