



Media Contact:
Ashley Bodul, Geffen Playhouse
ashleyb@geffenplayhouse.org
310.208.6500 Ext. 159

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE TAPS JERRY MACKINNON AND SAMANTHA RESSLER FOR ANNA ZIEGLER'S "ACTUALLY;" TYNE RAFAELI WILL DIRECT

PREVIEWS BEGIN MAY 2; OPENING NIGHT IS MAY 10

LOS ANGELES (April 17, 2017) – The Geffen Playhouse today announced that Jerry MacKinnon (*Sleepy Hollow*) and Samantha Ressler (*This is the End*) will star in award-winning playwright Anna Ziegler's *Actually*, a co-world premiere with the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Tyne Rafaeli will direct the Geffen's production which runs May 2, 2017 through June 11, 2017 in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at the Geffen Playhouse. Opening night is May 10, 2017.

Actually is the story of Amber and Tom, who, finding their way as freshmen at Princeton, spend a night together that alters the course of their lives. They agree on the drinking, they agree on the attraction, but consent is foggy, and if unspoken, can it be called consent? A playwright *The New York Times* calls "newly (and justly) hot," Anna Ziegler investigates gender and race politics, our crippling desire to fit in and the three sides to every story.

Actually invites the audience to explore the complex dynamics of sexual assault and consent. A grant from The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation is providing support for this production of *Actually* as well as increased opportunities for high school and college students to experience it and take action on the issues it presents.

It was first presented as part of the 2016 Fridays @ 3 Reading Series at Williamstown Theatre Festival, under Artistic Director Mandy Greenfield.

ACTUALLY

Written by **Anna Ziegler**
Directed by **Tyne Rafaeli**

Previews: Tuesday, May 2 – Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Opening Night: Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Closing Night: Sunday, June 11, 2017

CAST

Jerry MacKinnon as Tom

Samantha Ressler as Amber

PRODUCTION TEAM

Set Designer **Tim Mackabee**

Costume Designer **Elizabeth Caitlin Ward**

Lighting Designer **Lap Chi Chu**

Sound Designer **Vincent Olivieri**

Dramaturg **Amy Levinson**

Production Stage Manager **Elizabeth A. Brohm**

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.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets currently priced at \$60.00 - \$82.00. 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.

LOCATION

Audrey Skirball Theater at the Geffen Playhouse
10886 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Anna Ziegler (Playwright)

Anna Ziegler's play *Photograph 51*, produced on the West End starring Nicole Kidman and directed by Michael Grandage, won London's 2016 WhatsOnStage award for Best New Play. It has been produced around the country and the world, most recently in Hamburg, Rome and Stockholm. Her play *Boy*, which premiered Off Broadway in a Keen Company/Ensemble Studio Theatre co-production, was nominated for the 2016 Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award and will be produced at TimeLine Theatre in Chicago next season. *The Last Match* premiered at The Old Globe and was nominated for the 2016 San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Outstanding

New Play award; it will be produced at Roundabout Theatre Company this fall. *Actually* will be produced at the Williamstown Theatre Festival and Manhattan Theatre Club following the Geffen Playhouse production. *The Wanderers*, commissioned by The Old Globe, will premiere there in 2018. Ziegler is writing a television pilot for AMC/Sundance and a screenplay for Scott Free Productions. Oberon Books has published a collection of her work entitled *Anna Ziegler: Plays One*. Her other plays are published by Dramatists Play Service. She holds a B.A. from Yale and an M.F.A. from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

Tyne Rafaeli (Director)

Tyne Rafaeli was born in London and trained at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and Columbia University. She has directed classics, new plays and musicals in London and the U.S. Her work has been seen at Classic Stage Company, the Atlantic Theater Company, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Two River Theater, New York Stage & Film, The Playwrights Realm, PlayMaker's Rep, Goodspeed, Julliard, Great Lakes Theater, American Players Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center Playwrights Conference and PlayPenn, among others. Rafaeli is a 2016-2018 Time Warner Directing Fellow at the Women's Project Theater and was awarded the 2013-2014 SDCF Sir John Gielgud Fellowship for Classical Direction. She has served as Associate Director on the Broadway productions of *The King & I*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Bridges of Madison County* and *Golden Boy*; and the West End's *Women on the Verge*; and directed the first U.S. national tour of *The Bridges of Madison County*. Upcoming projects include *Measure for Measure* at the California Shakespeare Theater.

Jerry MacKinnon (Tom)

Jerry MacKinnon is making his Geffen Playhouse debut in *Actually*. Regional theater credits include *This is Modern Art* and *Leveling Up* at Steppenwolf Theatre Company; *columbinus* at American Theatre Company; *Luce* at Next Theatre Company; *Exit Strategy* at Jackalope Theatre; and *The Knowledge* at Steep Theatre. He currently stars in the television drama *Sleepy Hollow* for 20th Century Fox Television, and will next be seen in the upcoming feature film *Dude* from director Olivia Milch. Previous work includes *Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders*, *Empire* and *Chicago Fire*; and the film *Imperfections*.

Samantha Ressler (Amber)

Samantha Ressler is thrilled to be making her Geffen Playhouse debut. She was last seen at The Palace Theater in John Patrick Shanley's *Women of Manhattan*, playing the role of Judy. Other theater credits include *Blackbird*, directed by Wilson Milam at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts and *Closer* as "Alice" at The Ruby Theatre. Film credits include *This is the End*, *Nobody Walks*, *Palo Alto*. She will next be seen in the independent feature film *American Dream* opposite Nick Stahl, directed by Janusz Kaminski, and in Hallie Meyers-Shyer's *Home Again*. Television includes *Modern Family*, *Trophy Wife*, *Hello Ladies*, *Franklin and Bash*, *Rules of Engagement* and *90210*, among others. She is a graduate of Brown University and trained at the London Dramatic Academy and Atlantic Acting School.

SEASON SPONSOR

Plaza La Reina

OPENING NIGHT SPONSORS

Palomino
Audi of America
City National Bank
Douglas Elliman
Hint
KIND Snacks

SIGNATURE SERIES

In addition to the opening night, the run of *Actually* will feature the Geffen's Signature Series events **Talk Back Tuesdays**, **Lounge Fridays** and **Wine Down Sundays**. Thanks to the support of Geffen Playhouse partners and sponsors, all elements of Signature Series evenings are complimentary as part of the ticket price.

- **TALK BACK TUESDAYS**

Talk Back Tuesdays give theater lovers a chance for a deeper conversation to discuss plot, character themes or any other questions directly with the artists with a post-show Q&A from the stage. Dates: May 16, May 23, May 30, June 6

- **LOUNGE FRIDAYS**

Happy hour Lounge Fridays turn the Geffen Playhouse into a haven to help fast-paced Angelenos ease into their weekend and unwind. Complimentary sparkling joins other enticing beverages starting at 7:00 p.m. with eclectic jams from DJ Mike on the courtyard patio. Sponsored by LAArtsOnline.com. Dates: May 5, May 12

- **WINE DOWN SUNDAYS**

Wine Down Sundays provides the perfect pairing – pre-performance wine sampling followed by a 7:00 p.m. curtain time to close out the week. These evenings feature different vintages for each production, so patrons who come regularly will discover a new wine brand before their theatrical experience. Dates: May 7, May 14

###

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 Artistic Director Randall Arney, Executive Director Gil Cates, Jr., and Co-Chairs of the Board Martha Henderson and Pamela Robinson. 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

MEDIA CONTACT

Ashley Bodul, Geffen Playhouse
ashleyb@geffenplayhouse.org
310.208.6500 Ext. 159