

LAURA EASON'S **SEX WITH STRANGERS**
DIRECTED BY **KIMBERLY SENIOR**
CAST FEATURES **STEPHEN LOUIS GRUSH AND REBECCA PIDGEON**

MARCH 1 TO APRIL 10 (OPENING NIGHT IS MARCH 9, 2016)
IN THE AUDREY SKIRBALL KENIS THEATER AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE



LAURA EASON (photo credit: Meredith Zinner)



KIMBERLY SENIOR (photo credit: Brandon Dahlquist)

LOS ANGELES (January 21, 2016) – Geffen Playhouse announces the cast for its production of *Sex With Strangers* written by Laura Eason. Kimberly Senior (director of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize winning play *Disgraced* by Ayad Akhtar) directs *Sex With Strangers* starring Stephen Louis Grush as Ethan and Rebecca Pidgeon as Olivia.

When frustrated novelist Olivia meets fast-talking blogger Ethan – known more for his sexual prowess than his prose – she worries she will become just another chapter in his little black book. Their funny and flirty union blurs the lines between rewrites, romance and royalties – proving you can't judge a book by its author.

"A compelling, comic drama. An incisive look at the double edged quest for artistic validation in the digital era." – *Newsweek*

Tickets currently priced from \$60 to \$82 are available in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, via phone at 310.208.5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.com. Fees may apply.

SEX WITH STRANGERS

Written by **Laura Eason**

Directed by **Kimberly Senior**

Previews: Tuesday, March 1 – Tuesday, March 8

Opening Night: Wednesday, March 9

Closing Night: Sunday, April 10

CAST

Stephen Louis Grush as Ethan

Rebecca Pidgeon as Olivia

PRODUCTION TEAM

Scenic Design by **Sybil Wickersheimer**

Costume Design by **Elisa Benzoni**

Lighting Design by **Joshua Epstein**

Sound Design by **Cricket Myers**

Stage Manager **Julie Haber**

Casting by

OPENING NIGHT SPONSORS

Audi of America

Palomino Restaurant & Bar

Hint Water

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Monday	No performance
Tuesday – Friday	8:00 pm
Saturday	3:00 pm and 8:00 pm
Sunday	2:00 pm and 7:00 pm

TICKET INFORMATION

Ticket prices are currently \$60 to \$82 and are available in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, via phone at 310.208.5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.com. Fees may apply.

LOCATION

Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at the Geffen Playhouse
10886 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024

SIGNATURE SERIES

In addition to the opening night, the run of *Sex with Strangers* will feature pre-show Signature Series events. These include **Talk Back Tuesdays** (Audience Q+A with artists), **Lounge Fridays** and **Wine Down Sundays**. Thanks to the support of Geffen Playhouse partners and sponsors, all elements of Signature Series evenings are complimentary as part of the ticket price. Signature Series events include:

- **Talk Back Tuesdays** give theater lovers a chance for a deeper conversation to discuss plot, character, themes or any other questions directly with the artists with a post-show Q+A from the stage. Complimentary coffee and tea provided pre-show at the concessions bar.
- **Happy Hour Lounge Fridays** turns the Geffen Playhouse into a haven to help fast-paced Angelenos ease into their weekend and unwind at this cultural happy hour. Complimentary sparkling joins other enticing refreshments starting at 7:00 pm. Sponsored by LAArtsOnline.com
- **Wine Down Sundays** provides the perfect pairing – pre-performance wine sampling in the lobby followed by a 7pm curtain time to close out the week.

For Signature Series dates associated with the run of *Sex With Strangers*, visit <http://www.GeffenPlayhouse.com/SexWithStrangers>

BIOGRAPHIES

STEPHEN LOUIS GRUSH (Ethan)

Stephen Louis Grush makes his Geffen Playhouse Debut. Recent theater credits include *Airline Highway*, *The March*, *Sex with Strangers*, *The Tempest*, *Dublin Carol*, *Good Boys and True* and *Last of the Boys* (Steppenwolf

Theater Company); He was also commissioned to write and direct *Adore* as a part of Steppenwolf's initial Garage Rep Series in 2009. Other recent Chicago credits include: *The Seagull*, *A True History of the Johnstown Flood*, *Oedipus Complex* and *Pericles* (Goodman Theatre); *Cymbeline*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *True West* (American Theater Company); and *TopDog/Underdog* (Congo Square). Recent television credits include: *Longmire*, *Gracepoint*, *Lucky 7*, *The Mob Doctor*, *Powers*, *Cooper and Stone*, *Detroit 187*, *The Chicago Code* and *Starting Under*. Recent film credits include: *The Free World*, *Catch Hell*, *Return to Sender*, *At Any Price*, *The Express*, *Left Alone*, *Nightlights*, *Dead Girl*, *Attrition*, *Lac Du Flambeau* and *Lifeguard*.

REBECCA PIDGEON (Olivia)

Rebecca Pidgeon has starred in the films: *The Spanish Prisoner*, *The Winslow Boy*, *State and Main*, *Heist*, *Red*, *Two Bit Waltz* and most recently played a role in *The Divergent Series: Allegiant*. Her television credits include *Phil Spector* for HBO and *Jesse Stone: Sea Change* for CBS. She had recurring roles on the hit series *The Unit* for CBS and *The Shield* for F/X and played a regular role on *In Justice* for ABC. She starred in *Uncle Vanya* for the BBC, and in Samuel Beckett's *Catastrophe* opposite Sir John Gielgud and Harold Pinter for Channel 4. Pidgeon played "Deeny" in *The Old Neighborhood* on Broadway and "Claire" in *Boston Marriage* at the Geffen Playhouse. She originated the role of "Carol" in *Oleanna* Off-Broadway, which had its world premiere at the Orpheum Theatre. As a member of The Royal National Theatre in London, she starred in its productions of *Speed-the-Plow* and *The Changeling*. She is a member of the Atlantic Theatre Company and is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. In addition to her career as an actress, Pidgeon is a singer/songwriter whose album *Slingshot* was nominated for a Grammy award. Her latest album is *Bad Poetry*.

LAURA EASON (Playwright)

Laura Eason is a screenwriter, playwright of both original work and adaptation, and a musical book writer. As a screenwriter, she recently finished her third season on the Emmy-nominated Netflix drama, *House of Cards* (WGA nomination for Outstanding Writing in a Drama Series), sold a drama pilot to 20th Century Fox TV/FOX network, executive produced by Danny Strong, and is writing a feature film for Sarah Jessica Parker's company, Pretty Matches. Her more than twenty produced plays include *Sex With Strangers* (Second Stage Theatre, NYC; Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago; Sydney Theatre, Australia; Blackwing Productions, Buenos Aires, Argentina; fifteen productions in '15-'16 including the US, UK, Spain and Australia) and *Around the World in 80 Days* (recently at the St. James, London, world premiere at Lookingglass Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, KC Rep., also New Vic and Royal Exchange Theaters, UK). Her musical *Days Like Today*, music and lyrics by Alan Schmuckler, had its world premiere at Writers Theater, Chicago. Laura is a long-time Ensemble Member of Lookingglass Theatre Company in Chicago, recipient of the 2011 Regional Theatre Tony Award, and served as the company's Artistic Director for six years. In New York, she is a member of Rising Phoenix Rep, New Georges and an alumna of the Women's Project Playwright's Lab. Laura is a proud graduate of Northwestern University. Born and raised in Chicago, she now lives in Brooklyn, NY with her family.

KIMBERLY SENIOR (Director)

Kimberly Senior is a freelance director and the director of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize winning play *Disgraced* by Ayad Akhtar. She is also a 2013 Finalist for the SDCF Joe A. Callaway Award, the Zelda Fichandler Award, and Alan Schneider Award. In Chicago, Kimberly is a Resident Director at Writers Theatre and an Associate Artist at TimeLine Theatre. Her work has received multiple Joseph Jefferson nominations. As an educator, Kimberly spent 10 years as both an administrator and Resident Artist with Steppenwolf for Young Adults. In addition, Kimberly either ran programs or taught for Court Theater, Northlight Theater, Redmoon Theater, Roadworks Productions, Victory Gardens, Metropolis, Act One Studios and Acting Studio Chicago. She has served as adjunct faculty at Columbia College and DePaul University. She is the recipient of Columbia College's 2010 Excellence in Teaching Award. Kimberly has served as Program Director and as a dramaturg for Steppenwolf's First Look Repertory of New Work. New York: *Disgraced* (Broadway), *The Who and The What*, *Disgraced* (Lincoln Center Theater 3). Chicago: *Disgraced* and *Rapture, Blister, Burn* (Goodman

Theatre); *Marjorie Prime*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Hedda Gabler*, *The Letters* (Writers Theatre); *4000 Miles*, *The Whipping Man* (Northlight Theatre); *Want*, *The North Plan* (Steppenwolf); *Inana*, *My Name is Asher Lev*, *All My Sons*, *Dolly West's Kitchen* (TimeLine Theatre); *The Great God Pan*, *After the Revolution*, *Madagascar*, *The Overwhelming* and *The Busy World is Hushed* (Next); *Waiting for Lefty* (American Blues); *Old Times*, *The Conquest of the South Pole*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Cherry Orchard*, *Three Sisters*, *Fuddy Meers* and *Knives in Hens* (Strawdog); *Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Bug* and *The Pillowman* (Redtwist Theatre); *Thieves Like Us* (The House Theatre), among others. Regional: *Disgraced* (Berkeley Rep/Seattle Rep); *The Who and The What* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Little Gem* (City Theatre); *Murder on the Nile*, *A Few Good Men* (Peninsula Players); *Mauritius* (Theatre Squared, Fayetteville, AR).

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 Artistic Director Randall Arney, Executive Director Gil Cates, Jr., and Co-Chairs of the Board Martha Henderson and Pamela Robinson. 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. Following a strong 2014/2015 season during which five productions extended, the company's 20th anniversary season features eight productions (two world and three West Coast premieres) featuring some of the nation's leading playwrights and directors. www.geffenplayhouse.com.

MEDIA CONTACT

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