



NEWS RELEASE

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WORLD FAMOUS ARTIST RICKY JAY REAPPEARS AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

***Legendary Sleight-of-Hand Artist Brings His 52 Assistants to a
Special Limited Engagement in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater***

Seven Weeks Only: July 9 – August 26, 2008

LOS ANGELES, May 21, 2008 — No sleight-of-hand here; the peerless Ricky Jay will be bringing his internationally acclaimed show *Ricky Jay & His 52 Assistants* back to the Geffen Playhouse for a limited run this summer. With only 36 performances before Ricky Jay disappears once again, Angelenos have a quick opportunity to witness one of the most well-known masters of the art of deception. Ricky Jay (along with his numerous “assistants”) will be performing five shows a week from July 9 to August 26 (refer to bottom of release for specific details).

As the fastest sellout in off-Broadway history, *Ricky Jay & his 52 Assistants* blends mind-boggling card artistry and equally fascinating stage patter. Directed by David Mamet, who recently directed Jay in the feature film *Red Belt*, *Ricky Jay & his 52 Assistants* is set to perform in the Geffen Playhouse’s Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater. The Audrey, which seats only 96 patrons each performance, ensures one of the most intimate experiences available with this world-famous artist. Not that it will help decipher his magic, but it will give audiences one of the closest looks possible.

The Geffen Playhouse is the only theater in Los Angeles to host the internationally lauded performer in the last decade – the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater hosted Jay’s first performance in LA in more than ten years for a sold-out run in November 2006, and his upcoming performance this summer will be his only return engagement in the city since.

“The last time Ricky Jay was here, we had to turn away people by the droves,” said Producing Director Gil Cates. “We’re thrilled to have him back, not only to give our subscribers the special chance to see him first, but also because Ricky brings an air of energy, excitement, and of course mystery, to the playhouse that is inimitable, contagious and perfect for summer.”

Since seats sold so quickly during the previous run of *Ricky Jay & His 52 Assistants*, the Geffen Playhouse is ensuring its subscribers have the first opportunity to purchase tickets to this production. Geffen Playhouse subscribers will be able to purchase tickets beginning on Wednesday, May 21 via

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phone or in-person by providing their subscriber number to the box office agent. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on **Monday, June 2 at 10am**. Due to the nature of *Ricky Jay & His 52 Assistants*, no one under 17 will be admitted into the theater.

Ticket prices range from \$75 to \$115 and (after June 2) can be purchased online at www.geffenplayhouse.com, through the Geffen Playhouse Box Office at (310-208-5454) or through Ticketmaster. In addition, the theater will be offering ten VIP tickets to each performance. This special package costs \$250 a ticket and includes: a front row seat, complimentary parking, access to the theater's exclusive pre-show lounge, a custom deck of Ricky Jay playing cards and two complimentary drinks. For more information and to purchase VIP tickets, please contact Stephanie Strand at 310-208-6500, ext.159.

RICKY JAY & HIS 52 ASSISTANTS

Created and Performed by Ricky Jay

Directed by David Mamet

Opening Night: Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Closing Night: Tuesday, August 26, 2008

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

Wednesday	8:00pm
Thursday	8:00pm
Friday	8:30pm*
Saturday	8:00pm
Sunday	8:00pm

*Note later starting time.

TICKET INFO

Tickets (\$75 to \$115, Special VIP Package available for \$250) are on sale now at the Geffen Playhouse box office, online at GeffenPlayhouse.com, via phone 310.208.5454, at all Ticketmaster outlets, or by calling Ticketmaster at 213.365.3500. For VIP ticket package, please contact Stephanie Strand at 310-208-6500, ext.159.

PLEASE NOTE: No one under 17 is admitted. There is no late seating for this performance.

RICKY JAY (Creator / Performer)

While Ricky Jay has long been considered one of the world's great sleight of hand artists, his career is further distinguished by the remarkable variety of his accomplishments as an author, actor, historian, and consultant. His one man shows *Ricky Jay & His 52 Assistants* and *Ricky Jay: On the Stem*, both directed by David Mamet, were award winning critical and commercial theatrical events. As an actor Mr. Jay has been seen in David Mamet's films: *House of Games*, *Homicide*, *Things Change*, *Spanish Prisoner*, *State and Main*, and *Heist*. He has appeared in many other movies including *Boogie Nights*, *Magnolia*, *Last Days*, *Tomorrow Never Dies* and *The Prestige*. He will be seen in the *The Great Buck Howard* and the new David Mamet film *Red Belt*, which premiered nationally on May 9th. His consulting company, Deceptive Practices, has supplied "Arcane Knowledge on a Need to Know Basis" for more than a score of films including *Forrest Gump*, *The Illusionist*, and *Oceans 13*. He is the author of *Learned Pigs & Fireproof Women*, *Cards as Weapons*, *Jay's Journal of Anomalies*, *Dice: Deception, Fate and Rotten Luck*, and *Extraordinary Exhibitions*. His Grammy Nominated boxed set *Ricky Jay Plays Poker*, an album of classic and esoteric gambling tunes and a DVD of his of sleight of hand performance, is available from Sony BMG.

DAVID MAMET (Director)

David Mamet is the author of the plays *Romance*, *Boston Marriage*, *Oleanna*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1984 Pulitzer Prize and New York Drama Critics Circle Award), *American Buffalo*, *The Old Neighborhood*, *A Life in the Theatre*, *Speed-the-Plow*, *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*, *Reunion* and *The Cryptogram* (1995 Obie Award). His translations and adaptations include *Red River* by Pierre Laville and *The Cherry Orchard*, *Three Sisters* and *Uncle Vanya* by Anton Chekhov. His films include *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, *The Verdict*, *The Untouchables*, *House of Games* (writer/director), *Oleanna* (writer/director), *Homicide* (writer/director), *The Spanish Prisoner* (writer/director), *Hoffa*, *The Edge*, *Wag the Dog*, *The Winslow Boy* (writer/director), *Hannibal*, *State and Main* (writer/director) and *Heist* (writer/director). Mr. Mamet is also the author of *Warm and Cold*, a book for children with drawings by Donald Sultan, and two other children's books, *Passover* and *The Duck and the Goat*; *Writing in Restaurants*; *Some Freaks*; *Make Believe Town*; three volumes of essays; *The Hero Pony* and *The Chinaman*, books of poems; *Three Children's Plays*; *On Directing Film*; *The Cabin*; and *Wilson*. His most recent books include the acting books, *True and False* and *Three Uses of the Knife* and *Bambi vs. Godzilla*, *On the Nature Purpose and Practice of the Movie Business*. His film *Redbelt* is currently in theaters.

ABOUT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

Awarded the *Preservation Award* by the Los Angeles Conservancy, the *Award of Excellence* from the Society of American Registered Architects, and the *Architectural Award of Excellence* by the Los Angeles Business Council for its acclaimed 2005, \$19 million renovation, the Geffen Playhouse is in its 12th season in 2007/2008, enjoying its stature as a leading West Coast theater company and the crown jewel of Los Angeles theater. Noted for its intimacy and celebrated for its eclectic mix of classic and contemporary plays, provocative new works and musicals, the Geffen continues to present a body of work that has garnered national recognition. Named in honor of entertainment mogul and philanthropist David Geffen, who donated one of the largest gifts ever made to an already-constructed theater, the company is headed by Producing Director and President of the Board Gilbert (Gil) Cates, Artistic Director Randall Arney and Managing Director Stephen Eich, and has produced eight world premieres, four Tony, four Pulitzer, and seven Obie-award winning shows in its 12 season history. 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. For more information, please visit geffenplayhouse.com.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at the Geffen Playhouse
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