

JO BONNEY TO DIRECT NEIL LABUTE'S WORLD PREMIERE ADAPTATION OF *MISS JULIE*

*Director of The Break of Noon and Fat Pig Helms
Third Collaboration with Neil LaBute at the Geffen Playhouse
New Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater Run Dates Announced*

LOS ANGELES, January 14, 2013 — Acclaimed director and longtime LaBute collaborator **Jo Bonney** will helm the controversial dramatist's latest theatrical work at the **Geffen Playhouse**. **Neil LaBute** has set August Strindberg's classic *Miss Julie* on Long Island just before the 1929 stock market crash. "I wanted this setting to be my own while still dealing faithfully with the themes and mores of the lives of these characters as they were first written," said LaBute who is returning for his fifth project at the Geffen. Hoping to highlight the dynamics of the relationships in this drama, LaBute said, "A cloud of desperation and despair will soon hang over the United States but tonight – in this kitchen that Strindberg conjured up 150 years ago – the lives of the three characters in *Miss Julie* will never be the same."

The scandalous turn of the century play, banned in Britain for nearly 50 years after its publication, chronicles the night-long flirtation and seduction between the wealthy lady of the house and one of her father's household employees. Featuring one of theater's most commanding female characters, this world premiere adaptation couples provocateurs Strindberg and LaBute to capture the timeless consequences of passion and power.

Jo Bonney, who helmed last September's West Coast premiere production of *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* at the Geffen Playhouse, has previously worked with LaBute on several other productions and brings a trusted directorial hand to the new adaptation. "Neil and Jo are extraordinary artists in their own right and their work together has been all the more compelling," said Geffen Playhouse Artistic Director Randall Arney. "Their combined efforts for this production – Neil adapting the script and Jo directing – will be no different. As is always the case when these two particular talents work together, the final result will be satisfying and provocative theater." The cast and the design team are soon to be announced.

To accommodate for artist schedules, the runs of *Miss Julie* and the subsequent production of *The Judy Show* (both slated in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at the Geffen Playhouse), will shift to six week runs opening in May and June (precise dates below). Patrons will be issued new tickets in the same seating locations for the later dates and offered the ability to exchange into other performances within each run at no cost.

MISS JULIE

Written by August Strindberg

Adapted by Neil LaBute

Directed by Jo Bonney

Preview Performances: Tuesday, April 23 – Tuesday, April 30, 2013

Opening Night: Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Closing Night: Sunday, June 2, 2013

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THE JUDY SHOW: MY LIFE AS A SITCOM

Starring Judy Gold

Written by Judy Gold & Kate Moira Ryan

Directed by Amanda Charlton

In Association with Daryl Roth and Eva Price

Preview Performances: Tuesday, June 18 – Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Opening Night: Wednesday, June 26, 2013**Closing Night:** Sunday, July 28, 2013**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 \$59 for preview performances and from \$69 to \$74 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**JO BONNEY** (Director)

Premieres of plays by Alan Ball, Eric Bogosian, Culture Clash, Eve Ensler, Jessica Goldberg, Danny Hoch, Neil LaBute, Warren Leight, Lynn Nottage, Dael Orlandersmith, Suzan-Lori Parks, Darci Picoult, Will Power, David Rabe, Jose Rivera, Christopher Shinn, Diana Son, Universes, Naomi Wallace, Michael Weller. Productions of plays by Caryl Churchill, Nilo Cruz, Anna Deavere Smith, Charles Fuller, Lisa Loomer, John Osborne and Lanford Wilson. Theatres: PS 122, The Public Theater NYC, New York Theatre Workshop, Second Stage, NYC, The Goodman Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, MCC, NYC, Geffen Playhouse, Williamstown Theatre Festival, The McCarter Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, Arena Stage, Mark Taper Forum, Signature Theatre, NYC, Long Wharf Theatre, The New Group, NYC, Classic Stage Company, NYC, Humana Theatre Festival, Almeida Theatre, London, Edinburgh Theatre Festival, The Market Theatre, Johannesburg, Cine 13, Paris. Recipient of a 1998 Obie Award for Sustained Excellence of Direction, Lucille Lortel Best Musical and Lucille Lortel Best Revival. Editor of "Extreme Exposure: An Anthology of Solo Performance Texts from the Twentieth Century" (TCG).

NEIL LaBUTE (Adapter)

Neil LaBute received his Master of Fine Arts degree in dramatic writing from New York University and was the recipient of a literary fellowship to study at the Royal Court Theatre, London and also attended the Sundance Institute's Playwrights Lab. His films include *In the Company of Men* (New York Critics' Circle Award for Best First Feature and the Filmmaker Trophy at the Sundance Film Festival), *Your Friends and Neighbors*, *Nurse Betty*, *Possession*, *The Shape of Things* (a film adaptation of his play by the same title), *The Wicker Man*, *Lakeview Terrace*, *Death at a Funeral* and the forthcoming *Some Velvet Morning*. LaBute's plays include *bash: latter-day plays*, *The Shape of Things*, *The Mercy Seat*, *The Distance From Here*, *Autobahn*, *Fat Pig* (Olivier nomination for Best Comedy), *Some Girl(s)*, *This Is How It Goes*, *Wrecks*, *Filthy Talk for Troubled Times*, *Lovely Head*, *In a Dark Dark House*, *reasons to be pretty* (Tony Award nomination for Best Play), *reasons to be happy* and the forthcoming *The Money Shot*. LaBute is also the author of *Seconds of Pleasure*, a collection of short fiction which was published by Grove Atlantic.

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.