



NEWS RELEASE

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GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE POSTPONES MARGULIES COMMISSION UNTIL 08/09 AND ANNOUNCES DANIEL SULLIVAN AS DIRECTOR

***Margulies' Family Adventure Shipwrecked! An Entertainment
Takes Place of The Elephant in the Room as Final Play in 07/08 Season***

LOS ANGELES, April 2, 2008 — Donald Margulies' recently acclaimed *Shipwrecked! An Entertainment: The Amazing Adventures of Louis de Rougemont (As Told by Himself)* will replace the Geffen-commissioned world premiere of the playwright's new work, with the working title of *The Elephant in the Room*, as part of the Geffen Playhouse's 07/08 season. The Geffen-commissioned project, set to open this June, was postponed in order to align with the schedule of the artistic team's first-choice director and give this new production the best possible world premiere – something the theater is confident about with award-winning director Daniel Sullivan signing on to direct the piece as part of the Geffen's 08/09 season.

"I wanted very much to work on this new play with Dan Sullivan, who wasn't available this spring, and with whom I have enjoyed a rewarding collaboration now spanning ten years, starting with *Dinner with Friends* and continuing through the Broadway productions of *Sight Unseen* and *Brooklyn Boy*," said playwright Donald Margulies. "Serendipitously, the Geffen was interested in producing my recent play *Shipwrecked! An Entertainment* in the near future and the artistic team for that production happened to be available this June, so everything fell into place quite nicely."

Shipwrecked! An Entertainment was recently commissioned by South Coast Repertory and had a lauded limited run on the theater's Julianne Argyros Stage last fall. Geffen Producing Director Gil Cates and Artistic Director Randall Arney saw the production, were taken by the fun-filled adventure tale, and began working with Margulies to bring the playwright's new work to a greater Los Angeles audience. The Geffen Playhouse welcomes back Bart DeLorenzo, who recently helmed the SCR production as well as the Geffen's successful world premiere of *Joan Rivers: A Work in Progress by a Life in A Life in Progress*, as director.

Inspired by the true story of the unlikely hero who spellbound Victorian England – and subsequently the world – with his incredible tale of survival, *Shipwrecked!* is a production that appeals to all ages with a wealth of fantastic characters. The story is narrated by adventurer Louis de Rougemont, played by award-winning actor Gregory Itzin, who reenacts his lifetime of escapades for the audience. The various other players in Louis' adventures – including a giant octopus, a faithful dog, a curmudgeonly sea captain

-more-

and some cagey natives, come to life through seasoned actors Melanie Butiu and Michael David Cassady.

Shipwrecked! will open on the Geffen's mainstage on June 25 and run until August 3, 2008.

SHIPWRECKED! AN ENTERTAINMENT

By Donald Margulies

Directed by Bart DeLorenzo

Previews: Tuesday, June 17 to Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Opening Night: Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Closing Night: Sunday, August 3, 2008

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

Monday	No performances
Tuesday – Thursday	7:30 pm
Friday	8:00 pm
Saturday	4:00 pm; 8:30 pm
Sunday	2:00 pm; 7:00 pm

CAST

Melody Butiu	Player 1
Michael Daniel Cassady	Player 2
Gregory Itzin	Louis de Rougemont

MELODY BUTIU (*Player 1*)

Theater credits include *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*, the Hispanic Playwrights Project reading of *The Adventures of Barrio Grrr!* and the Pacific Playwrights Festival readings of *The Piano Teacher*, *99 Histories*, *Scab*, *Dogeaters* and *Shipwrecked! An Entertainment* at SCR, *The Break Up Notebook: The Lesbian Musical* at Hudson Backstage Theatre; *The Long Season* at Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, AK; *36 Views* at Laguna Playhouse, Portland Center Stage and Geva Theatre Center; *Growing with Ghosts* and *Splendor: A 99-Cent Only Stores Wonderama* with Orphean Circus; *Street Stories* at Playwrights' Arena; *Refrigerators* at Lodestone Theatre Ensemble; *Songplay* at the Odyssey Theatre Ensemble; *Hair* with Reprise! Broadway's Best; *Golden Child* and *Leilani's Hibiscus* at East West Players; and *Dogeaters* and *Boy* at La Jolla Playhouse. Television credits include "Invasion," "What Should You Do?," "Threat Matrix," "Scrubs," "Without a Trace," "Strong Medicine," "The Practice," "Wanda at Large," "Baby Bob" and "Danny." She received her MFA from UC San Diego.

MICHAEL DANIEL CASSADY (*Player 2*)

Theater credits include *Shipwrecked! An Entertainment* at SCR, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Catalpa* (LA Weekly Award, Best Solo Performance), and *Killers* at Evidence Room; *The Idiots*, *Before They Were Giants* and *Comedy Death-Ray* at Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre; *Catalpa* at Edinburgh Festival Fringe UK; *Shyness is Nice* (*Entertainment Today*, Best Male Actor 2003) and *The Hostage* at Alliance Repertory Company; *800 Words: The Transmigration of Phillip K. Dick*, *Ghosts of Romance* and *Republic of Lizard* at the Iowa New Play Festival; *The Seagull*, *Aloha*, *Say the Pretty Girls* and *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* at E.C. Mabie Theatre; and *Agamemnon* and *Marat/Sade* at David Thayer Theatre. Film credits include *Unseen Kind-Hearted Beast*, *White Cotton*, *Fish Out of Water* and *Alternate Theory*. He also performs sketch comedy and improvisation with Upright Citizens Brigade and the Steve Allen Theater.

BART DeLORENZO (Director)

Bart DeLorenzo is founding artistic director of the Evidence Room in Los Angeles where he has directed many local and world premieres over the last 12 years including plays by David Greenspan, Kelly Stuart, Philip K. Dick, Gordon Dahlquist, David Edgar, Charles L. Mee, Naomi Wallace and Edward Bond. He has also directed his own adaptation of *Hard Times*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and *Don Carlos*, among many others. He produced all the above as well as award-winning productions of *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *The Berlin Circle*, and *Speed-Hedda*, among others. He has participated in the development of new plays at the Taper New Work Festival, South Coast Rep's Pacific Playwrights Festival, A.S.K. Theater Projects, and the Ojai Playwrights Conference. He recently directed the Los Angeles premiere of Martin Crimp's *Attempts on Her Life* in a co-production between Evidence Room and Unknown Theater, the world premiere of Donald Margulies' *Shipwrecked! An Entertainment* at South Coast Repertory, Center Theatre Group's kick-off premiere event of Suzan-Lori Parks' *365 Days/365 Plays* outdoors at the Los Angeles Music Center plaza and on the steps of Walt Disney Hall, and the world premiere of Sandra Tsing Loh's

long-running *Mother on Fire* at the 24th Street Theater, with subsequent revivals at the Pasadena Playhouse, the Sundance Film Festival and the Women's Building in San Francisco. For his work, he has received five LA Weekly awards and three Backstage Garlands.

GREGORY ITZIN (*Louis de Rougemont*)

Gregory Itzin has appeared in numerous theatrical venues across the country, and for the past eight years has been a member of The Matrix Theatre Company in Los Angeles, where he has acted in award-winning productions of *Waiting for Godot*, *The Homecoming*, *The Birthday Party* (each earning him an L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award for performance), *Endgame*, *Dangerous Corner* and the world premiere of *Yield of the Long Bond*. For his work in the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Kentucky Cycle* (which he performed in the world premiere at the Intiman Theatre in Seattle, at Mark Taper Forum, the Kennedy Center and on Broadway), he received Tony and Drama Desk nominations. In addition, Itzin originated the role of Louis de Rougement in the world-premiere production of *Shipwrecked! An Entertainment at SCR*. Itzin's numerous TV credits include series regular roles on "24" (Emmy Award nomination), "Murder One," "The Nutt House," "Something Wilder" and "Strip Mall"; recurring roles on "Judging Amy," "Navy NCIS: Naval Criminal Investigative Service," "Friends," "Eerie, Indiana," "Profiler," "L.A. Law," "Picket Fences" and "JAG"; and guest star roles on such shows as "Without a Trace," "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," "NYPD Blue," "The West Wing" and "The Lyon's Den." His made for TV movie appearances include *Johnny Tsunami*, *The Day Lincoln Was Shot* and *Miss Lonelyhearts*. Itzin's film appearances include *I Know Who Killed Me*, *Evolution*, *Adaptation*, *Life or Something Like It*, *Original Sin*, and *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, among others.

DONALD MARGULIES (Playwright)

Donald Margulies' plays include *Brooklyn Boy*, *Dinner with Friends*, *Sight Unseen*, *Collected Stories*, *The Loman Family Picnic*, *God of Vengeance*, *What's Wrong With this Picture*, *The Model Apartment* and the upcoming Geffen commissioned production with the working title of *The Elephant in the Room*. He has won a Lucille Lortel Award, an American Theatre Critics Award, two Los Angeles Drama Critics Awards, two Obie Awards, two Dramatists Guild Hull-Warriner Awards, five Drama Desk Award nominations and one Pulitzer Prize. His works have been performed at major theatres across the United States and around the world. Mr. Margulies has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York Foundation for the Arts, and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. In 2005 he was honored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters with an Award in Literature, and was the recipient of the 2000 Sidney Kingsley Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Theatre. Mr. Margulies is an alumnus of New Dramatists and serves on the council of The Dramatists Guild of America. He is an adjunct professor of English and Theatre Studies at Yale University.

TICKET INFO

Tickets (\$35 to \$79) 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.

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 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:

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