

**ANNETTE BENING RETURNS TO THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE  
WITH WORLD PREMIERE OF *RUTH DRAPER'S MONOLOGUES***

OPENING NIGHT IS APRIL 16 IN THE GIL CATES THEATER  
AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

**LOS ANGELES** (March 11, 2014) – Four-time Academy Award nominee **Annette Bening** returns to the Geffen Playhouse for the world premiere of *Ruth Draper's Monologues*. Previews begin April 8; opening night is April 16. A pioneer in 20th century drama, Ruth Draper was described as, "the greatest individual performer that America has ever given us."

Draper's uncanny ability, while alone on stage, to shift between many characters brought awe to actors, royalty and throngs of crowds for decades. Now, Annette Bening makes these timeless monologues her own — highlighting their continued influence on audiences and artists alike. Meet the harried society woman, the hostess, the debutante and the instructress of poise. Like Draper before her, Bening embraces and embodies these monologues in a tour-de-force premiere.

"I am in awe of Ruth Draper," said Bening. "Performing these monologues is a great honor for me, and I look forward to the formidable challenge of breathing life into these stunning pieces."

Born into a wealthy New York family in 1884, Ruth Draper displayed a gift for creating one-person sketches of persons that she had known or observed. According to Manhattan society at the time, drawing room entertainment was acceptable but performing on the stage was not. Despite the social barriers, she made her professional debut and became the toast of New York. She went on to sell out performances throughout the United States and Europe. Today her work continues to inspire artists such as Lily Tomlin, John Lithgow, Tom Waits, Charles Busch, Julia Sweeney, Simon Callow and Charles Nelson Reilly.

*Ruth Draper's Monologues* will include some of her most beloved pieces including *The Italian Lesson*, *Doctors and Diets*, *A Debutante at a Dance* and *A Class in Greek Poise*.

This production will be Bening's third show at the Geffen Playhouse. She previously appeared in *Female of the Species* and *Hedda Gabler*.

The Geffen Playhouse presents

***Ruth Draper's Monologues***

Written by Ruth Draper

Featuring Annette Bening

Previews: Tuesday, April 8 – Tuesday, April 15

**Opening Night:** Wednesday, April 16

**Closing Night:** Sunday, May 18

**PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

Monday	No performance
Tuesday – Friday	8:00pm
Saturday	3:00pm; 8:00pm
Sunday	2:00pm

**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>

**BIOGRAPHY:**

**Annette Bening (Various Characters)**

Four-time Academy Award nominee, two-time Golden Globe-winner, and a recipient of the Screen Actors Guild Award, Annette Bening can currently be seen in Arie Posin's *The Face of Love*. Her other film credits include: *Ruby Sparks*, *Ginger & Rosa*, *The Kids Are All Right*, *Mother and Child*, *Being Julia*, *American Beauty*, *In Dreams*, *The Siege*, *The American President*, *Mars Attacks!*, *Richard III*, *Love Affair*, *Bugsy*, *Regarding Henry*, *The Grifters*, *Guilty by Suspicion*, *Valmont*, *Postcards from the Edge*, and *The Great Outdoors*. Annette's Los Angeles theater credits include the Anton Chekhov play *The Cherry Orchard* at the Mark Taper Forum in 2006, and Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads*, at the Tiffany Theater. She also played the title role in Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* at Geffen Playhouse. Additionally, she has appeared on stage in *Medea* at UCLA, and in *The Female of the Species*. Annette received both a Tony Award

nomination and won the Clarence Derwent Award for outstanding debut performance of the season for her role in *Coastal Disturbances*. Annette graduated from San Francisco State University and was accepted by the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, where she trained until she joined the acting company.

### **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 Ataee, 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**

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