

# GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

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**GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF “MINDPLAY”**

**CREATED AND PERFORMED BY VINNY DEPONTO**

**WRITTEN BY VINNY DEPONTO & JOSH KOENIGSBERG AND DIRECTED BY ANDREW NEISLER**

**PREVIEWS BEGIN NOVEMBER 8 - OPENING NIGHT IS NOVEMBER 17**

LOS ANGELES (October 11, 2022) – Geffen Playhouse will present the world premiere of *Mindplay*, written by **Vinny DePonto** (*Charlatan, Angels in America*) & **Josh Koenigsberg** (*Orange is the New Black, High Fidelity*) and directed by **Andrew Neisler** (*Folk Wandering, Clown Bar*), produced with three-time Tony Award-winning producer **Eva Price** (*Jagged Little Pill, Oklahoma!*).

Previews for *Mindplay* begin Tuesday, November 8 in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at Geffen Playhouse. Opening night is Thursday, November 17.

*Mindplay* is a love letter to the imperfect mind. Drama Desk Award–nominated theater-maker and mentalist Vinny DePonto leads us on a raucous romp through the back channels of our innermost thoughts, exploring the fragmented and flawed nature of our memories, and asks us to question whether we can trust the voice inside our heads. In the spirit of the Geffen’s long tradition of magic comes an entirely new theatrical event in which your thoughts play a leading role.

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

### **MINDPLAY**

Created & Performed by **Vinny DePonto**

Written by **Vinny DePonto & Josh Koenigsberg**

Directed by **Andrew Neisler**

Produced with **Eva Price**

**Previews:** November 8, 2022 – November 16, 2022.

**Opening Night:** November 17, 2022

**Closing Night:** December 18, 2022

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Scenic Designer **Sibyl Wickersheimer**  
Lighting Designer **Pablo Santiago**  
Sound Designer **Everett Elton Bradman**  
Costume Design Consultants **Audrey Lastar & Sarah Lindsley**  
Creative Consultant **Enrico de la Vega**  
Dramaturg **Amy Levinson**  
Production Stage Manager **Julie Ann Renfro**

## **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE**

Monday	No performance
Tuesday – Friday	7:30 p.m.
Saturday – Sunday	1:00 and 7:00 p.m.

## **LOCATION**

Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater at Geffen Playhouse  
10886 Le Conte Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024

## **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets currently priced at \$30.00 - \$129.00. Available by phone at 310.208.2028 or online at [www.geffenplayhouse.org](http://www.geffenplayhouse.org). Fees may apply.

Currently, children under six years of age will not be admitted. Masks are required – additional policy details can be found at [www.geffenplayhouse.org/plan/reopening/](http://www.geffenplayhouse.org/plan/reopening/).

Rush tickets for each day's performance are made available to the general public one hour before showtime at the box office. \$35.00 General/\$15.00 Student.

## **COLLEGE AUDIENCES**

Through a variety of events and other opportunities, Geffen Playhouse welcomes college students to experience the live storytelling presented on our stages. We are proud of our association with UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television, and open our doors to all college students throughout Los Angeles. More information is available at [www.geffenplayhouse.org/college](http://www.geffenplayhouse.org/college).

## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

### **Vinny DePonto (Creator, Playwright & Performer)**

The work of theatre-maker and mentalist Vinny DePonto uses a combination of psychological tricks, visual art, and immersive storytelling. His off-Broadway show *Charlatan* was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for "Unique Theatrical Experience." He is also a member of the Bessie Award-winning theatre group Third Rail Projects. His solo work has been presented by Ars Nova, American Conservatory Theater, American Repertory Theater at Harvard, and The Orchard Project. In addition to his live performances, DePonto's consulting work was featured in the most recent production of *Angels in America* on Broadway, in Lincoln Center's *Ghostlight*, and in hit television shows on the Discovery Channel, NBC, and Netflix. He enjoys burrata, colorful socks, and your deep, dark secrets. He currently lives in upstate New York. @VinnyDePonto

### **Josh Koenigsberg (Playwright)**

Josh Koenigsberg is a Drama Desk–nominated playwright and screenwriter. His work has been produced at Ars Nova, Atlantic Theater Company, The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Naked Angels, The Old Vic, Primary Stages, The Public Theater, Second Stage Theater, SPACE on Ryder Farm, Theatre Row, Williamstown Theater Festival, The 24 Hour Plays/Musicals, and more. Josh’s plays include *Al’s Business Cards*, *Dance Lessons*, *The Mnemonist of Dutchess County*—all published by Samuel French—as well as *Herman Kline’s Midlife Crisis*, *The Rise and Fall of Marcus Monroe*, *Charlatan* starring award-winning mentalist Vinny DePonto, and *VROOM VROOM*, which he adapted and directed as an Audible Original series. Josh has written screenplays for Disney, Hulu, Lionsgate, Netflix, and Paramount, among others. TV/Film credits include the Emmy–winning series *Orange Is The New Black* (Netflix/Lionsgate), *High Fidelity* (Hulu/ABC Signature), and *Secret Headquarters* (Paramount/Jerry Bruckheimer Films). Josh is currently writing the film adaptation of the popular videogame *Mega Man* for Netflix and Chernin Entertainment. His burrito recipe “Josh’s Famous Burritos” is published by *The New York Times*.

### **Andrew Neisler (Director)**

Andrew Neisler is a Georgia-raised, New York-based theatre maker, director, and producer with a passion for joy-forward, laughter-filled, queer-affirming art, as well as a deepening interest in ecological theatre that works to restore our connection with the Earth. Select directing credits include the immersive nightclub show *Another Rose* for Virgin Voyages, the critically acclaimed musical *Folk Wandering* which he also co-authored with playwright Jaclyn Backhaus (Pipeline Theatre Company), the world premiere of César Alvarez’s *The Elementary Spacetime Show* (Philadelphia’s FringeArts Curated Series), New York Times Critic’s Pick *Clown Bar* (The Box), and Drama Desk–nominated *Charlatan* (Ars Nova). He has developed new projects with The Public Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, Ars Nova, Playwrights Horizons, HERE Arts Center, Primary Stages, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, NYU, University of the Arts, Colgate University, Williams College, and more. He is a co-founder and Creative Director of the arts incubation company Fresh Ground Pepper ([www.fgpnyc.com](http://www.fgpnyc.com)), where he has cultivated over 750 artists in a series of development opportunities, residencies, and retreats over the past 12 years. He is currently serving as the Interim Associate Artistic Director at Ars Nova. He holds a B.F.A. from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. [www.andrew-neisler.com](http://www.andrew-neisler.com)

### **Eva Price (Producer)**

Eva Price is an Olivier, Emmy, and Tony award-winner and ACLU Honoree. Broadway: *& Juliet*; *Jagged Little Pill* (2 Tony Awards); *Oklahoma!* (Best Musical Revival); *Mr. Saturday Night*; *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*; *What the Constitution Means to Me*; *Angels in America* (Best Play Revival); *Dear Evan Hansen* (Best Musical); *On Your Feet!*; *Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons on Broadway!*; *Peter and the Starcatcher* (5 Tony Awards); *Colin Quinn Long Story Short* (directed by Jerry Seinfeld); *Annie*; *The Merchant of Venice* starring Al Pacino; Carrie Fisher’s *Wishful Drinking*; *The Addams Family*; as well as several solo shows and concerts starring The Temptations & the Four Tops; Kathy Griffin; *Lewis Black*; and *Hershey Felder*. Off-Broadway and touring: *Titanique* (off-Broadway world premiere); *Mindplay* (Geffen Playhouse); *Sanctuary City*; *Cruel Intentions: The ‘90s Musical*; *Found*; *The Lion*; *Small Mouth Sounds*; *The Hip Hop Nutcracker* (Emmy Award for PBS Special); *The Magic School Bus Live!*; and *Ella*.

### **OPENING NIGHT SPONSORS**

UCLA Health  
Skylight Gardens

### **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 welcomes an audience of more than 130,000 each year, and maintains extensive education and community engagement programs, designed to involve underserved young people and the community at large in the arts.

[www.geffenplayhouse.org](http://www.geffenplayhouse.org)

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