

ARTISTIC BACKGROUNDER

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 nonprofit 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 Hollander. Proudly associated with UCLA, the Geffen 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. 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.

Geffen Playhouse has been awarded **more than 50 regional theater awards**, including seven accolades for best overall productions and a special Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle award for best new play in Los Angeles for both Jane Anderson's commission ***The Quality of Life*** and David Wiener's ***Extraordinary Chambers***. Geffen Playhouse also commissioned Donald Margulies' ***Time Stands Still***, which received a Tony Award nomination for Best Play in 2010, Jeffrey Hatcher's new adaptation of Frederick Knott's ***Wait Until Dark***, which was produced at several other regional theaters, and Joanna Murray-Smith's ***Switzerland*** which was produced internationally and featured Laura Linney and Seth Numrich in its premiere Los Angeles run. Other premiere works include ***Joan Rivers: A Work in Progress by a Life in Progress***, Carrie Fisher's ***Wishful Drinking***, which opened on Broadway in 2009 and Donald Margulies' ***The Country House***, co-produced with and commissioned by Manhattan Theatre Club and which opened on Broadway in 2014. This banner year saw four Geffen Playhouse world premieres (***The Jacksonian***, ***Nothing to Hide***, ***The Pianist of Willesden of Lane*** and ***The Country House***) transfer to New York.

Over the past 20 years, Geffen Playhouse has been host to award-winning performers including **Debbie Allen, Jason Alexander, David Arquette, Daniel Beaty, Annette Bening, Beau Bridges, Jackson Browne, Len Cariou, Richard Chamberlain, Bryan Cranston, Alan Cumming, Merle Dandridge, Blythe Danner, Peter Falk, Hershey Felder, Laurence Fishburne, Carrie Fisher, Scott Foley, Andy Garcia, John Goodman, Anna Gunn, Uta Hagen, Ed Harris, Glenna Headly, Neil Patrick Harris, Ricky Jay, Carol Kane, Jane Kaczmarek, Christine Lahti, Frank Langella, Sanaa Lathan, Linda Lavin, Laura Linney, Christopher Lloyd, Amy Madigan, John Mahoney, Marcel Marceau, Jefferson Mays, Sergio Mendes, Laurie Metcalf, Bette Midler, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Matthew Modine,**

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Elisabeth Moss, Chris Noth, David Hyde Pierce, Chris Pine, Bill Pullman, Lily Rabe, Brooke Shields, Martin Short, Alicia Silverstone, Holland Taylor, Jon Tenney and Kathleen Turner.

The Geffen's artistic team has cultivated relationships with Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning playwrights including **Alan Alda, Jane Anderson, Jon Robin Baitz, Rebecca Gilman, Beth Henley, Rajiv Joseph, Gina Gionfriddo, Jessica Goldberg, Richard Greenberg, Neil LaBute, Tracy Letts, David Lindsay-Abaire, David Mamet, Donald Margulies, Steve Martin, Martin McDonagh, Terrence McNally, Conor McPherson, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Joanna Murray-Smith, Lynn Nottage, John Pielmeier, David Rambo, Yasmina Reza, Sarah Ruhl, Robert Schenkkan, John Patrick Shanley, Neil Simon, Nick Stafford, Teller, David Wiener and Wendy Wasserstein.**

Acclaimed directors including **Sir Alan Ayckborn, Jo Bonney, Trip Cullman, Bart DeLorenzo, John Doyle, Peter DuBois, David Esbjornson, Robert Falls, Doug Hughes, Neil LaBute, Michael Langham, Pam MacKinnon, Marcel Marceau, Maria Mileaf, Lisa Peterson, John Rando, Matt Shakman, Thea Sharrock and Daniel Sullivan,** not to mention Geffen Playhouse's late Producing Director **Gilbert Cates** and Artistic Director **Randall Arney,** have expertly helmed Geffen Playhouse productions.

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