

**SCOTT FOLEY, ERIC LANGE, DAVID RASCHE,  
EMILY SWALLOW AND SARAH STEELE  
TO JOIN BLYTHE DANNER IN  
THE WORLD PREMIERE OF DONALD MARGULIES'  
*THE COUNTRY HOUSE* AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE**

**DIRECTED BY DANIEL SULLIVAN  
A CO-PRODUCTION WITH MANHATTAN THEATRE CLUB**

**OPENING NIGHT IS JUNE 11 IN  
THE GIL CATES THEATER AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE**

**LOS ANGELES** (May 7, 2014) – Geffen Playhouse announces that **Scott Foley** (*Scandal, The Unit, Felicity*), **Eric Lange** (*The Bridge, Weeds*), **David Rasche** (*Speed-The-Plow* Broadway, *Lunch Hour*), **Emily Swallow** (*The Mentalist, Manhattan Theatre Club's Romantic Poetry*), and **Sarah Steele** (off-Broadway: *Slowgirl, The Netflix Plays*) are joining Tony and Emmy winner **Blythe Danner** in the world premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Donald Margulies' *The Country House***.

***The Country House*** begins previews June 3, in the Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse, opening June 11. The play, a new comedy about a deeply dramatic family, marks Margulies' sixth Geffen Production, including *Dinner With Friends, Coney Island Christmas, Time Stands Still*, and *Sight Unseen*.

Inspired by Chekhov's pastoral comedies, this witty and compelling new play provides a piercing look at a family of performers coming to terms with the roles they play in each others lives. Tony winner **Daniel Sullivan** (*Time Stands Still, Good People*) directs.

***The Country House*** is a co-production with Manhattan Theatre Club, which will present the Broadway run of the production this fall (Previews begin September 9 for an October 2 opening night at MTC's Samuel J. Friedman Theatre) following the Geffen run. Danner will star in both the Geffen and Manhattan Theatre Club runs of the play. Additional casting for the Manhattan Theatre Club run of ***The Country House*** will be announced shortly. ***The Country House*** was commissioned by MTC through the U.S. Trust New American Play Commissioning Program.

## ***THE COUNTRY HOUSE***

**World Premiere by Donald Margulies**

**Directed by Daniel Sullivan**

**A co-production with Manhattan Theatre Club**

Previews: Tuesday, June 3 – Tuesday, June 10

**Opening Night:** Wednesday, June 11

**Closing Night:** Sunday, July 13

### **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

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

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets are \$37-\$77 and are available in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, via phone at 310.208.5454 or online at [www.geffenplayhouse.com](http://www.geffenplayhouse.com).

### **LOCATION**

The Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse  
10866 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024

### **MULTIMEDIA**

High resolution photos are available at the Geffen online media center:  
<http://geffenplayhouse.com/mediacenter.php>

### **BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **DONALD MARGULIES** (Playwright)

*The Country House* is Mr. Margulies's sixth production at the Geffen Playhouse, preceded by *Coney Island Christmas*, *Time Stands Still*, *Shipwrecked! An Entertainment*, *Dinner with Friends* and *Collected Stories*. His many other plays include *Brooklyn Boy*, *Sight Unseen*, *The Loman Family Picnic*, *God of Vengeance*, *The Model Apartment*, *What's Wrong with this Picture?*, and *Found a Peanut*. He has won a Lucille Lortel Award, an American Theatre Critics Award, two Los Angeles Drama Critics Awards, two OBIE Awards, two Dramatists Guild Hull-Warriner Awards, one Tony Award nomination, six Drama Desk Award nominations, two Pulitzer Prize nominations and one Pulitzer Prize. His works have been performed on and off Broadway; at major theatres across the United States including South Coast Repertory, Manhattan Theatre Club, Primary Stages, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Long Wharf Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival and Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare Festival; and in Paris,

London, Rome, Madrid, Tel Aviv, Stockholm, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Sydney, Berlin, Vienna, Istanbul, Mumbai and many other cities around the world. Mr. Margulies has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York Foundation for the Arts, and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He was honored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters with an Award in Literature, by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture with its Cultural Achievement Award, and was the recipient of the Sidney Kingsley Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Theatre by a playwright. Mr. Margulies is an alumnus of New Dramatists and serves on the council of The Dramatists Guild of America. He is an adjunct professor of English and Theatre Studies at Yale University.

**DANIEL SULLIVAN** (*Director*) most recently directed *The Snow Geese*, *Orphans*, and *Glengarry Glen Ross* on Broadway. For The Public Theater, Sullivan directed *A Comedy of Errors*, *As You Like It*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Stuff Happens*, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Among his Broadway credits are *The Columnist*, *Good People*, *Time Stands Still*, *Accent on Youth*, *The Homecoming*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, *Rabbit Hole*, *After the Night and the Music*, *Julius Caesar*, *Brooklyn Boy*, *Sight Unseen*, *I'm Not Rappaport*, *Morning's at Seven*, *Proof*, the 2000 production of *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, *Ah, Wilderness!*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, *Conversations with my Father*, and *The Heidi Chronicles*. Among his Off-Broadway credits are *The Night Watcher*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Far East*, *Spinning into Butter*, *Dinner with Friends*, and *The Substance of Fire*. From 1981 to 1997, he served as artistic director of Seattle Repertory Theatre. Sullivan is the Swanlund Professor of Theatre at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

**BLYTHE DANNER** (*Anna Patterson*) won two Emmy awards for her role on Showtime's *Huff* and was nominated twice for roles on *Will & Grace* and in Joyce Carol Oates' *We Were the Mulvaney's*. She received a Golden Globe nomination for Anne Tyler's *Back When We Were Grownups*, and her list of career accomplishments continues with a Tony Award for her Broadway debut in *Butterflies Are Free* and nominations for roles in Harold Pinter's *Betrayal*, Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Stephen Sondheim's musical *Follies*. She most recently appeared on Broadway in the musical *Nice Work If You Can Get It* and Off-Broadway in *The Commons of Pensacola*. Her film roles include Woody Allen's *Alice*, *The Great Santini*, the *Meet the Parents* trilogy, *What's Your Number?* and *Sylvia*, a film in which she appeared with her daughter, actress Gwyneth Paltrow. Most recently Danner has appeared in *The Lucky One* and *Hello I Must Be Going*, and she will next be seen in the films *I'll See You In My Dreams* and *Tumbledown*. Danner takes action to support causes that are important to her. She has passionately advocated for environmental concerns for more than 40 years as a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists and other groups, and serves on the national board of Planned Parenthood. Since the death of her husband Bruce Paltrow from oral cancer, she has also been helping the Oral Cancer Foundation raise disease awareness.

**SCOTT FOLEY** (*Michael Astor*) Scott Foley currently stars as Jake Ballard in ABC's hit drama *Scandal*. On film, Foley will next be seen in the comedy, *Let's Kill Ward's Wife*, which he wrote, directed, produced and stars in. Foley's television credits include the critically acclaimed WB series *Felicity*, *True Blood*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *The Unit*, *Cougar Town* and *Scrubs*. Foley made his feature film debut in Wes Craven's *Scream 3* for Dimension Films. He followed that with a

leading role in Dimension Films' *Below* opposite Matthew Davis and the indie feature *Rennie's Landing* opposite Ethan Embry and Peter Facinelli. Foley made his Broadway debut in *The Violet Hour*. Born in Kansas City, Kansas, Foley lived all over the world, including Sydney, Australia, and Tokyo, Japan. Foley attended high school in St. Louis, Missouri, performing in school and community theater productions. And moved to Los Angeles after graduating high school.

**ERIC LANGE** (*Elliot Cooper*) starred on the first season of FX's hit drama, "The Bridge." He has a long list of TV credits but is perhaps best known for his recurring arcs on "Weeds" (Showtime) and "Lost" (ABC). On film, Lange will next appear in Dan Fogelman's "Imagined" (opposite Al Pacino) and Dan Gilroy's "Nightcrawler" (opposite Jake Gyllenhaal). Previous films include "Secretariat" for Disney and Barry Levinson's HBO biopic "You Don't Know Jack." On stage, Lange received an Ovation Nomination for his work in "Driving Miss Daisy" at the Rubicon Theatre. He was in "A Streetcar Named Desire," also at the Rubicon, "Ugly's First World" at the Actors' Gang, "The Normal Heart" at the Hudson Backstage Theatre, and "Asylum" at the Court Theatre. He is thrilled to be a part of this beautiful play and group of amazingly talented artists. When not acting, Lange enjoys spending time with his beautiful wife, Lisa.

**DAVID RASCHE** (*Walter Keegan*) began his career at Chicago's "Second City." Broadway credits: "Speed-The-Plow" (David Mamet), "Lunch Hour," with Gilda Radner, (dir. Mike Nichols), "Loose Ends" (Michael Weller.) Off-Broadway: "Warrior Class" (Second Stage), Chekhov's "The Seagull" at CSC ( Richard Seff Award) "Regrets Only" by Paul Rudnick (Manhattan Theater Club), Mamet's "Edmond (Atlantic)." TV credits: recurring roles on HBO series "VEEP" with Julia Louis-Dreyfus, and "Bored to Death" with Ted Danson, and shows from "Miami Vice" to "Monk." He was Sledge Hammer in the series of that name. Films include: "In the Loop" (Armando Iannucci), "Burn After Reading" (Coen Brothers), "Men in Black III" (Sonnenfeld), "Flags of our Fathers" (Clint Eastwood), "Flight 93" (Paul Greengrass), "The Sentinel" (with Michael Douglas), "Manhattan" (Woody Allen).

**EMILY SWALLOW** (*Nell McNally*) Emily just finished a season as Agent Kim Fischer on CBS' *The Mentalist*. She previously played Dr. Michelle Robidoux on David E. Kelley and Sanjay Gupta's show *Monday Mornings*; other television appearances include *Southland*, *Flight of the Conchords*, *The Good Wife*, *Medium* and *NCIS*, to name a few. On stage, Emily recently created the role of 'Flo' alongside Mark Rylance in *Nice Fish*, a world premiere penned by Rylance and poet Louis Jenkins. Emily has appeared on Broadway in *High Fidelity*, off-Broadway in John Patrick Shanley and Henry Krieger's *Romantic Poetry* (Manhattan Theater Club), *Measure for Pleasure* (Public Theater), *The Black Eyed* (New York Theatre Workshop) and more. Regional credits include *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *King Lear*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Lobby Hero*. Emily stars in an upcoming yet-to-be-titled feature directed by Shana Betz (*Free Ride*). MFA from NYU Graduate Acting Program

**SARAH STEELE** (*Susie Keegan* ) Off-Broadway: *Slowgirl*, *Russian Transport*, *All-American*, *Speech*

*and Debate, The Netflix Plays, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Regional: *Not Waving* (Williamstown Theater Festival). Film: *The Untitled Gerardo Naranjo Project* (upcoming) *Trouble Dolls*, (upcoming), *Brother's Keeper* (upcoming), *The Mend, Song One, The To-Do List, Please Give, Margaret, Spanglish, Last Kind Words, Man* (short). Television: *Girls, The Good Wife, Nurse Jackie, Blue Bloods, Harry's Law, Gossip Girl, Law and Order*.

### **ABOUT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE**

The 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 Geffen Playhouse 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, Managing Director Ken Novice, General Manager Behnaz Atae, Chief Development Officer Regina Miller and Co-Chairs of the Board Martha Henderson and Pamela Robinson Hollander. Proudly associated with UCLA, the Geffen Playhouse welcomes an audience of more than 130,000 each year, and maintains an extensive education and outreach program, designed to engage young people and the community at large in the arts. For more information, please visit [www.geffenplayhouse.com](http://www.geffenplayhouse.com).

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

Davidson & Choy Publicity

Tim Choy, Davidson & Choy Publicity 323.954.7510 x 13; [t.choy@dcpublicity.com](mailto:t.choy@dcpublicity.com)

Peter Goldman, Davidson & Choy Publicity 323.954.7510 x 12; [p.goldman@dcpublicity.com](mailto:p.goldman@dcpublicity.com)