



NEWS RELEASE

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GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE WELCOMES BACK
CELEBRATED ARTIST HERSHEY FELDER IN THE FINAL
MOVEMENT OF HIS THEATRICAL "COMPOSER SONATA":
BEETHOVEN, AS I KNEW HIM

Runs August 19 to October 5
Opening Night Monday, August 25 at 7:30pm

LOS ANGELES, August 2008 — On the heels of the acclaimed productions of Hershey Felder's *George Gershwin Alone* and *Monsieur Chopin*, the Geffen Playhouse presents the highly anticipated culmination of Hershey Felder's musical trilogy "The Composer Sonata," *Beethoven, As I Knew Him*. In this new production, award winning artist Hershey Felder brings the character of Ludwig van Beethoven to life through the eyes of Beethoven's last surviving friend, as well as through the eternal sounds of some the maestro's greatest musical works. Based on a little known true eye-witness account of Beethoven's last years, *Beethoven, As I Knew Him* opens at the Geffen Playhouse on Monday, August 25 at 7:30pm.

Beethoven, As I Knew Him recently had its inaugural presentation in May of 2008 at San Diego's Old Globe Theatre where it was popularly and critically acclaimed. The production is helmed by award winning director Joel Zwick, director of Felder's *George Gershwin Alone* and *Monsieur Chopin* as well.

Felder, world-famous for his lauded portrayals of George Gershwin, Fryderyk Chopin and now Ludwig van Beethoven, returns to the Geffen after his sold-out runs of *George Gershwin Alone* and *Monsieur Chopin* last summer. The productions received twelve LA Ovation Award nominations and won four awards, including *Best Musical* and *Best Lead Actor in a Musical*.

For the holiday season, Felder will reprise his role as George Gershwin at the Geffen Playhouse with a special two week engagement of *George Gershwin Alone*, which will run from December 19 through January 4.

THE EIGHTY-EIGHT ENTERTAINMENT, SAMANTHA F. VOXAKIS, AND LEE KAUFMAN
PRODUCTION OF
HERSHEY FELDER'S BEETHOVEN, AS I KNEW HIM
The Music of Ludwig van Beethoven
Text by Hershey Felder

Directed by Joel Zwick

Scenic Design / Projection Artist	Francois-Pierre Couture
Lighting Design	Richard Norwood
Sound Design	Erik Carstensen
Projection Design	Andrew Wilder, Christopher Ash
Production Management	Matt Marsden
Assistant Lighting Design	Tamora Wilson
Production Stage Management	GiGi Garcia

Previews: Tuesday, August 19 to Sunday, August 24, 2008

Opening Night: Monday, August 25, 2008

Closing Night: Sunday, October 5, 2008

HERSHEY FELDER (Ludwig van Beethoven/Playwright)

Broadway, London's West End: *George Gershwin Alone* (Helen Hayes Theatre, Duchess Theatre). Regional and international appearances include *Monsieur Chopin* at Chicago's Royal George Theatre; American Repertory Theatre, MA; Hartford Stage; Ravinia, Chicago; The Old Globe Theatre, San Diego; the Cleveland Playhouse; Command Performance for the Polish Ambassador to the United States, Polish Embassy, Washington, DC; Uijeongbu Theatre Festival, South Korea. *George Gershwin Alone* Chicago 2004-2005; 1999-2007 at Ford's Theatre, DC; American Repertory Theatre, MA; Hartford Stage; The Old Globe, San Diego; Prince Music Theatre; Philadelphia; The Cleveland Play House; The Gilmore Festival; Ravinia; El Paso; South Korea; and others. Upcoming: the World Premiere of *Beethoven*; *Monsieur Chopin* in Paris and Warsaw. 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*, and *George Gershwin Alone* and *Monsieur Chopin* for the WFMT Radio Network Recordings label. Worldwide live broadcast, *George Gershwin Alone*, July 2005. Current projects include the completion of a Negaunee Foundation Chicago commission to complete *Noah's Ark*, an opera. Mr. Felder is on the Board of Directors of the Chicago College of Performing Arts. He has also been a board member of America's historic Ford's Theatre in Washington DC and a Scholar in Residence at Harvard University's Department of Music.

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. 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.

TICKET INFO

Tickets (\$35 to \$79) are on sale now at the Geffen Playhouse box office, online at GeffenPlayhouse.com, via credit card phone order at 310.208.5454, at all Ticketmaster outlets, or by calling Ticketmaster at 213.365.3500.

Student rush tickets are available one hour prior to curtain for \$15.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Previews: August 19 – August 24, 2008

Run: August 25 – October 5, 2008***

*** *Please note: There are no performances on Wednesday, August 27, Friday, September 26 or Saturday, September 27.*

Opening Night	7:30 p.m.
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.

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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