

# GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE UNVEILS NEW LOGO TO LAUNCH 2019/2020 SEASON

#### TICKETS FOR FIRST TWO PRODUCTIONS “WITCH” AND “SKINTIGHT” ON SALE JULY 22

LOS ANGELES, CA (July 10, 2019) – Geffen Playhouse has unveiled a new logo in advance of its 2019/2020 season, it was announced today. Effective immediately, the new logo and visual identity will be reflected across all Geffen Playhouse internal and external platforms, including a soon-to-be-launched newly redesigned website.

In addition, tickets for the 2019/2020 season’s first two productions, *Witch* and *Skintight*, will go on sale to the public July 22.

“We are very excited for this next step in the ongoing evolution of the theater,” said Geffen Playhouse Executive Director Gil Cates, Jr. “It is an inspired aesthetic that reflects what makes the Playhouse unique – at the same time, it is accessible, contemporary and playful.”

***Witch***, inspired by *The Witch of Edmonton* by Rowley, Dekker and Ford, will make its West Coast premiere August 20 in Geffen’s intimate Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater. Written by Jen Silverman and directed by Marti Lyons, the ensemble cast features Simon Helberg (*The Big Bang Theory*, *Florence Foster Jenkins*), Vella Lovell (*Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, *Significant Other*) and Maura Tierney (*ER*, *The Affair*), with additional casting to be announced.

A charming devil arrives in the quiet village of Edmonton to bargain for the souls of its residents in exchange for their darkest wishes. Elizabeth should be his easiest target, having been labeled a “witch” and cast out by the town, but her soul is not so readily bought. An inventive retelling of a Jacobean drama, this sharp, subversive fable debates how much our souls are worth when hope is hard to come by.

*Witch* was commissioned by and premiered at Writers Theatre (Michael Halberstam, Artistic Director; Kathryn M. Lipuma, Executive Director).

***Skintight*** will make its West Coast premiere September 3 in Geffen’s Gil Cates Theater. Written by Joshua Harmon and directed by Daniel Aukin, the ensemble cast features Tony Award winner Idina Menzel (*Rent*, *Wicked*), Eli Gelb (*The Squid and the Whale*, *Indignation*), Will Brittain (*Kong: Skull Island*, *Everybody Wants Some!!*) and Harry Groener (*A Cure for Wellness*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*), with additional casting to be announced.

Hanging on by a thread after her ex-husband gets engaged to a much younger woman, Jodi (Idina Menzel) retreats to her dad’s swanky Manhattan townhouse. But rather than the comforts of home, she

instead finds her aging father's new live-in boyfriend, Trey—who is 20. In his new comedy, Joshua Harmon (*Bad Jews*, *Significant Other*) brings neurotic family drama to the forefront as father and daughter contend with the age-old questions of how to age gracefully in a world obsessed with youth and where love fits into it all.

*Skintight* was commissioned by and premiered at Roundabout Theatre Company (Todd Haimes, Artistic Director; Julia C. Levy, Executive Director).

### **ABOUT GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE**

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 not-for-profit organization 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 Executive Director Gil Cates, Jr., Artistic Director Matt Shakman and Board Chair Howard Tenenbaum. Proudly associated with UCLA, the Geffen welcomes an audience of more than 130,000 each year, and maintains extensive education and community engagement programs, designed to involve underserved young people and the community at large in the arts.

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