



MEDIA CONTACT:
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**RAINN WILSON IN SOLO PERFORMANCE OF
WILL ENO'S *THOM PAIN (BASED ON NOTHING)*
OLIVER BUTLER TO HELM THE PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST PLAY**

**JANUARY 8 TO FEBRUARY 14, 2016 (OPENING NIGHT IS JANUARY 13)
IN THE AUDREY SKIRBALL KENIS THEATER AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE**

LOS ANGELES (November 18, 2015) Geffen Playhouse announces a premiere theatrical event for Los Angeles – ten years in the making. Will Eno’s lauded play was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in Drama and has been translated into more than fifteen languages, with more than 100 productions mounted worldwide.

Multi-faceted, award-winning actor, Rainn Wilson (*The Office*, founder of *Soul Pancake*) and playwright Will Eno became friends more than 20 years ago, well before the play’s critically acclaimed world premiere. Eager to bring *Thom Pain* to Los Angeles, the two had spoken about working together for years. It was only recently that all the stars aligned. The Geffen Playhouse run will be a limited engagement and part of the not-for-profit’s Spotlight Entertainment Series which brought a similarly anticipated play (*I’ll Eat You Last* featuring Bette Midler) to Los Angeles two years ago.

Charles Isherwood in his review in *The New York Times* wrote: “It’s one of those treasured nights in the theater – treasured nights anywhere, for that matter – that can leave you both breathless with exhilaration and, depending on your sensitivity to meditations on the bleak and beautiful mysteries of human experience, in a puddle of tears. Also in stitches, here and there.”

First performed to rave reviews in 2004 at the Edinburgh Festival where it won every major honor including a First Fringe Award, *Thom Pain* next moved to the Soho Theatre in London and then on to the DR2 Theatre in New York, where it ran for over 350 performances. In 2004, the *London Daily Telegraph* declared, “It’s hard to imagine more dazzling writing on any stage.” Ten years later, in 2014, Lyn Gardner of *The Guardian* was moved to write that the play is, “still one of the best monologues I’ve ever seen.”

Directed by OBIE Award winner, Oliver Butler, the play concerns the life of a tragic and hilarious character named Thom, who has been described as, “just like you, except worse. He is trying to save his life, to save your life – in that order. In his quest for salvation, he’ll stop at nothing, be distracted by nothing, except maybe a piece of lint, or the woman in the second row.”

“Mr. Eno might be called a Samuel Beckett for the Jon Stewart generation... To sum up the more or less indescribable: *Thom Pain* is at bottom a surreal meditation on the empty promises life makes, the way experience never lives up to the weird and awesome fact of being. But it is also, in its odd, bewitching beauty, an affirmation of life's worth.” – *The New York Times*

Ticket prices are currently \$76 - \$99 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. Current Geffen Playhouse donors and subscribers received advance notice of this event.

THOM PAIN (BASED ON NOTHING)

Written by **Will Eno**

Directed by **Oliver Butler**

Previews: Friday, January 8 – Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Opening Night: Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Closing: Sunday, February 14, 2016

CAST

Rainn Wilson as Thom Pain

PRODUCTION TEAM

Scenic and Lighting Design by **Daniel Ionazzi**

Costume Design by **Candice Cain**

Stage Manager **Elizabeth A. Brohm**

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Monday & Tuesday	No performance*
Wednesday – Friday	8:00 pm
Saturday	3:00 pm and 8:00 pm
Sunday*	2:00 pm

*Special preview performances: Sunday 1/10/16 at 7:00 pm and Tuesday 1/12/16 at 8:00 pm.

*No performance on Sunday 1/17/16.

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LOCATION

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

BIOGRAPHIES

RAINN WILSON

Emmy-nominated and SAG Award-winning actor Rainn Wilson has found himself in a variety of comedic and theatrical roles throughout his career. Following a host of guest appearances on TV series including *Law & Order*, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigations* and *Entourage*, his breakthrough came when he played assistant mortician, Arthur Martin, in HBO's hit series *Six Feet Under* winning him and the cast a Screen Actors Guild Award for "Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series." A co-starring role in Rob Zombie's *House of 1000 Corpses*, caught the eye of *The Office* producer Greg Daniels, who cast Wilson in his memorable role as the quirky "Dwight Schrute" in the multi-award-winning series, netting him three SAG Awards for "Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series" during its nine-year run. On stage, he has appeared on Broadway and in a host of Shakespearean roles at some of the country's most celebrated regional theaters. In 2005, Wilson made his directorial debut with *The New Bozema*, a sketch comedy and post modern clown show and went on to direct three episodes of *The Office*. In addition to big screen roles in *Sahara*, *My Super Ex-Girlfriend*, *BAADASSSS!* and *Juno*, Wilson recently starred alongside Elijah Wood in the satirical comedy *Cooties* as well as starring in *The Boy* which premiered at the 2015 SXSW Film Festival. Next up, starring roles in the feature film thriller *Shimmer Lake* as well as voicing the character of "Gargamel" in the animated feature *Get Smurfy*. He is the founder of the website and Youtube channel *Soul Pancake* that currently boasts over two million followers and over 100 million views. On November 10th, Wilson's autobiographical memoir titled *The Bassoon King: My Life in Art, Faith, and Idiocy* was published by Dutton. The book chronicles the actor's transition from nerd to drama geek, his years of mild debauchery and struggles as a young actor in the drug-fueled 1980s NY, his many adventures and insights about *The Office*, becoming a husband and father, his journey into practicing the Baha'i faith as well as his philanthropic endeavors.

WILL ENO

Will Eno is a Residency Five Fellow at Signature Theatre Company in New York, which presented *Title and Deed* in 2012, and *The Open House*, in 2014. Following an acclaimed run at Yale Repertory Theatre, his play *The Realistic Joneses* was on Broadway in 2014, directed by Sam Gold and starring Toni Collette, Michael C. Hall, Tracy Letts and Marisa Tomei. *The Realistic Joneses* won a Drama Desk Award, was named *USA Today's* "Best Play on Broadway," topped the *The Guardian's* 2014 list of American plays, and was included in *The New York Times's* "Best Theatre of 2014." *The Open House* won the 2014 Obie Award, the Lortel Award for Outstanding Play, and a Drama Desk Award, and was included in both *the Time Out New York* and *Time Magazine* Top 10 Plays of the Year. *Title and Deed* was on *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker* magazine's Top Ten Plays of 2012. His play *Gnit*, a loving but aggressive adaptation of *Peer Gynt*, premiered at the Actor's Theatre of Louisville in 2013. *Middletown*, winner of the Horton Foote Award, premiered at the Vineyard Theatre and subsequently at Steppenwolf Theater and many other American theaters and universities. He was recently awarded the

PEN/Laura Pels International Foundation Award. His plays are published by Samuel French, TCG, Dramatists Play Service and Playscripts in the U.S. and Oberon Books in London.

OLIVER BUTLER

Oliver Butler directed the premiere of Will Eno's *The Open House* at the Signature Theatre Company which captured an Obie Award for Direction, the 2014 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play and the Drama Desk Ensemble Award. Among his additional directorial credits, the premiere of *An Opening in Time* by Christopher Shinn at Hartford Stage, *Legacy* by Daniel Goldfarb at Williamstown Theatre Festival and *Timeshare* by Lally Katz at The Malthouse in Melbourne, Australia as well as City Center Encores! Off-Center production of Jonathan Larson's *Tick, Tick, Boom!* In New York, his credits include the premieres of *Goodbye New York Goodbye Heart* by Lally Katz (The Australian-American Production Company) and *Hostage Song*, a musical by Kyle Jarrow and Clay McLeod Chapman (Horse Trade Theater Group). As co-Founder and co-Artistic Director of The Debate Society (TDS), a Brooklyn-based theater company, Butler has co-created and directed eight full-length plays since 2004 including sold-out runs of *Jacuzzi* at Ars Nova in New York City and TDS' production of *Blood Play* at The Bushwick Starr, The Public Theater's Under the Radar Festival and Williamstown Theatre Festival. He is a Sundance Institute Fellow and a Bill Foeller Fellow (Williamstown) and was an Ars Nova Artist in Residence. The Debate Society is currently working on a commission for Playwrights Horizons.

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 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.

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