

MARIN HINKLE AND MATHER ZICKEL TAKE ON *EXTRAORDINARY CHAMBERS*

*Francois Chau, Kimiko Gelman and Greg Watanabe Complete Cast of
David Wiener's World Premiere Directed by Pam MacKinnon*

Opens in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at the Geffen Playhouse on June 1, 2011

LOS ANGELES, March 16, 2011 — The world premiere of **David Wiener's** *Extraordinary Chambers*, a thrilling drama about the consequences of one couple's seemingly innocuous business trip to Cambodia, will include **Marin Hinkle** (*Two and a Half Men*) and **Mather Zickel** (*Rachel Getting Married*) as Mara and Carter, the couple at the center of the story. Directed by **Pam MacKinnon**, the cast also features **Greg Watanabe** as Sopoan, the couple's guide through the unfamiliar territory, as well as **Francois Chau** (*LOST*) and **Kimiko Gelman**, who play the roles of a high-powered Cambodian business man and his wife, respectively. As business deals unravel and personal negotiations brim with political consequences, the couple must decide if the salvation of one life is worth sacrificing the justice of many. *Extraordinary Chambers* will open in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at the Geffen Playhouse on **June 1, 2011**.

"This production will be our fourth world premiere this season, and by virtue of exploring a global phenomenon with precise, personal perspective, *Extraordinary Chambers* is exactly the type of work we're looking for in regards to new plays" said Producing Director Gil Cates. "At the time that we were selecting *Extraordinary Chambers*, the very trials that are present within it were bringing down indictments, and the global gaze turned toward the Khmer Rouge and Cambodia. Although I believe that good theater must be personal, what a delight it is when the political and the personal intersect with such fluidity as is the case with David Wiener's play. "

Extraordinary Chambers was workshopped as part of South Coast Repertory Pacific Playwrights Festival in 2009; there was a subsequent reading as part of the Ojai Playwrights Conference in August of the same year. The Geffen Playhouse run is the world premiere of the fully staged production. Festivities during the run of *Extraordinary Chambers* include the theater's special Signature Series options for no additional cost. Special evenings include a scintillating, one-of-a kind after-party at Girls Night Out; a cultural happy hour with Lounge Fridays and complimentary wine tastings during Wine Down Sundays. For more information and specific dates, please view www.geffenplayhouse.com/signatureseries.

EXTRAORDINARY CHAMBERS

Written by David Wiener

Directed by Pam MacKinnon

Preview Performances: Tuesday, May 24 – Tuesday, May 31

Opening Night: Wednesday, June 1

Closing Night: Sunday, July 3

Cast

Francois Chau	Dr. Heng
Kimiko Gelman	Rom Chang
Marin Hinkle	Mara
Greg Watanabe	Sopoan
Mather Zickel	Carter

Production Credits

Set Designer	Myung Hee Cho
Costume Designer	Alex Jaeger
Lighting Designer	Lap Chi Chu
Sound Designer	Vincent Olivieri
Production Stage Manager	Young Ji

Performance Schedule

Monday	No performances
Tuesday – Friday	8:00pm
Saturday	3:00pm; 8:00pm
Sunday	2:00pm; 7:00pm

Ticket Info

Ticket prices for preview performances range from \$61 - \$66; ticket prices for the regular run range from from \$71 - \$76. Tickets are on sale now in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, via phone at **310-208-5454** or online at www.geffenplayhouse.com.

Biographies**FRANCOIS CHAU** (*Dr. Heng*)

Born in Phnom Penh, Francois Chau is a Cambodian-American actor who has worked extensively in theater, film, and television. Although he started his career as a professional actor in theater, he is currently best known as “Dr. Pierre Chang” in ABC’s groundbreaking television series, *LOST*. His other television credits include *Chuck*, *The Chicago Code*, *Grey’s Anatomy*, *Medium*, *24*, *Numb3rs*, *Jag*, *Gary Unmarried*, *Alias*, *Wild Palms*, *Stargate SG-1*, *MacGyver*, *China Beach* and *Hill Street Blues*. His numerous film credits include *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II*, *The Iron Triangle*, *Rapid Fire*, *City of Industry*, *Point of No Return*, *The Lodger*, *Lethal Weapon 4*, *What’s Cooking* directed by Gurinder Chadha and *Rescue Dawn* directed by Werner Herzog. He has also continued to work in theater and his credits include *In Perpetuity Throughout the Universe* (Berkeley Rep), *The Caretaker* (San Jose Rep), *The Survivor: A Cambodian Odyssey* (Merrimack Rep), *The Woman Warrior* (Ahmanson/Doolittle), *The Ballad of Yachiyo* (The Public Theatre/NYC), *The L.A. Plays* (The Almeida Theatre/London) and *Art* (East West Players).

KIMIKO GELMAN (*Rom Chang*)

Gelman most recently played Meg in *Crimes of the Heart* at East West Players. Other theater credits include *Proof*, *Cabaret*, *Into the Woods*, *Beijing Spring*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Songs of Harmony Winchester House* (Boston Court Theater), *Desire Under the Elms* (San Jose Repertory Theatre), *Redwood Curtain* (Seattle Repertory and Philadelphia Drama Guild), *Tea* (Odyssey Theatre Ensemble and CCAP) *Othello* (New Mexico Repertory Theatre). Film and Television credits include *AI*, *Minority Report*, *Mother*, *Billy’s Hollywood Screen Kiss*, *The Pickle*, *CSI Miami*, *For the People*, *The Division*, *The Closer*, *Chicago Hope*, *Beverly Hills 90210*, *Providence*, *West Wing* and *Rose* in *Rags to Riches*.

MARIN HINKLE (*Mara*)

Ms. Hinkle is thrilled to return to the Geffen, where past credits include *Rose and Walsh* and *Rabbit Hole*. Broadway credits include *Electra*, *A Thousand Clowns* and *The Tempest*. Off Broadway credits include *Graceland* at Lincoln Center’s LCT3, *The Dybbuk* (Public Theater), *Miss Julie* (Rattlestick), *Blue Window* (Barrow Group), *Sabina* (Primary Stages) and *The Changeling* (TFNA) among others. Ms. Hinkle has also performed in numerous plays at South Coast Rep, including *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Our Mother’s Brief Affair* (directed by Pam MacKinnon) and *What They Have*. Other regional theater credits include *Romeo and Juliet*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Ghosts*, *Heartbreak House*, *God of Vengeance*, *Evolution*, and *As You Like It*. Ms. Hinkle played Judith for the past eight seasons on *Two and a Half Men*. Other television credits include three seasons as Judy on *Once and Again*, and guest starring roles on *Brothers and Sisters*, *Private Practice*, *House*, *ER*, *Without a Trace*, and *Law and Order*. Film credits include *Weather Girl*, *Friends with Money*, *What Just Happened?*, *Quarantine*, *I Am Sam* and the upcoming *My Eleventh*.

PAM MACKINNON (Director)

Pam most recently directed the critically acclaimed production of Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* at Steppenwolf Theatre Company. It was subsequently produced at Arena Stage, where it is currently running. She has directed the critically acclaimed productions of Bruce Norris' *Clybourne Park* at Playwrights Horizons and Rachel Axler's *Smudge* at Women's Project in 2010. Other credits include: *A Lifetime Burning* by Cusi Cram (Primary Stages), Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* (Arena Stage), Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men* (Intiman Theatre), Itamar Moses' *The Four of Us* (Manhattan Theatre Club), Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa's *Good Boys and True* (Steppenwolf), the New York debut of Edward Albee's *Peter and Jerry* (Second Stage), and Bruce Norris' *The Unmentionables* (Woolly Mammoth). Her future projects include *Completeness* by Itamar Moses at South Coast Rep in April 2011. Pam is an alumna of the Lincoln Center Director's Lab, the Women's Project Directors' Forum, the Drama League Fall Production Fellowship and is a member of SSD&C.

GREG WATANABE (*Sopran*)

Greg's theater credits include the world premiere productions of *The Ballad of Yachiyo* (Berkeley Repertory, Seattle Repertory, Public Theater-NYSF), *Butcher's Burden* (Asian American Theater Co.), *The Summer Moon* (A Contemporary Theater, South Coast Rep.), *10,000 Years* (written and produced by John Ridley), *No-No Boy* (adapted by Ken Narasaki), and *The Happy Ones* (South Coast Rep.) for which he was nominated for an L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Featured Performance. Recently, he appeared as DHH in *Yellow Face* at Moollelo Theater Co., for which he was nominated for a San Diego Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Lead Performance. His television credits include cast member Off Limits (UPN, pilot, 6 ep.), *Watch Over Me* (MyNetworkTV, 23 ep.), *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Reno 911!*, *Criminal Minds*. Film appearances include *Only The Brave*, *Americanese*, and *Life Tastes Good*.

DAVID WIENER (Playwright)

David Wiener's playwriting credits include, *Guts*, *La Arana*, *Love Song (of the Apocalypse)*, *Blood Orange, in vitro*, *Huera*, *Cassiopeia*, and *System Wonderland*. His latest play, *Extraordinary Chambers*, is the recipient of the 2010 ACT New Play Award. Mr. Wiener's work has been developed and produced in the United States and the United Kingdom at theaters including: The Cherry Lane, The Blue Heron Arts Center, The Etcetera Theater (UK), HB Studios, ACT, The Atlantic Theater, The New Group, South Coast Repertory, The Berkshire Theater Festival, The Pacific Playwrights Festival, The Ojai Playwrights' Conference and SoHo Rep. Mr. Wiener is the recipient of the Cherry Lane Fellowship, The Rossetti Fellowship, The Lark Fellowship, and The Reynolds Price Award for Drama as well as commissions from Atlantic Theater Company, South Coast Repertory, SoHo Rep, and A Contemporary Theater. Mr. Wiener is a Core Writer of the Playwrights' Center. He lives in New York City.

MATHER ZICKEL (*Carter*)

Mather Zickel hails from New York City where he studied acting at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and The Shakespeare Lab at the Public Theatre. He spent fifteen years performing in many New York experimental venues, working with some of America's most creative young playwrights such as Sarah Ruhl, Gina Gionfriddo, and Adam Bock. He is pleased to be working once again with Pam MacKinnon. Since then, Mather has appeared in a wide variety of film and television roles. Some of his favorites are Kieran in *Rachel Getting Married* (Sony Classic) and District Attorney Mike Powers in *Reno: 911!* (Comedy Central). He can be seen currently on Adult Swim's *Delocated*, and searching for property in the greater L.A. area.

ABOUT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

The 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 musicals, the Geffen Playhouse 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 is helmed by Producing Director and President of the Board Gilbert (Gil) Cates, Artistic Director Randall Arney, Managing Director Ken Novice and Chairman of the Board Frank Mancuso. Proudly associated with UCLA, the Geffen Playhouse 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.

LISTING EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

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