



NEWS RELEASE

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QUALITY CAST BRINGS GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE WORLD PREMIERE TO LIFE AS PART OF NEW COMMISSION PROGRAM

Scott Bakula, Dennis Boutsikaris, Laurie Metcalf and JoBeth Williams
Star in Jane Anderson's Geffen-Commissioned Production *The Quality of Life*

LOS ANGELES, August 24, 2007 — As the first Geffen-produced play in the theater's new commission program, *The Quality of Life* reunites multi-award winning actress **Laurie Metcalf** with Emmy Award-winning writer **Jane Anderson**. Seasoned actors **Scott Bakula, Dennis Boutsikaris** and **JoBeth Williams** complete the company of this intimate four-character drama that explores the relationship of two couples as they are forced to take a stance about morality, religion, politics and what determines the value of a life.

The first production to appear in the playhouse's intimate Audrey Skirball Kenis theater this season, *The Quality of Life* was written for a space in which the audience would feel immersed in the action on stage. Without a traditional proscenium, the Audrey enables the audience to be enveloped into the play's literally burnt-out world, which is set in the aftermath of an all-consuming residential wildfire. Anderson, who is also directing the production, plans to use the space to reinforce not only the inter-character relationships, but also the relationship between characters and the audience, both of which are integral to this work.

"There's a terrible rift in this country between the far right and the far left," said writer/director Anderson. "One of the things I hope to achieve with *The Quality of Life* is to help the audience recognize that in the face of this dichotomy of ideals, there's the possibility of finding a common human connection."

Representing the "far left" in this production is Metcalf in the role of Jeannette, coupled with Boutsikaris as Jeannette's husband Neil. Having previously appeared at the Geffen Playhouse in Anderson's production of *Looking for Normal*, Metcalf was the actress Anderson had in mind while developing this character.

"I consider Laurie to be one of the great actresses of the American stage," said Anderson. "She's a brilliant chameleon and she works from a place of profound emotional depth. But she also has a wicked sense of humor."

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Metcalf and Boutsikaris are complemented by Bakula and Williams who represent the “far right,” as Jeannette’s mid-western cousins, Bill and Dinah. With each character distinct – and vocal – in his or her ideals, Anderson’s production is a world premiere that urges the audience to question their own world. *The Quality of Life* opens on October 10 – appropriately, right in the middle of Los Angeles’ fire season, and runs until November 18, 2007.

THE QUALITY OF LIFE (*World Premiere of a Geffen-Commissioned Play*)

Written and Directed by Jane Anderson

October 2 through November 18, 2007

Previews: October 2 to October 9

Opening Night: October 10, 2007

Cast

Scott Bakula	Bill
Dennis Boutsikaris	Neil
Laurie Metcalf	Jeannette
JoBeth Williams	Dinah

SCOTT BAKULA (*Bill*)

BROADWAY: *Romance/Romance* (Tony nomination), *Marilyn an American Fable* (Broadway debut). OFF BROADWAY: *Three Guys Naked from the Waist Down*. REGIONAL: *Shenandoah, No Strings, Nite Club Confidential*. TELEVISION: *Quantum Leap* (Golden Globe Award, Emmy nomination), *Star Trek: Enterprise, The New Adventures of Old Christine, Designing Women, Murphy Brown, It’s A Girl Thing, The Invaders, Tom Clancy’s Net Force, Mean Streak, Bachelor’s Baby, Papa’s Angels, What Girls Learn*. FILM: *American Beauty, Cat’s Don’t Dance, Life as a House, Ghost of a Chance, Lord of Illusions, Major League: Back to the Minors, Mi Familia/My Family, Color of Night, A Passion to Kill, Necessary Roughness, Sibling Rivalry*.

DENNIS BOUTSIKARIS (*Neil*)

BROADWAY: *Amadeus* (Mozart), *Filumena* (directed by Sir Laurence Olivier) and *Bent*. OFF-BROADWAY: *Sight Unseen* (Manhattan Theatre Club; OBIE AWARD for Outstanding Performance & Drama Desk Nomination for Best Actor), *Nest of the Woodgrouse* (New York Public Theatre; OBIE AWARD for Outstanding Performance) *The Boys Next Door, That Championship Season* (Second Stage), *A Picasso* (Picasso-Manhattan Theatre Club), *Julius Caesar* (Cassius-New York Shakespeare Festival), TELEVISION: *Chasing the Dragon* (Cable Ace Nomination-Best Supporting Actor), *And Then There Was One* (Lifetime), *Love & Betrayal: The Mia Farrow Story* (Woody Allen). TELEVISION SERIES REGULARS: *Stat, The Hackie Thomas Show, Sidney Lumet’s 100 Centre Street and Six Degrees*. FILM: **batteries not included, Dream Team, Boys on the Side, In Dreams, The Education of Charlie Banks, Calling it Quits and Crocodile Dundee 2*. He is the recipient of two AUDIE Awards for his work in narrating over 50 audiobooks. He was last seen at the Geffen in David Mamet’s *The Old Neighborhood*.

LAURIE METCALF (*Jeannette*)

BROADWAY: *My Thing of Love, November* (David Mamet World Premier with Nathan Lane; 2008) REGIONAL: *All My Sons* (Geffen Playhouse, Ovation Award), *Looking for Normal* (Geffen Playhouse, Ovation Award). Laurie is also a member of Chicago’s Steppenwolf Ensemble Theatre, now in it’s 30th season. TELEVISION: *Roseanne, The Norm Show, Desperate Housewives, Grey’s Anatomy, Monk, Frasier, Malcom in The Middle, Without a Trace, Third Rock From the Sun*. FILM: *Meet the Robinsons, Internal Affairs, Toy Story, Desperately Seeking Susan, Bulworth, Leaving Las Vegas*

JOBETH WILLIAMS (*Dinah*)

NEW YORK: *Moonchildren, Lady House Blues, A Couple of White Chicks, Gardenia*. REGIONAL: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Idiot’s Delight, Antony and Cleopatra, The Vagina Monologues*. TELEVISION: *Payne, John Grisham’s The*

Client, Miss Match, Adam, Baby M, My Name is Bill W, The Ponder Heart. FILM: Kramer vs. Kramer, Poltergeist, Poltergeist II, The Big Chill, Switch, Stir Crazy, American Dreamer, Wyatt Earp, Jungle to Jungle.

Production Credits

Scenic Designer	Francois-Pierre Couture
Costume Designer	Christina Haatainen Jones
Lighting Designer	Jason Thompson
Sound Designer	Karl Lundeberg
Props Supervisor	Ilana Gordon
Production Stage Manager	Anna Belle Gilbert
Asst. Stage Manager:	Melissa Machat

Tickets (\$69 for all performances except Friday and Saturday evenings, which are \$74) are on sale now at the Geffen Playhouse box office, online at GeffenPlayhouse.com, via credit card phone order at 310.208.5454, at all Ticketmaster outlets, or by calling Ticketmaster at 213.365.3500. Performance times for productions at the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at the Geffen Playhouse vary; please visit GeffenPlayhouse.com or call the box office.

Student rush tickets are available one hour prior to curtain for \$15.

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 begins 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 storied 11 seasons. Proudly associated with UCLA, the Geffen welcomes more than 130,000 patrons 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:

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