

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

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REHEARSALS BEGIN FOR “THE HOPE THEORY”

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY HELDER GUIMARÃES
AND DIRECTED BY FRANK MARSHALL
IN THEIR FOURTH COLLABORATION AT GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

FIVE SELECT PERFORMANCES WILL BE PERFORMED IN SPANISH

PREVIEWS BEGIN APRIL 25 - OPENING NIGHT IS MAY 2

LOS ANGELES (March 26, 2024) – Rehearsals begin today for Geffen Playhouse’s world premiere production of *The Hope Theory* written and performed by master illusionist and storyteller **Helder Guimarães** (*Invisible Tango, The Present, The Future*) and directed by EGOT award-winning director/producer **Frank Marshall** (*Indiana Jones, Jason Bourne, Jurassic World*).

The Hope Theory marks the fourth collaboration between Guimarães and Marshall for Geffen Playhouse, following *Invisible Tango* (2019), *The Present* (2020) and *The Future* (2020/21).

Five performances of *The Hope Theory* will be performed in Spanish as [*La Teoría de la Esperanza*](#).

Previews for *The Hope Theory* begin Wednesday, April 25, 2024, in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at Geffen Playhouse. Opening night is Thursday, May 2, 2024.

From the creators of *Invisible Tango, The Present, and The Future* comes an entirely new theatrical event. As a Portuguese immigrant, storyteller, and sleight-of-hand magician, Helder Guimarães arrived in America at age 29. Wide-eyed and full of ideas, he discovers a fascinating puzzle of cultural and professional challenges to solve while he tries to build a home. *The Hope Theory* offers a unique perspective on America through the eyes of an optimistic outsider.

Major support for this world premiere production provided by the Edgerton Foundation New Play Production Fund.

THE HOPE THEORY

Written & Performed by **Helder Guimarães**
Directed by **Frank Marshall**

Previews: April 25, 2024–May 1, 2024

Opening Night: May 2, 2024

Closing Night: June 9, 2024

CAST

Helder Guimarães

PRODUCTION TEAM

Scenic Designer **François-Pierre Couture**

Costume Design Consultant **Audrey Laster**

Lighting Designer **Martha Carter**

Sound Designer **James Grabowski**

Composer **Jeff Beal**

Dramaturg **Amy Levinson**

Spanish Translator **Jose Nateras**

Production Stage Manager **Gabrielle J. Bruno**

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Monday – Tuesday	No performance
Wednesday – Friday	8:00 p.m.
Saturday	3:00 and 8:00 p.m.
Sunday	2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

SPANISH LANGUAGE PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 8	8:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 16	8:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 19	2:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 26	7:00 p.m.
Friday, June 7	8:00 p.m.

LOCATION

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

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets currently priced at \$30.00 - \$129.00. Available by phone at 310.208.2028 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.org. Fees may apply.

Age Recommendation: 16+. All Geffen Playhouse productions are intended for an adult audience; children under 12 years of age will not be admitted.

Rush tickets for each day's performance are made available to the general public one hour before showtime at the box office. \$35.00 General/\$15.00 Student.

COLLEGE AUDIENCES

Through a variety of events and other opportunities, Geffen Playhouse welcomes college students to experience the live storytelling presented on our stages. We are proud of our association with UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television, and open our doors to all college students throughout Los Angeles. More information is available at www.geffenplayhouse.org/college.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Helder Guimarães (Playwright & Performer)

A Portuguese-born performer recognized by *The New York Times* as "a master of illusions," Helder Guimarães is a World-Champion of Magic, Parlor Magician of the Year, Allan Slaight's Sharing Wonder recipient, and Ascanio Prize winner. His unique approach to sleight-of-hand magic and storytelling was featured in his previous creations *Nothing to Hide*, *Borrowed Time*, and *Verso*. Using his knowledge of deception, Guimarães regularly consults for entities like NBC, Disney, and Warner. As an example, he personally trained Sandra Bullock and Cate Blanchett for *Ocean's 8*. In 2019, Guimarães debuted *Invisible Tango*, directed by Frank Marshall, at the Geffen Playhouse. In their review of the production, the *Los Angeles Times* said, "As a rule, Guimarães is in no rush to clear up mysteries. He cultivates them the way a horticulturalist cultivates flowering vines. But he isn't out to deceive. Or rather deception is put in the service of enlightenment." In 2020, during the pandemic, Guimarães sold out a 250+ performance run of *The Present* over six months as part of the Geffen Stayhouse banner. About it, *The Washington Post* said: "I'm committed now to the belief that Guimarães is an extraterrestrial landed among us to share his superpower to boggle the human mind. And because in an era of rampant transparency, a bit of theatrical mystery restores one's faith in the essential art of exuberant deception." In 2022, he created *Back to Wonder*, an immersive experience that ran for five sold-out months. Guimarães resides in Los Angeles.

Frank Marshall (Director)

Frank Marshall is a director/producer and one of the few people to have received an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony (EGOT). With a film producing career marked by five Academy Award nominations and classic series like *Indiana Jones*, *Jason Bourne*, and *Jurassic World*, Marshall is also an accomplished director, having helmed *Arachnophobia*, *Alive*, *Eight Below*, and several documentaries, including the award-winning HBO documentary, *The Bee Gees: How Can You Mend a Broken Heart*. An amateur magician since he was ten, *The Hope Theory* is his fourth collaboration with Helder Guimarães. His current projects include directing *The Beach Boys*, a documentary for Disney+, and producing the new Broadway musical, *Water for Elephants*, and the upcoming summer movie, *Twisters*.

PRODUCTION SPONSOR

City National Bank

OPENING NIGHT SPONSOR

Wolfsglen

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 Executive Director/CEO Gil Cates, Jr., Artistic Director Tarell Alvin McCraney and Board Chair Adi Greenberg. 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.

www.geffenplayhouse.org

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