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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES CAST FOR “THE CAKE”**

**A PRESENTATION OF THE ECHO THEATER COMPANY’S WORLD PREMIERE PRODUCTION**

**DIRECTED BY JENNIFER CHAMBERS AND FEATURING MORRISON KEDDIE, SHANNON LUCIO,  
ROD MCLACHLAN, CAROLYN RATTERAY AND DEBRA JO RUPP**

**PREVIEWS BEGIN SEPTEMBER 10; OPENING NIGHT IS SEPTEMBER 20**

LOS ANGELES (August 16, 2018) – Geffen Playhouse today announced the full cast for its encore production of *The Cake*, directed by Jennifer Chambers (*Bed, Better*), who also directed the world premiere for the Echo Theater Company in 2017. The cast features **Morrison Keddie** (*Hamlet, A Midsummer Night’s Dream*) as George, **Shannon Lucio** (*The Eccentricities of a Nightingale, American Horror Story*) as Jen, **Rod McLachlan** (*What the Butler Saw, Wait Until Dark*) as Tim, **Carolyn Ratteray** (*The Imaginary Invalid, Pygmalion*) as Macy and **Debra Jo Rupp** (*That 70’s Show, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*) as Della, reprising the role for which she received an LA Stage Alliance Ovation Award for Lead Actress in a Play.

The Geffen Playhouse is proud to present the Echo Theater Company’s world premiere production as part of its commitment to celebrating the vibrant Los Angeles intimate theater community.

Previews for *The Cake* begin Monday, September 10, in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at the Geffen Playhouse, with opening night on Thursday, September 20. The production closes on Sunday, October 21.

From hit television writer/producer and acclaimed playwright Bekah Brunstetter (*This is Us, Going to a Place where you Already Are*), *The Cake* is a play inspired by a story still in the headlines. When Della, a North Carolina baker and devout Christian, is asked to bake a cake for her best friend’s daughter, she is overjoyed. But that joy is short-lived when she learns the intended is another bride and realizes she is faced with an agonizing choice between faith and family. Struggling to reconcile her deeply held belief in “traditional marriage” and the love she has for the woman she helped raise, Della finds herself in strange new territory.

### **THE CAKE**

Written by **Bekah Brunstetter**  
Directed by **Jennifer Chambers**

**Previews:** Monday, September 10 – Wednesday, September 19, 2018

**Opening Night:** Thursday, September 20, 2018

**Closing Night:** Sunday, October 21, 2018

### **CAST**

**Morrison Keddie** as George

**Shannon Lucio** as Jen

**Rod McLachlan** as Tim

**Carolyn Ratteray** as Macy

**Debra Jo Rupp** as Della

### **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Scenic Designer **Pete Hickok**

Costume Designer **Elizabeth Caitlin Ward**

Lighting Designer **Pablo Santiago**

Sound Designer **Jeff Gardner**

Production Stage Manager **Natalie Figaredo**

Casting Director **Meg Fister**

### **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

Monday No performance (September 10 Only)

Tuesday – Friday 8:00 p.m.

Saturday 3:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Sunday 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

### **LOCATION**

Audrey Skirball Kenis 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](http://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](http://www.geffenplayhouse.org/college).

### **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

#### **Bekah Brunstetter (Playwright)**

Bekah's plays include *The Cake* (Echo Theater Company, La Jolla Playhouse, Ojai Playwrights Conference, Alley Theatre, Barrington Stage Company, upcoming at Manhattan Theatre Club in 2019), *Going to a Place where you Already Are* (South Coast Repertory), *The Oregon Trail* (Portland Center Stage, O'Neill Playwrights Conference, Flying V Theatre), *Cutie and Bear* (Roundabout Theatre Company

commission), *A Long and Happy life* (Naked Angels commission), *Be A Good Little Widow* (Ars Nova, Collaboraction, The Old Globe), *Oohrah!* (Atlantic Theater Company, Steppenwolf Theatre Garage Rep, the Finborough Theater/London), *Nothing is the End of the World (except for the end of the world)* (Waterwell productions), *House of Home* (Williamstown Theatre Festival) and *Miss Lilly Gets Boned* (Ice Factory Festival.) She is an alumna of the Center Theatre Group Writers Group, Primary Stages writers group, Ars Nova Play Group, The Playwright's Realm and the Women's Project Lab. She is also a founding member of The Kilroys, an advocacy group dedicated to achieving gender parity in the theater. She has previously written for MTV (*Underemployed*), ABC Family's *Switched at Birth* and Starz's *American Gods*. She is currently a supervising producer on NBC's *This is Us*. B.A. UNC Chapel Hill; M.F.A. in Dramatic Writing from the New School for Drama.

### **Jennifer Chambers (Director)**

Jennifer has directed the world premieres of *The Cake* by Bekah Brunstetter, Sheila Callaghan's *Bed* and Jessica Goldberg's *Better* for the Echo Theater Company, where she was Associate Artistic Director as well as being Artistic Director of The Echo Writers Lab. Other credits include *The Cake* at Barrington Stage Company, *Continuity* by Bess Wohl for South Coast Repertory's NewSCRIPTS series, *I Get Restless* by Caroline McGraw for South Coast Repertory's Pacific Playwrights Festival, *Princess Diana in Auschwitz* by Deborah Stein at CalArts, Daryl Watson's *Unbound* at IAMA Theatre Company, the world premiere of Stephen Belber's *The Muscles in Our Toes*, *The Pain and The Itch* by Bruce Norris, *Playdates* by Sam Wolfson and the world premiere of *Complete* by Andrea Kuchlewski. She assisted Jonathan Moscone on Shaw's *Man and Superman* (California Shakespeare Theater) and Liz Diamond on *Crooked* by Catherine Trieschman at The Women's Project Theater. Northwestern University.

### **Morrison Keddie (George)**

Morrison Keddie is thrilled to be making his debut at the Geffen. Other theatrical work includes the world premiere of *The Cake* (Echo Theater Company); *The Cake* (Barrington Stage Company); *Hamlet* (Rubicon Theatre Company); *Ubu Roi*, *Othello*, *School For Wives*, *Julius Caesar*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (A Noise Within) and performing on a house sketch team at iO West. His voice has been featured in video games, international promotions and most recently in the VR animation series *Water Bear* (Waffle Ent.). Keddie's television/film credits include *Again* (Tribeca 2017), *Rocketjump: The Show* (Hulu), *Sass Class* (DreamworksTV) and *Hart of Dixie* (CW). Many thanks to the Geffen, cast, crew, Jen, the Echo and his lovely wife for making this possible.

### **Shannon Lucio (Jen)**

Shannon Lucio received her B.A. in Theater from the University of Southern California. Shortly thereafter, she landed her breakout role on *The O.C.* Her notable television credits include *Roots*, *American Horror Story*, *Prison Break*, *True Blood*, *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* and *Grey's Anatomy*. Some of her noteworthy films are *Grounded*, opposite Aaron Paul and Lena Olin; *Fireflies in the Garden*, with Julia Roberts and Ryan Reynolds and *Feast of Love*, directed by Robert Benton. A founding member of production company Filament Features, Shannon is involved in all aspects of production, simultaneously acting in, writing and producing many of Filament's projects. She is also a member of Hero Theatre. Her recent theater credits include Alma in *The Eccentricities of a Nightingale* (Pasadena Playhouse), Mae in *Mud* (Rosenthal Theater) and Florrie in *Waiting for Lefty* (Rosenthal Theater). Shannon originated the role of Jen and is thrilled to be a part of this production at the Geffen.

### **Rod McLachlan (Tim)**

Rod McLachlan's Broadway credits include *The Audience*, *Holiday*, *The Government Inspector*, *Timon of Athens*, *Saint Joan*, *The Real Inspector Hound*, *Our Town* and *Death and the King's Horseman*. Off-

Broadway, he has appeared in *When the Rain Stops Falling*, *School*, *Keep Your Pantheon*, *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme*, *Cyrano De Bergerac*, *Edmond* and *Clean*. McLachlan's regional theater credits include *These Paper Bullets* (Geffen Playhouse), *What the Butler Saw* (Mark Taper Forum), *Wait Until Dark* (Geffen Playhouse), *November* (Mark Taper Forum), *Keep Your Pantheon* and *A Sermon* (Kirk Douglas Theatre) and *The Lonesome West* (South Coast Repertory). On the film side, he has appeared in *Class Rank*, *Confessions of a Jesus Jerk*, *Caught*, *California Winter*, *Lesster*, *Superhero Movie*, *The Bulls*, *National Treasure*, *Magnolia*, *Where the Money Is*, *Instinct*, *Conspiracy Theory* and *Radioland Murders*. McLachlan's most recent television credits include *Veep*, *House of Lies*, *Aquarius*, *Modern Family*, *Glee*, *The Crazy Ones* and *Madmen*. He is also the playwright for *Good Television* (Atlantic Theater Company).

### **Carolyn Ratteray (Macy)**

Carolyn Ratteray is an actor based in the Los Angeles area. Highlights of her theater credits include *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Tartuffe* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* at A Noise Within; *Father Comes Home from the Wars (u/s)* at Mark Taper Forum; *Pygmalion* at Pasadena Playhouse; *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found* at Theatre @ Boston Court; *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Two Gentleman of Verona* at The Old Globe and *Hecuba* at The Pearl Theatre Company. She has studied theatrical clown with Philip Gaulier, Chris Bayes, David Bridel and Angela De Castro. Some of Ratteray's film/television credits include *Riley Parra*, *Castle*, *NCIS*, *All My Children*, *Chemistry*, *The Young and the Restless* and *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*. Education: M.F.A., The Old Globe/University of San Diego; B.F.A., New York University. She is a Resident Artist at A Noise Within and a member of Antaeus Theatre Company.

### **Debra Jo Rupp (Della)**

Debra Jo is so happy to bring this wonderful play to the Geffen after originating the role at the Echo Theater Company (LA Stage Alliance Ovation award, LA Drama Critics Circle award). She has appeared on Broadway in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and her Off-Broadway credits include *Becoming Dr. Ruth* (Westside Theatre, nominations: Drama Desk, Outer Critics); *A Girl's Guide to Chaos* (American Place Theatre); *Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de Lune* (Westside Theatre) and *The Butcher of Baraboo* (Second Stage Theater). Rupp's regional theater credits include *The Cake*, *Love Letters*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, for which she received a Berkie award (Barrington Stage Company); *Deathtrap* (Berkshire Theatre Group); *Annapurna* (TheaterWorks Hartford); *Becoming Dr. Ruth* (Barrington Stage Company/TheaterWorks Hartford); *True West* and *A Flea in Her Ear* (Williamstown Theatre Festival). She has appeared in films including *The Social Ones*, *Big* (film debut opposite Tom Hanks), *She's Out Of My League*, *She Wants Me*, *Sgt. Bilko*, *The Opposite Sex*, *Congratulations* and *Clockwatchers*. Her television credits include *This Is Us*, *The Ranch*, *That 70's Show*, *Better With You*, *NCIS: Los Angeles*, *Elementary*, *Seinfeld* and *Friends*.

### **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](http://www.geffenplayhouse.org)

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