

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CAST ANNOUNCED FOR GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE
WEST COAST PREMIERE OF "SKINTIGHT"**

FEATURING TONY AWARD WINNER IDINA MENZEL

WRITTEN BY JOSHUA HARMON AND DIRECTED BY DANIEL AUKIN

**ALSO FEATURING WILL BRITTAIN, ELI GELB, HARRY GROENER,
KIMBERLY JÜRGEN AND JEFF SKOWRON**

PREVIEWS BEGIN SEPTEMBER 3 - OPENING NIGHT IS SEPTEMBER 12

LOS ANGELES (August 9, 2019) – Geffen Playhouse today announced the full cast for its West Coast premiere of *Skintight*, written by **Joshua Harmon** (*Bad Jews, Significant Other*) and directed by Obie Award winner **Daniel Aukin** (*Fool for Love, Bad Jews*). The production features Tony Award winner **Idina Menzel** (*Rent, Wicked*) as Jodi Isaac.

In addition to Menzel, the cast includes **Will Brittain** (*Kong: Skull Island, Colony*) as Trey, **Eli Gelb** (*The Twenty-Seventh Man, Ruth*) as Benjamin Cullen, Tony Award nominee **Harry Groener** (*Indecent, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*) as Elliot Isaac, **Kimberly Jürgen** (*Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe, Hamlet*) as Orsolya and **Jeff Skowron** (*The Lion King, Les Misérables*) as Jeff.

Previews for *Skintight* begin Tuesday, September 3 in the Gil Cates Theater at Geffen Playhouse. Opening night is Thursday, September 12.

Hanging on by a thread after her ex-husband gets engaged to a much younger woman, Jodi (Idina Menzel) retreats to her dad's swanky Manhattan townhouse. But rather than the comforts of home, she instead finds her aging father's new live-in boyfriend, Trey—who is 20. In his new comedy, playwright Joshua Harmon brings neurotic family drama to the forefront as father and daughter contend with the age-old questions of how to age gracefully in a world obsessed with youth and where love fits into it all.

Skintight was commissioned by and premiered at Roundabout Theatre Company (Todd Haimes, Artistic Director; Julia C. Levy, Executive Director).

SKINTIGHT

Written by **Joshua Harmon**
Directed by **Daniel Aukin**

Previews: Tuesday, September 3 – Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Opening Night: Thursday, September 12, 2019

Closing Night: Sunday, October 6, 2019

CAST

Will Brittain as Trey
Eli Gelb as Benjamin Cullen
Harry Groener as Elliot Isaac
Kimberly Jürgen as Orsolya
Idina Menzel as Jodi Isaac
Jeff Skowron as Jeff

PRODUCTION TEAM

Scenic Designer **Lauren Helpern**
Costume Designer **China Lee**
Lighting Designer **Pat Collins**
Sound Designer **Vincent Olivieri**
Production Stage Manager **Ross Jackson**
Assistant Stage Manager **Lizzie Thompson**
Casting Director **Phyllis Schuringa, CSA**

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

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

LOCATION

Gil Cates Theater at Geffen Playhouse
10886 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets currently priced at \$30.00 - \$145.00. Available in person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, by phone at 310.208.5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.org. Fees may apply.

Rush tickets for each day's performance are made available to the general public 30 minutes before showtime at the box office. \$35.00 General/\$15.00 Student

COLLEGE AUDIENCES

Through a variety of events and other opportunities, the 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

Joshua Harmon (Playwright)

Joshua Harmon's plays include *Bad Jews* (Roundabout Underground; Roundabout Theatre Company/Laura Pels; West End), *Significant Other* (Roundabout Theatre Company; Broadway/Booth Theatre), *Admissions* (Lincoln Center Theater; West End) and *Skintight* (Roundabout Theatre Company). His plays have been produced across the United States at Studio Theatre, Geffen Playhouse, Speakeasy,

Actor's Express, The Magic and Theater Wit, among others, and internationally in Australia, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, and throughout the U.K. He is a two-time MacDowell fellow, under commission at Manhattan Theatre Club, and an Associate Artist at Roundabout Theatre Company. Graduate of Juilliard.

Daniel Aukin (Director)

Daniel is a New York-based director. Winner of three OBIE Awards, recent work includes the acclaimed Broadway revival of Sam Shepard's *Fool for Love* with Sam Rockwell and Nina Arianda and Joshua Harmon's *Admissions* (Lincoln Center Theater, London's West End). World premieres include Joshua Harmon's *Bad Jews* and *Skintight*; Abe Koogler's *Fulfillment Center*; Dan LeFranc's *Rancho Viejo*; Melissa James Gibson's *Placebo*, *What Rhymes with America*, *Suitcase* and *[Sic]*; *The Fortress of Solitude* by Michael Friedman and Itamar Moses from the novel by Jonathan Lethem; Sam Shepard's *Heartless*; Amy Herzog's *4000 Miles*; Marius von Mayenburg's *The Ugly One* (U.S. premiere); Itamar Moses' *Back Back Back*; Mark Schultz's *Everything Will Be Different*; Mac Wellman's *Cat's-Paw*, Quincy Long's *The Year of the Baby* and Maria Irene Fornes' *Molly's Dream*. Also, Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge* (Arena Stage) and Elmer Rice's *The Adding Machine* (La Jolla Playhouse). Formerly the Artistic Director of Soho Rep in New York (1998-2006), where he developed and produced world premieres by Richard Maxwell, Young Jean Lee, Thomas Bradshaw, Anne Washburn and Jordan Harrison, among many others. He has directed productions at Lincoln Center Theater, Soho Rep, Roundabout Theatre Company, Atlantic Theater, Manhattan Theatre Club, Playwrights Horizons, Dallas Theater Center, Arena Stage and Woolly Mammoth, and has participated in development programs at Sundance Theater Lab, the O'Neill Playwrights' Conference and New York Stage and Film.

Will Brittain (Trey)

Will Brittain is thrilled to be making his Geffen Playhouse debut with *Skintight*. Films include: *Kong: Skull Island*, *Everybody Wants Some!!*, *Savage Youth*, *Desolate*, *A Teacher*. Television: *Colony* (Season 3). Upcoming Films: *Let Him Go*, *Haunt*, *Blow the Man Down*, *William*. Love and thanks to God, family, reps and The Biscuit. For you, Dad, the wild man.

Eli Gelb (Benjamin Cullen)

Theatre: *Skintight* (Roundabout Theatre Company); *The Twenty-seventh Man* (The Old Globe, directed by Barry Edelstein); *Ruth* (Alex Borinsky, EST/Sloan Workshop); *The North Pool* (Rajiv Joseph, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park); *The Thickness of Skin* (The Barrow Group). Film/television: *The Squid and the Whale* (Noah Baumbach); *Holy Rollers* (Sundance 2010); *The Newsroom* (Aaron Sorkin, HBO); *Not Fade Away* (David Chase); *Indignation* (James Schamus). Proud member of Ensemble Studio Theatre.

Harry Groener (Elliot Isaac)

Geffen Playhouse credits: *Equivocation* (Ovation Award), *The Exorcist*. Recent Los Angeles appearances: *Indecent* at Ahmanson Theatre; *Three Days in the Country*, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* (Ovation Awards) at Antaeus Company; Prospero in *The Tempest* at Shakespeare Orange County. Broadway: *Crazy For You* (Tony and Drama Desk nomination), *Oklahoma!* (Tony nomination and Theater World Award), *Cats* (Tony nomination), *Harrigan and Hart* (Drama Desk nomination), *Oh Brother!*, *Is there Life After High School*, *Sleight of Hand*, *Sunday In The Park With George*, *Imaginary Friends*, *Spamalot*. Off-Broadway: *Twelve Dreams*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *If Love Were All*. Regional: *The March* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); title roles in *The Madness of King George* (Jeff Award), *Cyrano De Bergerac* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *King Lear* (Antaeus Company). Film: *About Schmidt*, *Road to Perdition*, *Amistad*, *Patch Adams*, *Brubaker*, *Cure For Wellness*, *A Futile And Stupid Gesture*. Television: over 70 credits, including *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Dear John*, *Star Trek*, *How I Met Your Mother*.

Kimberly Jürgen (Orsolya)

Kimberly Jürgen, a science nerd and graduate of Emory University, is making her Geffen Playhouse debut. She recently appeared on *Modern Family* and was covered in beetles on *Bones*. Stage highlights include: *Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* at the Los Angeles LGBT Center, four productions of *Hamlet*, three *Romeo and Juliets*, two comedies by Shel Silverstein and *Othello* (playing Iago). She is an actor/writer and co-creator of the award-winning web series, *Good Samaritans*. She began volunteering as a young Girl Scout and now works with elementary students through Young Storytellers.

Idina Menzel (Jodi Isaac)

Broadway: debut as Maureen in *Rent* (Tony Award nomination); Elphaba in *Wicked* (Tony Award winner), which she also brought to West End; Elizabeth in *If/Then* (Tony Award nomination). Other New York stage work includes *Skintight* (Roundabout Theatre Company), *See What I Wanna See* (Public Theater), *The Wild Party* (MTC), *Hair* (Encores). Recipient of the Drama League Special Recognition Award for Achievement in Musical Theatre. Film: Elsa in Disney phenomenon *Frozen* and its upcoming sequel, Christopher Columbus' film version of *Rent*, *Enchanted* and *Ask the Dust*. Upcoming: Safdie Brothers' *Uncut Gems*. Television: recurring on *Glee*, Lifetime's remake of *Beaches* and PBS special *Barefoot at the Symphony* with accompanying album. Additional solo albums include *idina.*, *I Stand*, *Here* and *Still I Can't Be Still*. Menzel's performance of "Let It Go" won the Oscar for Best Original Song and the Grammy Award for Best Song Written for Visual Media. She was honored as Billboard's Women in Music "Breakthrough Artist" in 2014.

Jeff Skowron (Jeff)

Broadway: *Enron* (Trader), *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (Grinch), *The Lion King* (Ed/Timon/Zazu), *Beauty and the Beast* (LeFou), *High Society* (Stanley), *The Boy from Oz* (workshop, Chris Bell, opposite Hugh Jackman). Los Angeles credits include: *A Gentleman's Guide...* (D'Ysquith Family, West Coast premiere), *Parade* (Leo Frank, Ovation Award), *South Pacific* (Luther Billis, Ovation Award), *The Producers* (Leo Bloom, Ovation Award nomination), *Pride and Prejudice* (Mr. Collins, Ovation Award nomination), *Les Misérables* (Thenardier, Ovation Award nomination), *Into the Woods* (Baker, LA Drama Critics Circle nomination). Jeff co-starred as Dorfman opposite Billy Bob Thornton in *Bad Santa 2*. Television: *Teen Wolf*, *Kroll Show*, *NCIS*, *Law and Order SVU*. Jeff won Best Actor in a Drama at the 2017 New York Television Festival as the title role in *Max Riddle*, a pilot he co-wrote/directed, currently in development. He also co-created and starred in *Greg and Donny* for IFC, directed by Troy Miller.

OPENING NIGHT SPONSORS

Audi of America
City National Bank
Hint
Kind
Napa Valley Grille

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 Gil Cates, Jr., Artistic Director Matt Shakman and Board Chair Howard Tenenbaum. 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

###

IMAGES CAN BE DOWNLOADED [HERE](#) FROM THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE WEBSITE

Connect with Geffen Playhouse

Website: www.geffenplayhouse.org

Media Center: www.geffenplayhouse.org/media-center

Facebook: www.facebook.com/geffenplayhouse

Twitter: www.twitter.com/geffenplayhouse

Instagram: www.instagram.com/geffenplayhouse

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/GeffenPlayhouseMedia

MEDIA CONTACT

Zenon Dmytryk

Geffen Playhouse

zenond@geffenplayhouse.org

310.966.2405