

MICHAEL MCKEAN, JEFFERSON MAYS AND
DAKIN MATTHEWS SET FOR U.S. PREMIERE OF
SMASH-HIT WEST END COMEDY
YES, PRIME MINISTER
BY ANTONY JAY AND JONATHAN LYNN

Geffen Playhouse Premiere Follows Three Sell Out and Critically Acclaimed West End Seasons; Reunites McKean With Writer and Director Jonathan Lynn (Clue)

***Opening Night - Wednesday, June 12
in the Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse***

LOS ANGELES, April 11, 2013 – Jonathan Lynn will direct the American premiere of ***Yes, Prime Minister***, co written by Lynn and Anthony Jay, one of the most successful London West End plays in a decade, at the Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse, opening Wednesday, June 12 (previews begin June 4). The award-winning British comedy of political power and intrigue has played three sold out London West End seasons with rave reviews as well as international tours (currently New Zealand and Australia).

The cast features **Stephen Caffrey** (*Cinema Verite, The Constant Wife*), **Brian George** (*A Perfect Wedding, Stuff Happens*), **Dakin Matthews** (*Lincoln, True Grit*), **Jefferson Mays** (Geffen Alum *I Am My Own Wife*, Tony, Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk and Obie winner), Academy Award® nominee **Michael McKean** (*A Mighty Wind, Best in Show, This is Spinal Tap*), **Tara Summers** (*Boston Legal*), and **Time Winters** (*Camelot* National Tour, LADCC nominee). McKean starred in the film *Clue*, which was directed and co-written by Lynn.

This riotous, timely and sharply satirical new take on the British corridors of power is set against the backdrop of the collapsing Euro and austerity measures in a world of 24 hour news, smart phones, and 'sexed up' dossiers. Writers Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn also penned the award-winning BBC television series of the same name. Lynn directed the West End production.

"Although the play is about the British government I'm hopeful that US audiences will appreciate it just as much as they did in London," said Lynn. "British and American democracies are based on the same fundamental principle: if no one knows what you are doing, no one knows what you're doing wrong."

Join a hilarious cast of characters, ranging from the scheming Cabinet Secretary, Sir Humphrey Appleby, to the morally confused Principal Private Secretary, Bernard Woolley, and the ruthless Head of the PM's Policy Unit, Claire Sutton, as they lurch from crisis to crisis, trying to survive a disastrous weekend that teeters on the edge of catastrophe despite their best (and worst) intentions. Will they manage to save the Euro from collapsing, resolve the energy crisis, solve the debt crisis, hide an embarrassing illegal immigrant, control the media and avoid public humiliation? Brits and Yanks alike can bank on the laughs in the American premiere of this uproarious satire fresh from its acclaimed West End run.

Yes, Prime Minister begins previews in the Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse on Tuesday, June 4, with the official opening on Wednesday, June 12. Tickets are available in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, via phone at 310-208-5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.com.

YES, PRIME MINISTER

Written by Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn

Directed by Jonathan Lynn

Preview Performances: Tuesday, June 4 to Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Opening Night: Wednesday, June 12, 2013

Closing Night: Sunday, July 14, 2013

Cast

Stephen Caffrey as *BBC Presenter*

Brian George as *The Kumranistani Ambassador*

Dakin Matthews as *Sir Humphrey Appleby, Cabinet Secretary*

Jefferson Mays as *Bernard Woolley, Principal Private Secretary*

Michael McKean as *Jim Hacker, The Prime Minister*

Tara Summers as *Claire Sutton, Special Policy Advisor*

Time Winters as *The Director General of the BBC*

Performance Schedule

Monday	No performances
Tuesday – Friday	8:00pm
Saturday	3:00pm; 8:00pm
Sunday	2:00pm; 7:00pm

Ticket Info

Ticket prices currently range from \$37 to \$57 for preview performances and from \$47 to \$77 for the regular run. Tickets are available in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office, via phone at 310-208-5454 or online at www.geffenplayhouse.com.

Biographies

STEPHEN CAFFREY (BBC PRESENTER)

Theater credits include: *Red* (Playmakers), *Galileo* (Cleveland Playhouse), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Portland Centre Stage), *Victoria Musica* (Cincinnati Playhouse), *King Lear and Autumn Garden* (Anteaus), *The Constant Wife* (Pasadena Playhouse), *Bach at Leipzig* (South Coast Repertory), *Heartbreak House* (Berkeley Repertory), *The Voyage Inheritance*, *The Real Thing*, *A Doll's House* (A.C.T. San Francisco), *Thirty Six View* (Laguna Playhouse), *The Body of Bourne* (Mark Taper Forum), *All's Well That Ends Well* (Shakespeare Santa Cruz), *Bargains* (The Old Globe), *The Miser* (Hartford Stage), *I Hate Hamlet* (The Royal George), *What You Get and What You Expect* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Scarlett Letter* (Classic Stage) and *Restoration Comedy* (Seattle Repertory). Film and Television: *Cinema Verite*

(HBO), *CSI Miami*, *Tour Of Duty* (series regular), *Longtime Companion*, *Chicago Hope*, *Buried Alive*, *The Profiler*, *Indiana Jones Chronicles*, *Nothing Lasts Forever*, *Blowback* and *Murder of Innocence*. Stephen is a member of Actors' Equity.

BRIAN GEORGE (THE KUMRANISTANI AMBASSADOR)

Brian George started his professional acting career in Canada, where he co-founded the Bear Theater Company with friends from the University of Toronto. A few years later, he was brought in to perform with the cast of *Second City*, alongside Catherine O'Hara and Martin Short. He has performed in countless television sitcoms and dramas, among them *Seinfeld*, *Star Trek*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Secret Life of the American Teen* and *The Big Bang Theory*. On stage he appeared in the Kirk Douglas Theater's opening production of Charles Mee's *A Perfect Wedding* and in David Hare's *Stuff Happens* at the Mark Taper Forum.

DAKIN MATTHEWS (SIR HUMPHREY APPLEBY)

Broadway: *The Best Man*, *Man for All Seasons*, *Henry IV* (Bayfield, Drama Desk Awards). Other NY: *All's Well*, *Measure for Measure* (Shakespeare in the Park); *Winter's Tale*, *Cherry Orchard* (Bridge Project at BAM and World Tour); *Freedomland* (Playwrights Horizons); *Where's Charley?* (Encores); *The Hostage*, *School for Scandal*, *Women Beware Women* (The Acting Company). Center Theatre Group: 15 productions including *The Nether*, *History Boys*, *Stuff Happens*, *Water & Power*, *The Real Thing* and *Hedda Gabler*. Other L.A.: *Misalliance*, *Major Barbara*, *Shadowlands* (SCR); *Much Ado*, *Julius Caesar* (Shakespeare Center); *King Lear*, *Mercadet* (Antaeus); *Prince of L.A.*, *The Liar*, *San Fran Scapin* (Andak). Regional: 250 productions. Film: 25 films including *Lincoln*, *True Grit*, *Zero Charisma*, *White Mile*, *And the Band Played On*, *Nuts*, *Clean and Sober*. TV: 250 episodes, regular and recurring roles in 13 series, including recently *King of Queens*, *Gilmore Girls*, and *Desperate Housewives*.

JEFFERSON MAYS (BERNARD WOOLLEY)

Broadway: *The Best Man*, *I Am My Own Wife*, *Pygmalion*, *Journey's End* and *Of Thee I Sing*. Off-Broadway: *Blood & Gifts*, *Measure for Measure*, *Lydie Breeze*, *Quills* and *Orestes*. Center Stage: *Servant of Two Masters*, *Triumph of Love*, *The Show Off*, *The Lover*, *The Woman in Black*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Winter's Tale* and *Peter Pan*. Other Regional: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *My Fair Lady*, *Quartermaine's Terms*, *Misalliance*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Tartuffe*, *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *Miss Julie* and *Private Lives*. Film and Television credits include: *Alfie*, *Kinsey*, *The Notorious Bettie Page*, *Cousin Bette*, *The Good Wife*, *Mildred Pierce*, *Detroit, 1-8-7*, *Lie to Me*, *Fringe*, *Law & Order*, *Nurse Jackie*, *The Closer* and *Dolley Madison*. Awards include: Tony, Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, Obies, Outer Critic's Circle, Helen Hayes, Elliot Norton, Theatre World, Drama League, Jefferson, Drama-Logue and Helpmann. Education: Yale College, BA; UCSD, MFA.

MICHAEL MCKEAN (JIM HACKER)

Los Angeles theater credits include: Randy Newman's *Harps and Angels* and *On the Razzle*, *Williamstown*; *Love Song* and *West End*. New York: Gore Vidal's *The Best Man*, *King Lear*, *Our Town*, *Superior Donuts*, *The Homecoming*, *The Pajama Game*, *A Second Hand Memory* and *Hairspray*. Film credits include: *This is Spinal Tap*, *Clue*, *Best in Show*, *A Mighty Wind*, *Whatever Works*, *Planes, Trains & Automobiles*, *The Brady Bunch Movie* and *The Words*. TV credits include: *Family Tree* (HBO), *Homeland*, *Law & Order SVU*, *Castle*, *Happy Endings*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Sesame Street*, *Laverne & Shirley*, *The X-Files* and *Smallville*. He is the first million dollar Celebrity Jeopardy champion. Awards: Theatre World Award for Rupert Holmes's *Accomplice on Broad*; Grammy for title song *A Mighty Wind*, written with Christopher Guest and Eugene Levy; Oscar nomination for Best Song *A Kiss at the End of the Rainbow*, written with Annette O'Toole.

TARA SUMMERS (CLAIRE SUTTON)

British Actress, Tara Summers is perhaps best known for her role as Katie Lloyd on David E. Kelley's hugely successful series *Boston Legal*. She has done numerous arcs on other critically acclaimed shows such as *Damages*, *Ringer* and *Sons of Anarchy*. Past film and television credits include *Hitchcock*, *Private Practice*, *Factory Girl*, *Alfie*, *Dirt* and *What a Girl Wants*. Tara was most recently cast in the Fox pilot *Rake* opposite Greg Kinnear directed by Sam Raimi. Tara wrote, produced and starred in a one-

woman autobiographical show, *Gypsy of Chelsea*. She performed the play at the Royal Court Theatre (London) where she was a member of the young writers program, Studio 54 (NY) and the Hudson (Los Angeles). Her most recent short film that she co-wrote and starred in, *Stephanie and Me*, won the audience prize at Palm Springs Festival. An alumna of Brown University where she received a BA in History, Tara trained at the National Theatre Institute at the Eugene O'Neill, Connecticut and has MFA in Acting from L.A.M.D.A. She currently resides in Venice, CA.

TIME WINTERS (THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE BBC, JEREMY BURNHAM)

Time has appeared on Broadway and in legion theatres regionally, including *Camelot* (National Tour with Michael York and Lou Diamond Phillips) and *Amadeus*. Local theater credits include: *Cymbeline* and *The Beaux Stratagem* (A Noise Within), *The Merchant of Venice* (Banshee Theatre), *The Good Book of Pedantry and Wonder* (Los Angeles Drama Critic's Circle nominee) and *How to Disappear Completely* (Theatre @ Boston Court), *How the World Began* (South Coast Repertory), Holmes in *Sherlock's Last Case* (Colony Theatre), *The Good Doctor* (Pasadena Playhouse) and many others. Film appearances include: *Angry Video Game Nerd: The Movie*, *Sweet Talk*, *The Runaways*, *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers*, *Nosferatu L.A.*, *Little Princess*, *Doc Hollywood*, *Defending Your Life*, *Sneakers*, *Gremlins 2* and more. Guest starred on Television's *Southland*, *Criminal Minds*, *Big Love*, *Carnivale*, *Ghost Whisperer*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *ER*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and more. He is married to the brilliant actress Tracy Winters.

ANTONY JAY (Playwright)

Sir Antony Jay has enjoyed a distinguished career as writer, broadcaster and producer. He was a founder member and became editor of the BBC's legendary Tonight program and is founder-editor of The Oxford Dictionary of Political Quotations and author of *Elizabeth R* and two acclaimed documentaries on the royal family. He is a commander of the Royal Victorian Order. His books include two management classics *Management and Machiavelli* and *Corporation Man*. Antony Jay co-founded (with John Cleese) Video Arts Ltd and was chairman from 1972 to 1989. The company won over 100 national and international awards for its comedy training films and won the Queen's Award to Industry in 1982. Jonathan Lynn and Antony Jay's BAFTA Award-winning political comedy *Yes Minister* first aired on BBC2 in 1980 and ran until 1984 (three series). The sequel, *Yes, Prime Minister*, ran from 1986 until 1988 (two series). Both series are now released in their entirety on BBC DVD. Lynn and Jay also wrote three novels, *The Complete Yes Minister* and *Yes, Prime Minister*, volumes one and two; which cumulatively sold more than one million copies in hardback, were on the British top 10 bestseller list for three years and have been translated into numerous languages.

JONATHAN LYNN (Playwright and Director)

Lynn's West End theater debut, aged 23, was as Motel the Tailor in the original London cast of *Fiddler on the Roof*. London directing credits include: *The Glass Menagerie* working with Tennessee Williams; *Songbook* (Best Musical, Society of West End Theatres Award and Evening Standard Award); *Anna Christie* (RSC, Stratford and the Donmar); Joe Orton's *Loot*; *Pass The Butler* by Eric Idle, Shaw's *Arms And The Man* and *The Gingerbread Man* (Old Vic, two successive Christmas seasons). At the National Theatre, Lynn directed *A Little Hotel on the Side* by Georges Feydeau and *Three Men on A Horse* (Society of West End Theatres Award, Best Comedy). As artistic director of the Cambridge Theatre Company, Lynn directed 20 productions, producing 20 others, 9 of which transferred to the West End. Film directing includes the cult classic *Clue* (also wrote the screenplay), *Nuns on the Run* (also written by Lynn), *My Cousin Vinny*, *The Distinguished Gentleman*, *Sgt. Bilko*, *Greedy*, *Trial And Error*, *The Whole Nine Yards*, *The Fighting Temptations* and most recently, *Wild Target*. For television, Lynn's writing credits include dozens of episodes of various comedy series, creating and starring *My Brother's Keeper* and the phenomenally successful, multi-award-winning BBC series *Yes Minister* and *Yes, Prime Minister*, co-written and created with Antony Jay. Lynn authored *The Complete Yes, Minister* and *Yes, Prime Minister Volumes I and II*, which cumulatively sold more than a million copies in hardback and have been translated into numerous languages and are still in print nearly 30 years later. His new book, *Comedy Rules* (Faber and Faber) received rave reviews. Lynn received an MA in Law from Cambridge University and describes himself as a recovering lawyer.

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 and Chairman of the Board Frank Mancuso. 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 geffenplayhouse.com.

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