

IN MOTHER WORDS ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE CHANGE

***Tony Award Winner Harriet Harris and Geffen Alum Mia Barron
Join the Cast for Final Two Weeks***

LOS ANGELES, March 10, 2011 — Tony Award winner Harriet Harris (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*) and Geffen Playhouse alumna Mia Barron (*Farragut North*) join Tony nominee Saidah Arrika Ekolona (*Ruined*) and actor/activist James Lecesne (*The Trevor Project*) in the final two weeks of *In Mother Words*. This is a schedule change from what was previously announced; after its traditional six-week run, the production will now close on Sunday, March 27.

"It has been our honor to present the unique and touching work of some of our finest playwrights and writers," said Geffen Playhouse Producing Director Gil Cates. "The show found its enthusiastic audience here and we wish *In Mother Words* the great success we know it will have when it goes to New York in the fall."

Conceived by **Susan Rose** and **Joan Stein** and helmed by acclaimed director **Lisa Peterson**, this hilarious night of theater includes works by Pulitzer Prize winner **Beth Henley**, Pulitzer Prize nominee **Lisa Loomer**, two-time Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award finalist **Michele Lowe**, Peabody Award winner **Theresa Rebeck**, best-selling author **Luanne Rice**, as well as **Leslie Ayvazian**, **David Cale**, **Jessica Goldberg**, **Lameece Issaq**, **Claire LaZebnik**, **Marco Pennette**, **Lisa Ramirez**, **Annie Weisman** and **Cheryl L. West**. These playwrights' combined stories give voice to mothers and children of all ages, races and even sexes – resulting in an eye-opening, poignant and irresistible evening. *In Mother Words* had two workshops in the Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater in 2008, before it opened with the title *Motherhood Out Loud* at Bay Street Theatre in the Hamptons in the summer of 2009; last fall the play had its official world premiere at Hartford Stage. Following the the Geffen Playhouse production, *In Mother Words* is set to run this fall at New York's Primary Stages.

IN MOTHER WORDS

Conceived by Susan Rose & Joan Stein

Written by Leslie Ayvazian, David Cale, Jessica Goldberg, Beth Henley, Lameece Issaq, Claire LaZebnik, Lisa Loomer, Michele Lowe, Marco Pennette, Lisa Ramirez, Theresa Rebeck, Luanne Rice, Annie Weisman & Cheryl L. West

Directed by Lisa Peterson

Final Two Weeks Featuring:

Mia Barron
Saidah Arrika Ekolona
Harriet Harris
James Lecesne

Ticket Info

Ticket prices range from \$67 to \$77 for the regular run. Tickets are on sale now on www.geffenplayhouse.com, by calling (310) 208-5454 or in-person at the Geffen Playhouse box office.

Production Credits

Set Designer	Rachel Hauck
Costume Designer	David Woolard
Lighting Designer	Christopher Kuhl

Sound Designer	Jill DuBoff
Projection Designer	Jan Hartley
Animations	Emily Hubbley
Production Stage Manager	Young Ji

Biographies

MIA BARRON

Recent work includes the world premiere of *Spirit Control* with Manhattan Theatre Club, *Farragut North* (Geffen Playhouse), the revival of *House of Blue Leaves* (Mark Taper) and the off-Broadway premiere of *Hillary* (New Georges). New York credits include Tom Stoppard's Tony award winning trilogy *The Coast of Utopia* at Lincoln Center, *The Pain* and *The Itch*, *The World Over*, *She Stoops to Comedy* (all at Playwrights Horizons) *1001* (Page 73 productions); *Hardball*, *Kitty, Kitty, Kitty* (Summer Play Festival); *The Grille Room*, *Sixteen Wounded* (Cherry Lane); *QED* (Lincoln Center). In New York, she also co-wrote and performed in the Off-Broadway production of *Big Times* (directed by Leigh Silverman). Work at theatres around the country includes; New York Stage and Film, The Guthrie, The Long Wharf, The Acting Company, The Huntington, Westport Playhouse, The Actor's Theatre of Louisville, The Old Globe, among others. Television and film include *Guiding Light*, *Blue Blood*, *The F Word*, *27 Dresses*, *Righteous Kill*, as well as a long running role as the voice of Molotov on "The Venture Brothers" (Cartoon Network), MFA from Graduate Acting Program at NYU.

SAIDAH ARRIKA EKULONA

Saidah Arrika Ekulona originated the role of Mama Nadi in *Ruined* at the Goodman Theatre and Manhattan Theatre Club (OBIE Award, Lucille Lortel Award, JEFF Award, Drama Desk Citation). BROADWAY: *Well*. OFF-BROADWAY: *Ruined* (MTC); *Othello*; *Unconditional*; *365 Days*, *365 Plays*; *Well*; *The Square*; *Romeo and Juliet* (Public Theatre/NYSF); *Anon* (Atlantic Theater Company); *The Thugs* (Soho Rep); *Fabulation* (Playwrights Horizons); *A Streetcar Named Desire* (NYTW) FILM: *That's What She Said*; *Righteous Kill*; *The Taking of Pelham 123*; *Two Lovers*; *The Rebound*; *Uncertainty*; *The Royal Tenenbaums*; *Happy Accidents*. TV: *Law and Order SVU*; *Royal Pains*; *Mercy*; *The Sopranos*; *Queens Supreme*; *Sex & The City*; *Hope & Faith*; *Law & Order*. Training: MFA –University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theatre.

HARRIET HARRIS

Harriet Harris is the recipient of the 2002 Tony Award and Drama Desk Award for Featured Actress in a Musical for her performance as "Mrs. Meers" in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Other Broadway credits include: *Cry-Baby* *The Musical*, *Present Laughter*, *Old Acquaintance* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner* with Nathan Lane (filmed for PBS). Other New York credits include: playing all the female roles in Paul Rudnick's *Jeffrey* (Drama Desk nomination), *Bella*, *Belle of Byelorussia* (Drama Desk nomination), *The Crucible*, *Man and Superman*, *Innocents' Crusade* at Manhattan Theatre Club, *Christmas on Mars* at Playwrights Horizons, *Rude Entertainment* at Drama Dept., and *Hamlet*, *Julius Caesar* and *Macbeth* at The New York Shakespeare Festival. Miss Harris is also the recipient of the 2006 L.A. Stage Alliance Award for Featured Actress in a Musical for her performance of "Madame Dilly" in *On the Town* at Reprise! Her most recent regional appearances were as Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* at Barrington Stage, Josie in *Unusual Acts of Devotion* at The La Jolla Playhouse, Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie* at The Guthrie and Vera in *Mame* at The Kennedy Center. Other regional credits include: *Tartuffe*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Month in the Country* and *Hedda Gabler*. Film credits include "Memento," "Monster-in-Law," "Nurse Betty," "Romeo and Juliet," "Quiz Show," "Addams Family Values" and "Dotty Gets Spanked." TV credits include "Desperate Housewives" (recurring as Felicia Tillman), "Frasier" (recurring as agent Bebe Glazer), "Six Feet Under," "CSI," "The Beast," "Ally McBeal," "Ellen," "The X-Files," "Ghost Whisperer," and series regular roles on "It's All Relative," "Union Square" and "The Five Mrs. Buchanans."

JAMES LECESNE

Theater: His one-man play *Word of Mouth* was presented Off-Broadway by Mike Nichols & Elaine May and directed by Eve Ensler (NY Drama Desk Award and the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Solo Performance). *Word of Mouth* went on to be performed in Los Angeles (LA Weekly Theater Award), at the HBO Comedy Festival in Aspen, and in many cities throughout the U.S. Other theater credits include: *One Man Band*, directed by Jack Hofsiss; *Cloud 9*, directed by Tommy Tune; *Extraordinary Measures*, written & directed by Eve Ensler; and the 30th anniversary production of *Boys in the Band*, directed by Ken Elliot; *I Am My Own Wife*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep* (Hartford Stage Co). Film & Television: *Sex & The City*, *Home for the Holidays*, *Broadway Damage* and *Motherhood*. Other: He wrote the short film *Trevor*, which received an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short and he is co-founder of The Trevor Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending suicide among LGBT & Questioning youth. James has published two young adult novels, *Absolute Brightness* and *Virgin*

Territory; and he wrote *The Road Home*; *Stories of Children of War*, which was presented at the International Peace Initiative at The Hague, adapted *Armistead Maupin's Further Tales of the City* for Showtime (Emmy Nomination) and wrote one of the final episodes of *Will & Grace*.

LISA PETERSON (Director)

New York: *The Model Apartment* by Donald Margulies (Primary Stages); *Slavs!* by Tony Kushner, *Traps and Light Shining in Buckinghamshire* by Caryl Churchill (Obie Award for Direction), *The Waves* adapt. from Virginia Woolf (two Drama Desk nominations), all at New York Theatre Workshop; *The Scarlet Letter* adapt. by Phylis Nagy (CSC, world premiere). Regional: *Collected Stories* by Donald Margulies (South Coast Rep, world premiere, DramaLogue Award); *Ikebana* by Alice Tuan (East West Players, world premiere, DramaLogue Award); *The Batting Cage* by Joan Ackermann, July 7, 1994 by Donald Margulies, *Tough Choices for the New Century* by Jane Anderson, *Slavs!* by Tony Kushner, *Trip's Cinch* by Phylis Nagy (Actors Theatre of Louisville Humana Festival, world premieres); *Good Person of Setzuan* adapt. by Tony Kushner, *Triumph of Love* adapt. by James Magruder, *Arms and the Man* by G.B. Shaw, *The Swan* by Elizabeth Egloff (La Jolla Playhouse); *A Moon for the Misbegotten* by O'Neill, *My Children! My Africa!* by Athol Fugard, *Slavs!* by Kushner (Baltimore Center Stage); *Fefu and Her Friends* by Irene Fornes (Yale Rep); *Reckless* by Craig Lucas (Hartford Stage). New Play Development: Sundance, The Playwrights' Center, New Dramatists, Young Playwrights' Festival, Taper New Works Festival, Audrey SkirballKenis, New York Stage and Film, Royal Court London.

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 (Gil) 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.

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