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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“CHARLES DICKENS’ A CHRISTMAS CAROL” AT GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE
EXTENDS THROUGH DECEMBER 9**

WORLD PREMIERE ADAPTATION OPENING NIGHT IS NOVEMBER 7

STARRING TONY AWARD WINNER JEFFERSON MAYS; DIRECTED BY MICHAEL ARDEN

LOS ANGELES (October 25, 2018) – The world premiere adaptation of [*Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol*](#) at Geffen Playhouse will extend for one week and run through December 9, it was announced today. Adapted by Jefferson Mays, Susan Lyons and Michael Arden, this one-man production features Mays taking on nearly 50 different roles in a new adaptation, which is based on the edited version Dickens himself used for public performances.

Previews for *Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol* begin Thursday, November 1, in the Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse, with opening night on Wednesday, November 7. The production closes Sunday, December 9.

Tony Award winner Jefferson Mays (*I Am My Own Wife*, *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder*) breathes new life into the greatest ghost story ever told. While the heart of *A Christmas Carol* is evergreen, Mays brings fresh perspective to Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim and the rest, playing every role in this whirlwind one-man show.

Tony Award-nominated director Michael Arden (*Once On This Island*, Deaf West’s production of *Spring Awakening*) creates a wildly theatrical and spectacular experience. This world premiere adaptation of a beloved story of redemption offers an early—and unexpected—start to the holiday season.

Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol is produced with the generous support of Hunter Arnold.

CHARLES DICKENS’ A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Adapted by Jefferson Mays, Susan Lyons & Michael Arden

Performed by Jefferson Mays

Directed by Michael Arden

Previews: Thursday, November 1 – Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Opening Night: Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Closing Night: Sunday, December 9, 2018

PRODUCTION TEAM

Scenic and Costume Designer Dane Laffrey
Lighting Designer Ben Stanton
Sound Designer Joshua D. Reid
Projection Designer Lucy Mackinnon
Production Stage Manager Ross Jackson
Assistant Stage Manager Sue Karutz
Spectral Visualization Matt Wool

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.

RUNNING TIME

Approximately 90 minutes. There will be no intermission.

LOCATION

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

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets currently priced at \$30.00 - \$120.00. 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 / \$10.00 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

Jefferson Mays (Performer / Adaptor)

Jefferson Mays has appeared at Geffen Playhouse in *I Am My Own Wife* and *Yes, Prime Minister!* Broadway credits are *Oslo, A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, The Best Man, I Am My Own Wife, Pygmalion, Journey's End* and *Of Thee I Sing*. Off-Broadway, he has performed in *Measure for Measure, Lydie Breeze, Quills* and many more. Regional credits include *My Fair Lady, Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead, The Importance of Being Earnest, The Cherry Orchard, Tartuffe, Twelfth Night, Macbeth, Hamlet, The Winter's Tale* and *Peter Pan*. Film and television credits include the upcoming *I Am the Night* and the Coen brothers' *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs, Inherent Vice, Rebel in the Rye, I am Michael, The Notorious Bettie Page, Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, The Americans, Mildred Pierce, Law & Order: SVU, Nurse Jackie, The Closer* and *Dolley Madison*. Awards include Tony, Lucille Lortel, Drama Desks, Obies, Outer Critic's Circle, Helen Hayes, Elliot Norton, Theatre World, Drama League, Jefferson, Dramalogue and Helpmann. Mays received his B.A. from Yale College and an M.F.A. from University of California, San Diego. He is married to Susan Lyons.

Michael Arden (Director / Adaptor)

Michael Arden began his theater career at age ten playing Tiny Tim in the Midland Community Theatre's production of *A Christmas Carol* in Midland, Texas. He is humbled to be working with the singular Jefferson Mays and all the incredible artists and technicians—including his longtime friend and collaborator Dane Laffrey—on this reimagining of Charles Dickens' masterpiece. Past directing credits include Deaf West Theatre's *Spring Awakening* (Tony nomination), *Once on This Island* (Tony nomination and the 2018 winner of Best Revival of a Musical), *The Pride*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *My Fair Lady* and *Annie* at the Hollywood Bowl. He hopes Scrooge's visitations might inspire us all to lead more honest, empathetic and benevolent lives. God bless us, every one!

Susan Lyons (Adaptor)

After graduating from Australia's National Institute of Dramatic Art, Susan worked extensively in theater, film, television and radio, playing a wide range of leading roles with all the major companies. She was awarded the Marten Bequest in 1993. Married to Jefferson Mays, she directed him in the national and international tours of *I Am My Own Wife*.

Charles Dickens (Playwright)

Charles Dickens, one of the most popular and prolific writers of the nineteenth century, was born in 1812, in Portsea, England. In 1824, his father was arrested for debt and while he was imprisoned, Dickens, then only 12, was forced to work at a blacking factory. After his father was released from prison, Dickens attended school in London. In 1827, he was taken out of school and worked in a law office and later as a freelance reporter. In 1833, he began publishing *The Pickwick Papers* in monthly installments. Over the next six years, Dickens published four novels in serial form including *Oliver Twist* (1837-1839) and *Nicholas Nickleby* (1838-1839). In 1842, he went on a lecture tour of the United States and Canada, where he urged the abolition of slavery. He wrote *A Christmas Carol*, the first of his popular Christmas books, in 1844. In 1853, Dickens gave the first of many public readings from his work. During this period, Dickens wrote his most successful novels, including *David Copperfield* (1849-1850), *Bleak House* (1852-1853), *Hard Times* (1854), *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859) and *Great Expectations* (1860-1861). After several tours of the British Isles and America to give public readings, Dickens suffered a mild stroke. He died in London in 1870, leaving his final novel *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* unfinished.

OPENING NIGHT SPONSORS

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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

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