

GIL CATES

Producing Director

As a multiple award winning producer, director and overall film and TV powerhouse, Gil Cates has certainly proven his dedication to the motion picture. But, as the founder and producing director of the Geffen Playhouse, it's clear his heart is in the world of theater.

A graduate of Syracuse University, Cates earned his reputation as a sought after and critically acclaimed producer and director in Hollywood. He produced and directed the 1970 film version of the Broadway hit / *Never Sang for my Father*, which received three Academy Award nominations. Shortly thereafter, Cates again caught the Academy's attention with *Summer Wishes, Winter Dreams*, which received two Oscar nominations. Some of Cates other film credits include: *The Promise, One Summer Love, The Last Married Couple in America, Oh! God Book II* and *Backfire*.

On the small screen, Cates directed and produced a number of high-profile projects including the Emmy Award winning *To All my Friends on Shore*, starring Bill Cosby. In 1974 he worked with Natalie Wood and Robert Wagner on ABC's *The Affair*, and soon after, with Faye Dunaway and Christopher Plummer on NBC's *After the Fall*.

As Cates continued to rack up numerous credits on both the big and small screen, Cates served two terms as president of the Directors Guild of America (DGA) from 1983 to 1987. In 1989, the DGA honored him with the Robert B. Aldrich Award for extraordinary service, and two years later with the DGA's Honorary Life Membership.

Pulling from his vast professional experience and a desire to contribute growing the cultural community, Cates founded the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television (TFT) where he also served as Dean from 1990 to 1998.

In 1995, Cates founded the Geffen Playhouse to provide the Los Angeles community, as well as UCLA TFT students, access to world-class, original productions. In 1996 Cates was honored with the Jimmy Doolittle Award for Outstanding Contribution to Los Angeles Theater.

Since then, Cates has led the Geffen Playhouse through more than 75 productions and a multi-million dollar renovation, resulting in the addition of the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater. Cates' directing credits at the Geffen Playhouse include Donald Margulies' *Collected Stories* (for which Cates won an Ovation Award), David Eldridge's *Under the Blue Sky*, Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and Jeffrey Hatcher's *A Picasso*.

While Cates has collected 84 nominations and 17 Emmy Awards over the years, Cates is probably more well-known for his role behind the scenes of the Academy Awards show – 2008's 80th Annual Academy Awards marked Cates' fourteenth time as producer of the international broadcast.

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PLAYHOUSE