

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE SINGS IN THE NEW YEAR WITH HERSHEY FELDER

*Award-Winning Actor Brings Back George Gershwin Alone and
Hosts a New Years Eve of Sing-A-Long Show Tunes and Champagne*

LOS ANGELES, November, 17 2008 — Every December millions of Angelenos are faced with one of the most difficult decisions of the holiday season – where to spend New Year’s Eve. This year, the Geffen Playhouse is making it easy by hosting a special sing-a-long show with award-winning audience favorite Hershey Felder. Focusing on the best of the American songbook (Gershwin, Porter, Berlin, Rogers & Hammerstein, etc), Felder will lead the audience in rollicking renditions of their favorite tunes and then join everyone in the lobby for a champagne toast to celebrate the New Year.

There will be two shows on Wednesday, December 31 (7pm and 10pm) and the later show will culminate with Felder at a special lobby piano leading a parlor style version of “Auld Lang Syne.” With tickets selling fast creating limited availability for the 10pm New Year’s Eve show, the 7pm performance was added by popular demand.

But, the foot-tapping family festivities aren’t limited to just New Year’s Eve. The New Year’s Eve shows fall in the middle of Felder’s special holiday engagement of the acclaimed *George Gershwin Alone*. The production received twelve LA Ovation nominations and won four Ovation Awards, including *Best Musical* and *Best Lead Actor in a Musical*. Directed by Joel Zwick, Felder takes on the role of the musician himself in *George Gershwin Alone* and exposes the dramatic path of one of America’s most recognizable composers.

Tickets for are on sale now at the Geffen Playhouse box office, online at GeffenPlayhouse.com, via phone at 310.208.5454, at all Ticketmaster outlets, or by calling Ticketmaster at 213.365.3500. New Year’s Eve tickets are \$150 for orchestra seats and \$100 for mezzanine; *George Gershwin, Alone* tickets range from \$40 - \$75.

HERSHEY FELDER’S THE AMERICAN SONGBOOK SING-A-LONG

New Year’s Eve – Wednesday, January 31

Early Show – 7pm

Late Show – 10pm

Both performances include complimentary champagne

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GEORGE GERSHWIN, ALONE

The Music of George Gershwin
Text by Hershey Felder
Directed by Joel Zwick

Scenic Design	Yael Pardess
Lighting Design	Michael T. Gilliam
Sound Design	Jon Gottlieb
Production Management/Technical Direction	Matt Marsden
Assistant Lighting Design	Tamora Wilson
Production Stage Management	GiGi Garcia

Special Engagement:

December 19, 2008 – January 4, 2009

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Tuesday through Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Fridays	8:00 p.m.
Saturdays	4:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
Sundays	2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

HERSHEY FELDER (*George Gershwin/Playwright*)

Broadway, London's West End: *George Gershwin Alone* (Helen Hayes Theatre, Duchess Theatre). Regional and international appearances include *Beethoven As I Knew Him*: Geffen Playhouse, The Old Globe Theatre. *Monsieur Chopin*: Chicago's Royal George Theatre, The Geffen Playhouse, Arizona Theatre Company, American Repertory Theatre, Hartford Stage, Ravinia Festival, The Old Globe Theatre, Cleveland Play House; Command Performance for the Polish Ambassador to the United States, Polish Embassy, Washington; Uijeongbu Theatre Festival, South Korea. *George Gershwin Alone*: 2004-2005 Chicago; 1999-2008 at Ford's Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, Hartford Stage, The Geffen Playhouse (2007 Los Angeles OVATION Awards, *Best Musical* and *Best Actor*), The Old Globe Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, Prince Music Theatre (Philadelphia), Cleveland Play House, The Gilmore Festival, Ravinia, El Paso, Uijeongbu, and others. Upcoming: *Monsieur Chopin* in Europe; *Beethoven As I Knew Him* at the Arizona Theatre Company, the Cleveland Play House and others. Compositions include *Fairytale*, a musical; *Les Anges de Paris, Suite for Violin and Piano*; *Song Settings*, poetry by Vachel Lindsay; *Aliyah, Concerto for Piano and Orchestra*; *Saltimbanques for Piano and Orchestra*; *Etudes Thematiques for Piano*. Recordings include *Love Songs of the Yiddish Theatre, Back from Broadway, George Gershwin Alone* and *Monsieur Chopin* for the WFMT Radio Network Recordings label, *Beethoven As I Knew Him* for the Eighty Eight Entertainment label. Worldwide live broadcast, *George Gershwin Alone*, July 2005. Current projects include a Negaunee Foundation Chicago composition commission, and a new musical, *Histoire D'Amour a Paris/A Paris Love Story*. Mr. Felder is on the Board of Directors of the Chicago College of Performing Arts. He has also been a Scholar in Residence at Harvard University's Department of Music. Mr. Felder is married to Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada.

JOEL ZWICK (Director)

Joel Zwick directed *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, the highest-grossing romantic comedy of all time, produced by Tom Hanks, Rita Wilson and Gary Goetzman. Recent films include *Fat Albert* (with Bill Cosby), and *Elvis Has Left the Building*, starring John Corbett and Kim Basinger. Mr. Zwick directed the Broadway production of *George Gershwin Alone* at the Helen Hayes Theatre, as well as all other productions. Mr. Zwick began his theatrical career at La Mama E.T.C., as director of the La Mama Plexus. He has directed on Broadway, Off-Broadway and Broadway touring companies. Currently, Mr. Zwick is recognized as Hollywood's most prolific director of episodic television, having the direction of five hundred and twenty-five episodes to his credit. These include having directed twenty-one pilots, which have gone on to become regular series.

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Television shows include: *Laverne & Shirley*, *Mork & Mindy*, *Bosom Buddies*, *Webster*, *Perfect Strangers*, *Full House*, *Step By Step*, *Family Matters*, *It's a Living*, *Bros. Wayans*, *Joanie Loves Chachi*, *Jamie Fox*, *Kirk*, *Parent' Hood*, *Angie*, *On Our Own*, *Two Of A Kind*, *Love Boat*, *Hangin' With Mr. Cooper*, etc. Previous New York productions have included *Dance With Me* (Tony nomination), *Shenandoah* (Broadway national tour), *Oklahoma* (national tour) and *Cold Storage* (American Place Theater). He acted in the original New York production of *MacBird*. He directed *Esther* (Promenade Theater, NY), *Merry-Go-Round* (Chicago and Las Vegas), *Last Chance Saloon* and *Woycek* (West End, London). Mr. Zwick has taught drama at Yale University, Brooklyn College, Queens College, Wheaton College, and the University of Southern California. He is a graduate (B.A., M.A.) of Brooklyn College.

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 Susan Barton 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**.

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

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