

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“IRONBOUND” CAST ADDS JOSIAH BANIA AND MARCEL SPEARS

PREVIEWS BEGIN JANUARY 30; OPENING NIGHT IS FEBRUARY 7

LOS ANGELES (December 8, 2017) – The Geffen Playhouse today announced that Josiah Bania (CBS’s *The Good Wife*) and Marcel Spears (ABC’s *The Mayor*) will join Tony Award nominee Marin Ireland (Broadway’s *reasons to be pretty*, Amazon’s *Sneaky Pete*) in the West Coast Premiere of Martyna Majok’s *Ironbound*, directed by Tyne Rafaeli (*Actually*).

Bania will be reprising the role of Maks, which he played Off-Broadway at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater in 2016 alongside Ireland, who is reprising the lead role of Darja. Spears will play Vic.

Chris Messina, who was previously announced to play Tommy, had to exit the role. A replacement will be announced shortly.

Previews for *Ironbound* begin Tuesday, January 30, 2018 in the Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse, with opening night on Wednesday, February 7. The production closes Sunday, March 4, 2018.

At once humorous and heartrending, *Ironbound* spans 22 years to tell the story of Darja, a Polish immigrant getting by on a cleaning job, aggressive pragmatism and sheer will. In this wry drama, award-winning playwright Martyna Majok points out that sometimes survival is the only measure of success.

Ironbound had its world premiere at the Round House Theatre as part of the Women’s Voices Theater Festival in September 2015. Nelson Pressley of *The Washington Post* said, “Majok writes with such energy and charisma that the play’s four characters feel vivid and real.” Majok’s script was awarded the National New Play Network Smith Prize and the David Calicchio Emerging American Playwright Prize.

Rafaeli recently directed the Geffen’s world premiere of Anna Ziegler’s play *Actually*, which made its Off-Broadway debut at New York’s Manhattan Theatre Club on November 14.

IRONBOUND

Written by **Martyna Majok**

Directed by **Tyne Rafaeli**

Previews: Tuesday, January 30 – Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Opening Night: Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Closing Night: Sunday, March 4, 2018

CAST

Marin Ireland as Darja

Josiah Bania as Maks

Marcel Spears as Vic

PRODUCTION TEAM

Scenic Designer **Tim Mackabee**

Costume Designer **Elizabeth Caitlin Ward**

Lighting Designer **Lap Chi Chu**

Sound Designer **Leon Rothenberg**

Production Stage Manager **Elizabeth A. Brohm**

Assistant Stage Manager **Ross Jackson**

Casting Director **Phyllis Schuringa, CSA**

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Monday	No performance
Tuesday – Friday	8:00 p.m.
Saturday	3:00 and 8:00 p.m.
Sunday	2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

The run of *Ironbound* will feature the Geffen's popular Talk Back Tuesdays, which give theater lovers a chance for a deeper conversation to discuss plot, character themes and other questions directly with the artists in a post-show Q&A from the stage. Dates: February 13, February 20 and February 27, 2018

LOCATION

Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse
10886 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets currently priced at \$32.00 - \$90.00. Available in person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, by phone at 310.208.5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.org. Fees may apply.

Rush tickets for each day's performance are made available to the general public 30 minutes before showtime at the box office. \$35.00 General / \$10.00 Student

COLLEGE AUDIENCES

Through a variety of events and other opportunities, the Geffen Playhouse welcomes college students to experience the live storytelling presented on our stages. We are proud of our association with UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television, and open our doors to all college students throughout Los Angeles. More information is available at www.geffenplayhouse.org/college.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Martyna Majok (Playwright)

Martyna Majok's plays have been presented at Williamstown Theatre Festival, Manhattan Theatre Club, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Women's Project Theater and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, among others. Awards include Dramatists Guild's Lanford Wilson Award, Lilly Award, Helen Merrill Emerging Playwright Award, Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding Original New Play (Helen Hayes Awards), Ashland New Plays Festival Women's Invitational Prize, The Kennedy Center's Jean Kennedy Smith Award, David Calicchio Emerging American Playwright Prize, New York Theatre Workshop's 2050 Fellowship, Aurora Theatre's Global Age Project Prize and the NNPN/Smith Prize for Political Playwriting. Commissions from Lincoln Center Theater, Bush Theatre in London, Geffen Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, South Coast Repertory and Manhattan Theatre Club. BA: University of Chicago; MFA: Yale School of Drama, Julliard. Majok was a 2012-2013 NNPN Playwright-in-Residence and the 2015-2016 PoNY Fellow at the Lark Play Development Center. Upcoming: *queens* at LCT3/Lincoln Center Theater.

Tyne Rafaeli (Director)

Tyne Rafaeli directs classics, new plays and musicals, including the recent world premiere of the Geffen Playhouse's production of *Actually* by Anna Ziegler. Her work has been seen at Classic Stage Company, Playwrights Realm, Atlantic Theater Company, Roundabout Theatre Company, Two River Theater, California Shakespeare Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, New York Stage & Film, PlayMakers Repertory Company, Goodspeed Musicals, Julliard, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Great Lakes Theater, American Players Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, the O'Neill Playwrights Conference and PlayPenn, among others. Rafaeli is a 2016-2018 Time Warner Directing Fellow at the Women's Project Theater and was awarded the 2013-2014 SDCF Sir John Gielgud Fellowship for Classical Direction. She has served as Associate Director on the Broadway productions of *The King & I*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Bridges of Madison County* and *Golden Boy* and the West End's *Women on the Verge*.

Josiah Bania (Maks)

Off-Broadway: *Ironbound* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater). Regional: *Archduke* (Mark Taper Forum), *Fingersmith* (American Repertory Theater), *The Way of the World* (Dorset Theatre Festival), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Chautauqua Theater Company), *The History Boys* (Artists Repertory Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (Portland Center Stage) and *Three Sisters* (Yale Repertory Theatre). Yale School of Drama: *Othello*, *The Seagull*, *Petty Harbour*, *Twelfth Night*, *Antony and*

Cleopatra, and *No More Sad Things*. Television: *The Good Wife*, *The Mysteries of Laura*, and *Leverage*. Education: Yale School of Drama (MFA).

Marin Ireland (Darja)

Marin Ireland's theater credits include *reasons to be pretty*, for which she won a Theatre World Award and was nominated for a Tony Award. Her other New York credits include *The Big Knife* on Broadway (opposite Bobby Cannavale); *Ironbound* at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater; *Kill Floor* at Lincoln Center Theater; *Blasted* and *Marie Antoinette*, both at Soho Rep; *Three Sisters* at Classic Stage Company; *Cyclone* at Studio Dante (Obie Award) and *In the Wake* at the Public Theater. Some of her television and film work includes *Girls*, *Homeland*, *Masters of Sex*, *The Divide*, *The Slap*, *Glass Chin* (Independent Spirit nomination 2016), *Sparrows Dance*, *The Family Fang*, *28 Hotel Rooms*, *In the Radiant City* and *Hell or High Water*. Most recently she was seen in the Lifetime movie *Flint*, about the Flint water crisis, playing activist Melissa Mays. She currently appears on the Amazon series *Sneaky Pete*.

Marcel Spears (Vic)

Marcel Spears plays "TK" on the ABC comedy *The Mayor*. Theater credits include *At the Old Place* as "Will" (La Jolla Playhouse); *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* as "Schmendiman" (The Old Globe); *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Two Rivers Theater, directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson); *Trouble in Mind* (Guthrie Theater); *Othello*, *Mother Courage* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Classic Stage Company). Spears starred Off-Broadway opposite Deirdre O'Connell in Page 73's production of *Judy* by Max Posner, directed by Ken Rus Schmoll; *Light* (directed by Brian Kulick), *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Emperor Jones* and *The Maids* (Columbia University/Columbia Stages). Awards and Education: 2015 Rosemarie Tichler Fund Grant recipient, M.F.A. Columbia University.

SEASON SPONSOR

888 Hilgard

OPENING NIGHT SPONSORS

STK

Audi of America

City National Bank

Hint

KIND Snacks

###

ABOUT GEFLEN 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.

www.geffenplayhouse.org

MEDIA CONTACT

Ashley Bodul, Geffen Playhouse

ashleyb@geffenplayhouse.org

310.966.2405