

WEST COAST PREMIERE!



WRITTEN BY **ROBERT O'HARA**
DIRECTED BY **COLMAN DOMINGO**

CAST FEATURES **CHERISE BOOTHE, YVETTE CASON, DALE DICKEY, OMAR J. DORSEY, FRANCES FISHER, KIMBERLY HÉBERT GREGORY, TRAVIS JOHNS, ELYSE MIRTO, HEATHER ALICIA SIMMS AND REBECCA WISOCKY**

SEPTEMBER 6 TO OCTOBER 16 (OPENING NIGHT IS SEPTEMBER 14, 2016)
IN THE GIL CATES THEATER AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

LOS ANGELES (August 31, 2016) – Geffen Playhouse announces the cast for its West Coast premiere production of *Barbecue* written by Obie and Helen Hayes Award winner Robert O'Hara. Tony nominee Colman Domingo directs the production starring Cherise Boothe, Yvette Cason, Dale Dickey, Omar J. Dorsey, Frances Fisher, Kimberly Hébert Gregory, Travis Johns, Elyse Mirto, Heather Alicia Simms and Rebecca Wisocky.

The grill is hot, the beer is chilled and the table is set for a typical O'Mallery family barbecue. But when their drug-addicted sister Zippity Boom arrives strung-out and out of control, her siblings have finally had enough — enough beer, enough whiskey and enough pills to confront her. Their ham-handed intervention ignites the fuse of this raucous and rollicking new comedy that skewers our warped view of the American family. From Obie and Helen Hayes Award winner Robert O'Hara, this *Barbecue* serves up a healthy helping of sibling love and loathing.

West Coast Premiere of *Barbecue* at the Geffen Playhouse

"...my idea of an American classic, or the kind of classic we need..." – Hilton Als, *The New Yorker*

"Family stereotypes and racial politics clash with reality during a raucous drug intervention!" – *The Hollywood Reporter*

"Easily one of the funniest plays of the year!" – TheaterMania.com

"We are beyond thrilled to produce this hysterically funny, politically thoughtful and thought-provoking piece," said Randall Arney, Geffen Playhouse Artistic Director. "The ensemble that we have brought together will bring Robert O'Hara's play to roaring life. Under Colman Domingo's direction, *Barbecue* promises to be an event to launch our season with gusto."

"Robert O'Hara and I are nearing twenty years of artistic championship of each other's work as playwrights/directors," said director Colman Domingo. "We have a short hand with our many collaborations because we essentially believe in pushing the boundaries of expression, humor and theatricality. Mr. O'Hara's work speaks deeply to me as a creative artist and I believe wholly in his mission that theater is essential to be served with 'a theatrical slap.'"

Tickets are currently priced from \$43 to \$84 for the regular run (Sept 14 – Oct 16), and are available online at www.geffenplayhouse.org, via phone at 310.208.5454, or in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office. Based on seat availability, rush tickets may be available onsite 30 minutes prior to show time. Rush tickets are priced at \$35 or general admission and \$10 for students, with a valid student I.D.

BARBECUE

Written by **Robert O'Hara**

Directed by **Colman Domingo**

Previews: Tuesday, September 6 – Tuesday, September 13

Opening Night: Wednesday, September 14

Closing Night: Sunday, October 16

CAST

Cherise Boothe

Yvette Cason

Dale Dickey

Omar J. Dorsey

Frances Fisher

Kimberly Hébert Gregory

Travis Johns

Elyse Mirto

Heather Alicia Simms

Rebecca Wisocky

PRODUCTION TEAM

Set Design by **Sibyl Wickersheimer**

Costume Design by **Kara Harmon**

Lighting Design by **Lap Chi Chu**

Sound Design by **Lindsay Jones**

Production Stage Manager **Anne L. Hitt**

Assistant Stage Manager **Cate Cundiff**

Casting by **Phyllis Schuringa, CSA**

SEASON SPONSOR

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OPENING NIGHT SPONSORS

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PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Monday	No performance
Tuesday – Friday	8:00 PM
Saturday	3:00 PM and 8:00 PM
Sunday	2:00 PM and 7:00 PM

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LOCATION

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

SIGNATURE SERIES

In addition to the opening night, the run of *Barbecue* will feature pre-show Signature Series events. These include **Talk Back Tuesdays** (Audience Q+A with artists), **Girls Night Out**, **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. Signature Series events include:

- **TALK BACK TUESDAY**

Talk Back Tuesdays connect audiences directly with artists for post-show Q&A discussions touching on plot, character, and other elements of craft that bring the story to the stage. Dates: Sept.20, Sept.27, Oct.4 and Oct.11, 2016

- **GIRLS NIGHT OUT**

Geared towards the ladies, with enticements for the guys, Girls Night Out is the ultimate night out in L.A. During the run of *Barbecue*, Girls Night Out offers fashion truck shopping, a hosted bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres, an always-popular photo booth, plus a complimentary post-show gift from Pixi Beauty. Date: Sept.22, 2016

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- **HAPPY HOUR LOUNGE FRIDAYS**

A cultural happy hour that helps fast-paced Angelenos ease into the weekend, these events offer complimentary sparkling wine and refreshments with DJ-spun tunes starting at 7:00pm. Sponsored by LAArtsOnline.com. Dates: Sept.23, Sept.30, Oct.7 and Oct. 14, 2016

- **WINE DOWN SUNDAYS**

Wine Down Sundays provides the perfect pairing – pre-performance wine sampling followed by a 7pm curtain time to close out the week. Dates: Sept.18, Sept. 25, Oct.2, Oct.9 and Oct. 16, 2016

BIOGRAPHIES

ROBERT O’HARA (Playwright)

Robert O’Hara has received the NAACP Best Director Award, the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding New Play, 2 OBIEs and the Oppenheimer Award. He directed the World Premieres of Nikkole Salter and Danaí Guiría’s *In the Continuum*, Tarell McCraney’s *The Brother/Sister Plays* (Part 2), Colman Domingo’s *Wild with Happy* as well as his own plays, *BootyCandy* and *Insurrection: Holding History*. His new plays *Zombie: The American* and *Barbecue*, world premiered at Woolly Mammoth Theater and New York Shakespeare Festival, respectively.

COLMAN DOMINGO (Director)

Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League and Olivier Award nominee Colman Domingo has recently directed *Seven Guitars* (Actors Theater of Louisville) and *A Band of Angels* (Off Broadway Alliance Award, New York City Children’s Theater). Mr. Domingo has directed productions Off Broadway and Regionally. He is a Lortel and Obie Award winning playwright whose plays include *Dot*, *Wild with Happy*, *A Boy and His Soul*. On television he has starred as Strand in AMC’s *Fear the Walking Dead* and co-stars in the upcoming Fox Searchlight film *The Birth of a Nation*.

CHERISE BOOTHE

Cherise Boothe’s stage credits include *Milk Like Sugar* (original cast: La Jolla Playhouse/Playwrights Horizons; Obie Award), *Ruined* (Goodman Theatre/Manhattan Theatre Club, Intiman Theatre/Geffen Playhouse; 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Drama), *Ohio State Murders* (Theatre for a New Audience; Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Revival), *King Hedley II* (Signature Theatre) among others. Some of her appearances in film and TV include *Inside Man*, *Then She Found Me*, *Rizzoli & Isles*, *The Good Wife*, and *Law & Order: SVU*.

YVETTE CASON

Yvette recently played Aretha Franklin and Nina Simone in *A Night With Janis Joplin* at the Pasadena Playhouse and 5th Avenue Theatre. Other credits include: *Ella The Musical*, *Dreamgirls*, *Play On!* (Ovation Award), *Once On This Island*, *Ain’t Misbehavin’*, *St. Louis Woman*, *Into The Woods* and *Sisterella* (NAACP Theatre Award). Her film credits include *Dreamgirls* and *Middle of Nowhere*. She has toured with Whitney Houston, Stevie Wonder, David Foster and Babyface.

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Film work includes *Winter's Bone* (2011 Indie Spirit Award for Best Supporting Actress), *Iron Man 3*, *Super 8*, *Domino*, *Changeling*, *The Pledge*, *Being Flynn*, *The Guilt Trip*, and upcoming *Hell or High Water* and *Blood Father*. Television: over 30 guest starring and recurring roles on *True Blood*, *Justified*, *Breaking Bad*, and *My Name is Earl*. Upcoming: series regular in the 2nd 'Spring' season of HBO's new *Vice Principals*. She is a veteran of the stage having been on Broadway and off, in numerous regional theatres and has 2 L.A. Ovation awards and 2 L.A. Weekly awards for her work in Del Shores' *Southern Baptist Sissies* and*Trailer Trash Housewife*.

OMAR J. DORSEY

Omar is known for his roles in Academy Award nominated films *Django Unchained*, *The Blind Side* and *Selma*. Recently, he co-starred in *Ray Donovan* and *Eastbound & Down*. His upcoming credits include *Queen Sugar* alongside Oprah Winfrey and *Thank You For Your Service* alongside Miles Teller and Amy Schumer. He currently plays a recurring role on NBC's *Aquarius*. Omar has appeared onstage in *Blue Monk* and *In the Jungle of Cities* at 7Stages Theater in Atlanta.

FRANCES FISHER

Frances Fisher began her career at Virginia's Barter Theatre, then spent 14 years in NYC off-Broadway and in regional theatre with credits including Elia Kazan's *The Chain*, Arthur Miller's last play *Finishing The Picture*, *Three More Sleepless Nights* (Drama League Award) and The Taper's *The Cherry Orchard*. A member of the Actors Studio, her first acting teacher was the legendary Stella Adler. Fisher is best known in film for *Titanic* and *Unforgiven*. Some of her television credits include *Lucy & Desi: Before the Laughter*, *The Shield*, *Torchwood* and *Masters of Sex*. Recent credits include JT Mollner's *Outlaws and Angels*, the docu-drama *Titanic: Sinking of the Myths*, Phedon Papamichael's *A Beautiful Day*, and *Criminal Minds*.

KIMBERLY HÉBERT GREGORY

Kimberly Hébert Gregory currently stars as Dr. Belinda Brown in the HBO television series, *Vice Principals* with Danny McBride. Kimberly garnered much acclaim for her performance in Lynn Nottage's *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* which was celebrated with an "Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play" Drama Desk Award nomination and a Lucille Lortel Award nomination for "Outstanding Featured Actress." Kimberly has appeared in many stage productions including Tarell Alvin McCraney's *The Brother/Sister Plays* at The Public Theater.

TRAVIS JOHNS

Highlights of Travis' stage work include *Boy* (L.A. Theatre Works), *In the Heat of the Night* (L.A. Theatre Works), *Atlanta: The Musical* (Geffen Playhouse), *National Pastime* (Fremont Centre Theatre), *The Exonerated* (Playhouse West), *The Diviners* (Santa Monica Playhouse) and *Take Me Out* (Ensemble Theatre Company). Film credits include *Imagine*, *Term Life*, *Swelter*, *Sound of My Voice*, *Adventures of Power* and *Dead Man Rising*, among others. His TV credits include *Queen of the South*, *Ray Donovan*, *2 Broke Girls*, *The Mentalist*, *Sons of Anarchy*, and *Justified*.

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Some of Elyse's stage credits include *White's Lies* (Off Broadway), *Any Day Now* (NY Innovative Theatre Award winner, Lead Actress), *Next Year in Jerusalem* (NYITA nomination), *The Guardsman*, *Figaro* (LA Drama Critics Circle nomination 2015), *Conviction* (Ovation nomination 2015), the Shakespeare Repertory and *The Goodman*. She appeared in *Scandal*, *NCIS* and *The Last Ship* among numerous film, TV, commercial, voice over and audio book credits. Elyse is a company member at Antaeus and Theatre of NOTE.

HEATHER ALICIA SIMMS

Heather's Broadway credits include *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and *Gem of the Ocean*. Other credits include *Born Bad*, *The Exonerated* and *Insurrection: Holding History*. Her film credits include *Red Hook Summer*, *The Nanny Diaries*, *Broken Flowers*, and the upcoming *Roxanne*, *Roxanne*. Her television credits include *Law and Order*, *Whoopi*, and *The Good Wife*. She received an Audie award for her work on the audiobook *Upstate*, and the prestigious TCG/Fox Foundation Fellowship.

REBECCA WISOCKY

Rebecca Wisocky is known for her current role in *Devious Maids* as fan favorite Evelyn Powell. Rebecca's credits include the feature film *Hello My Name is Doris* with Sally Field and as a recurring guest star on *American Horror Story*, *The Mentalist*, *X-Files*, *Once Upon a Time*, *True Blood*, *Longmire* and many more. Rebecca's notable theatre credits include Jordan Harrison's *Amazons and Their Men* (OBIE Award), *God's Ear* (The Vineyard), *Hot 'n Throbbing* (Signature), *36 Views* (Public).

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.

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