

**LAURENCE FISHBURNE BRINGS THURGOOD  
TO LIFE IN LOS ANGELES AND WASHINGTON DC**

*Geffen Playhouse Opening Night - July 7, 2010*

LOS ANGELES, April 21, 2010 — Tony Award Winner, Emmy Award Winner and Oscar Nominee **Laurence Fishburne** transforms into Thurgood Marshall to tell the triumphant story of how a boy from the backstreets of Baltimore changed history. Written by **George Stevens Jr** and helmed by **Leonard Foglia**, *Thurgood* plays at the Geffen Playhouse from June 27 to August 8, 2010, with an opening night of July 7.

This award-winning production is an extended monologue retelling the life of Thurgood Marshall. From arguing the 1954 landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education* to becoming the first African-American Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall's tenacious advocacy broke open the civil rights movement, paving the way for the young African-American leaders of our future. Fishburne's acclaimed Broadway performance of *Thurgood* earned him a Drama Desk Award and an Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Solo Performance, as well as a Tony nomination for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play.

The Geffen Playhouse production will also be presented by the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, DC from June 1 to June 20.

For extended bios on the cast and creative team, please see below.

**THURGOOD**

Written by George Stevens, Jr  
 Directed by Leonard Foglia  
*Previews:* Tuesday, June 27 – Tuesday, July 6  
*Opening Night:* Wednesday, July 7  
*Closing Night:* Sunday, August 8

**Cast**

Laurence Fishburne                      Thurgood Marshall

**Performance Schedule**

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

**Ticket Info**

Ticket prices range from \$35 - \$55 for preview performances and from \$65 - \$85 for the regular run. Tickets are on sale now at the Geffen Playhouse box office, online at [www.geffenplayhouse.com](http://www.geffenplayhouse.com), via credit card phone order at (310) 208-5454, at all Ticketmaster outlets, or by calling Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000.

**LAURENCE FISHBURNE** (*Thurgood Marshall*)

BROADWAY: *Thurgood* (Tony Award nomination, Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award; also at the Kennedy Center), *Two Trains Running* (Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award, Theatre World Award; also Ahmanson at the Doolittle), *The Lion in Winter*. FILM: *Armored*, *21*, *Bobby*, *Akeelah and the Bee* (with Angela Bassett/also producer), *Mission Impossible III*, *Assault on Precinct 13* (with Ethan Hawke), *The Matrix: Reloaded*, *The Matrix: Revolutions*, *Mystic River* (directed by Clint Eastwood, with Sean Penn, Tim Robbins, Kevin Bacon, Marcia Gay Harden), *Biker Boyz*, *Once in the Life* (wrote, directed and starred in), *Always Outnumbered* (for HBO, by Walter Mosley), *Event Horizon* (with Sam Neill, Kathleen Quinlan, Joely Richardson), *Hoodlum* (starred in and produced), *Fled*, *Othello*, *What's Love Got to do With It* (as Ike Turner, Oscar), *Bad Company* (with Ellen Barkin), *Higher Learning* (written and directed by John Singleton, NAACP Award), *Just Cause* (with Sean Connery), *The Color Purple*, *Searching for Bobby Fischer*, *Deep Cover* (with Jeff Goldblum), *Boyz in the Hood* (written and directed by John Singleton), *Cadence* (directed by Martin Sheen), *Apocalypse Now*, *Cornbread*, *Earl and Me*, *Class Action*, *King of New York*, *Red Heat*, *Nightmare on Elm Street 3*, *Cotton Club*, *Rumble Fish*. TELEVISION: *Tribeca* (Emmy Award), *Miss Evers' Boys* (for HBO, Emmy nomination Outstanding Lead Actor in a Miniseries or Special, NAACP Award, executive producer, Emmy Award – Outstanding Made For Television Movie, President's Award), *Tuskegee Airmen* (for HBO, NAACP and Golden Globe Awards), *PeeWee's Playhouse* (as Cowboy Curtis), *One Life to Live*, *Decoration Day* (Hallmark Hall of Fame), *For Us The Living* (PBS), *Rumor of War* and more.

**LEONARD FOGLIA** (Director)

BROADWAY: *Thurgood*; *On Golden Pond* also Kennedy Center and National tour; *Wait Until Dark*; *Master Class*, also National Tour, London; OFF BROADWAY: *The Stendhal Syndrome* (Primary Stages) *One Touch of Venus* (City Center) *If Memory Serves* (Promenade, Pasadena Playhouse); *By The Sea* (MTC, Bay Street); *Lonely Planet* (Circle Rep). Regional: *Let Me Down Easy* (Zack Theater), *Unusual Acts of Devotion* (Philadelphia Theater Company), *Distracted* (Mark Taper), *Things Being What They Are* (Bay Street) *Paper Doll*, *The Secret Letters of Jackie and Marilyn* (Pittsburgh Public), *Thurgood* (Westport Playhouse), *The Subject was Roses* (Kennedy Center), *Southern Comforts* (Coconut Grove), *Seascape*, *A Coffin in Egypt*, *The Woman in Black* (Bay Street), *God's Man in Texas*, *Dinner with Friends* (The Globe Theatres), *Dreamland* (Sharon Stage) *Revelers* (NYS&F). Opera: *Dead Man Walking*, (NYC Opera, Opera Pacific, Cincinnati, Detroit, etc.); *The End of Affair* (Houston Grand, Seattle and Madison Opera). ). *Three Decembers* (Houston Grand Opera, San Francisco Opera). He is co-author, with David Richards, of the mystery novels *1 Ragged Ridge Road*, *Face Down in the Park*, *El Sudario* - and its sequel to be published next year: *La Sangre Del Sudario*.

**GEORGE STEVENS, JR** (Playwright)

Although a veterened writer, director and producer, *Thurgood* marks George Stevens, JR's first time as a playwright. He produced *The Thin Red Line* (seven Academy Awards nominations) and *The Murder of Mary Phagan* (Emmy Award Win). George Stevens, Jr. won two Emmy's himself for the 1994 documentary, *George Stevens: D-Day to Berlin*, which depicted the wartime experiences of his father. Stevens co-created "The Kennedy Center Honors" in 1978 and he now co-produces the show with his son. Most recently Stevens was the Executive Producer of *We Are One: The Obama Inaugural Event from the Lincoln Memorial* (HBO). George Stevens, JR. is the founder of the American Film Institute.

**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 musicals, 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 is helmed by Producing Director and President of the Board Gilbert Cates, 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](http://geffenplayhouse.com).

###