

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

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GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE ADDS THREE NEW PRODUCTIONS TO COMPLETE ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON LINEUP

PLAYWRIGHT EDWARD ALBEE'S "WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?" WILL PREMIERE
IN APRIL 2022 AND FEATURE CALISTA FLOCKHART AND ZACHARY QUINTO

PLAYWRIGHT MATT SCHATZ'S NEW ORIGINAL "A WICKED SOUL IN CHERRY HILL"
WILL MAKE ITS WORLD PREMIERE IN JUNE 2022

PLAYWRIGHT FERNANDA COPPEL'S "KING LIZ" WILL
MAKE ITS WEST COAST PREMIERE IN JULY 2022

LOS ANGELES (November 2, 2021) – Geffen Playhouse added three new productions to complete its 25th Anniversary Season lineup, it was announced today. Playwright Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* will make its Geffen Playhouse premiere in April 2022, featuring Calista Flockhart (*Ally McBeal*, Neil LaBute's *bash*) and Zachary Quinto (*Star Trek* franchise, *The Boys in the Band*); *A Wicked Soul in Cherry Hill*, a new original production from playwright and Geffen Playhouse The Writers' Room program alum Matt Schatz, will make its world premiere in June 2022; and playwright Fernanda Coppel's *King Liz* will make its West Coast premiere in July 2022.

The Geffen Playhouse 25th Anniversary Season launched September 14, 2021, with *The Enigmatist* and will run through August 14, 2022.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

George and Martha, the American theater's most notoriously dysfunctional couple, have invited the young and naive Nick and Honey over for drinks. What begins as harmless patter escalates to outright marital warfare, with the provincial newcomers caught in the crossfire. We are thrilled to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the hilarious and harrowing *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, arguably Edward Albee's most famous and most vicious masterpiece.

A Wicked Soul in Cherry Hill

On a November night in 1994, a murder was committed in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. In this poignant story told completely through song, a tight-knit Jewish community gathers to recount, remember, and reckon with the details of what happened in—and to—their town. This wholly original production asks what it does to our souls when our leaders fall from grace.

A Wicked Soul in Cherry Hill was created during the Geffen Playhouse inaugural The Writers' Room program, in which six Los Angeles playwrights develop new works with the support and guidance of the Geffen Playhouse artistic team.

King Liz

It's good to be king. Liz Rico is a powerful sports agent who represents NBA superstars, having fought her way to the top of a male-dominated profession with her skill for cutthroat negotiations. Given the chance to sign Freddie Luna, a once-in-a-generation high school talent with a troubled past, Liz sees an opportunity to take her career to the next level. But when accusations start swirling around the young phenom, Liz must attempt to rebound Freddie's career or protect her own crown.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, A Wicked Soul in Cherry Hill and **King Liz** join the previously announced Geffen Playhouse 25th Anniversary Season lineup of productions that includes the West Coast premiere of **The Enigmatist**, a highly inventive, immersive theatrical experience from renowned master illusionist and magician David Kwong; the West Coast premiere of playwright Dominique Morisseau's **Paradise Blue**; the West Coast premiere of Paul Grellong's **Power of Sail**, with Tony Award winner Bryan Cranston (*All the Way, Network*) leading a cast that also features Hugo Armstrong (*Mysterious Circumstances, God of Carnage*), Amy Brenneman (*Judging Amy, Private Practice*), Donna Simone Johnson (*Bring Down the House, The Bluest Eye*), Tedra Millan (*The Wolves, Present Laughter*), Seth Numrich (*Switzerland, Turn: Washington's Spies*) and Brandon Scott (*This is Us, Dead to Me*), and helmed by Soulepepper Theatre Artistic Director Weyni Mengesha; the West Coast premiere of playwright Lindsay Joelle's **TRAYF**; and Anna Ouyang Moench's **Man of God**, originally scheduled for the 2019/2020 season, but cancelled just prior to opening night in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

To launch its 2022/2023 season next year, Geffen Playhouse will present the Stephen Daldry production of playwright Matthew Lopez's *The Inheritance*, directed by Mike Donahue.

The Geffen Playhouse 25th Anniversary Season is sponsored by Jodi and Howard Tenenbaum.

Geffen Playhouse continues its longstanding relationship with City National Bank (CNB) for its 25th Anniversary Season and is proud to have CNB sponsor *Power of Sail* in the Gil Cates Theater.

Gil Cates Theater opening nights are sponsored by STK Steakhouse.

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE 25th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

THE ENIGMATIST (Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater)

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Written & Performed by David Kwong

September 14 – November 28, 2021

Can you solve the enigma? From the creator and performer of the hit virtual production *Inside the Box* comes an immersive experience of puzzles and cryptology. Following a sold-out New York City run in 2019, renowned magician and *The New York Times* crossword constructor David Kwong brings his popular in-person show to the Geffen Playhouse. Clues are everywhere, so keep your eyes open and be ready for surprises behind every multi-layered illusion.

PARADISE BLUE (Gil Cates Theater)

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Written by Dominique Morisseau

Directed by Stori Ayers

Featuring Tyla Abercrombie, Wendell B. Franklin, Alani iLongwe, John Earl Jelks and Shayna Small

November 9 – December 12, 2021

Welcome to the sultry, jazz-filled Paradise Club. It's 1949 in Detroit, and trumpet-playing club owner Blue has a tough decision to make. Should he sell his jazz joint as gentrification is banging on the door? The house band is desperate to stay, Blue's demons are tempting him to leave, and the arrival of a seductive stranger turns everything upside down. In Tony Award-nominated playwright Dominique Morisseau's (*Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations, Skeleton Crew*) powerful noir-inspired drama, a makeshift family and their troubled bandleader find themselves fighting for the future of Paradise.

POWER OF SAIL (Gil Cates Theater)

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Written by Paul Grellong

Directed by Weyni Mengesha

Produced with Daryl Roth

Featuring Hugo Armstrong, Amy Brenneman, Bryan Cranston, Donna Simone Johnson, Tedra Millan, Seth Numrich and Brandon Scott

February 1 – March 13, 2022

Distinguished Harvard professor Charles Nichols (Emmy & Tony Award winner Bryan Cranston) finds himself in hot water after inviting an incendiary white nationalist to speak at his annual symposium. His colleagues are concerned, his students are in revolt, but Charles is undeterred in his plot to expose and academically thrash his invited guest. This profoundly relevant new play by Paul Grellong (*The Boys, Manuscript*) examines the insidiousness of hate disguised as free speech and the question of who ultimately pays the price.

Presenting Sponsor City National Bank.

TRAYF (Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater)

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Written by Lindsay Joelle

Directed by Maggie Burrows

March 1 – April 10, 2022

Zalmy lives a double life. By day, he drives a Chabad "Mitzvah Tank" through 1990s New York City, performing good deeds with his best friend Shmuel. By night, he sneaks out of his orthodox community to roller-skate and listen to rock and roll. But when a curious outsider offers him unfettered access to the secular world, is it worth jeopardizing everything he's ever known? This road-trip bromance is a funny and heartwarming ode to the turbulence of youth, the universal suspicion that we don't quite fit in, and the faith and friends that see us through.

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? (Gil Cates Theater)

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE PREMIERE

Written by Edward Albee

Directed by Gordon Greenberg

Featuring Calista Flockhart and Zachary Quinto

Additional casting to be announced.

April 19 – May 22, 2022

George and Martha, the American theater's most notoriously dysfunctional couple, have invited the young and naive Nick and Honey over for drinks. What begins as harmless patter escalates to outright marital warfare, with the provincial newcomers caught in the crossfire. We are thrilled to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the hilarious and harrowing *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, arguably Edward Albee's most famous and most vicious masterpiece.

MAN OF GOD (Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater)

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE PREMIERE

Written by Anna Ouyang Moench

Directed by Maggie Burrows

May 10 – June 19, 2022

During a mission trip to Bangkok, the four members of a Korean Christian girls' youth group discover that their revered pastor has hidden a camera in their hotel bathroom. Samantha is personally wounded that Pastor would do this to her. Jen is worried about how this might affect her college applications. Mimi's out for blood, as usual. And Kyung-Hwa thinks everyone needs to have lower expectations for men. Their communal rage and disillusionment fuel increasingly violent revenge fantasies amidst the no-holds-barred neon bubblegum sex-tourism mecca of Bangkok. *Man of God* is a funny feminist thriller about that moment when girls realize the male gaze has been watching all along—and decide they're definitely gonna do something about it.

Man of God had its world premiere in January 2019 as an East West Players production at the David Henry Hwang Theatre at the Union Center of the Arts in Los Angeles.

A WICKED SOUL IN CHERRY HILL (Gil Cates Theater)

WORLD PREMIERE

Words and Music by Matt Schatz

Directed by Mike Donahue

June 21 – July 24, 2022

On a November night in 1994, a murder was committed in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. In this poignant story told completely through song, a tight-knit Jewish community gathers to recount, remember, and reckon with the details of what happened in—and to—their town. This wholly original production asks what it does to our souls when our leaders fall from grace.

This play was created during the Geffen Playhouse inaugural The Writers' Room program, in which six Los Angeles playwrights develop new works with the support and guidance of the Geffen Playhouse artistic team.

Recipient of the Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. Major support for this world premiere production provided by the Edgerton Foundation New Play Production Fund.

KING LIZ (Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater)

WEST COAST PREMIERE

Written by Fernanda Coppel

July 12 – August 14, 2022

It's good to be king. Liz Rico is a powerful sports agent who represents NBA superstars, having fought her way to the top of a male-dominated profession with her skill for cutthroat negotiations. Given the

chance to sign Freddie Luna, a once-in-a-generation high school talent with a troubled past, Liz sees an opportunity to take her career to the next level. But when accusations start swirling around the young phenom, Liz must attempt to rebound Freddie's career or protect her own crown.

ABOUT CITY NATIONAL BANK

With \$75.8 billion in assets, City National Bank provides banking, investment and trust services through locations in Southern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, Nevada, New York City, Nashville, Atlanta, Minneapolis, Washington, D.C., and Miami*. In addition, the company and its investment affiliates manage or administer \$86.3 billion in client investment assets. City National is a subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), one of North America's leading diversified financial services companies. RBC serves more than 17 million personal, business, public sector and institutional clients through offices in Canada, the United States and 34 other countries. For more information about City National, visit the company's website at cnb.com. **City National Bank does business in Miami and the state of Florida as CN Bank.*

ABOUT GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

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 not-for-profit organization 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 Executive Director Gil Cates, Jr., Artistic Director Matt Shakman and Board Chair Adi Greenberg. Proudly associated with UCLA, the Geffen maintains extensive education and community engagement programs, designed to involve young people and the community at large in the arts. www.geffenplayhouse.org

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