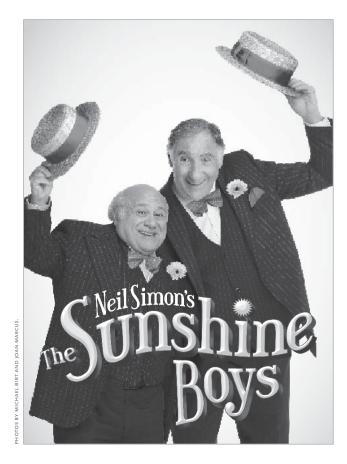
# Ahmanson Theatre 47th 2013/14 Season



FIRST SEASON PRODUCTION

Danny DeVito and Judd Hirsch
in

Neil Simon's

### The Sunshine Boys

Directed by Thea Sharrock September 24 — November 3, 2013

SEASON BONUS OPTION

# Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty

A Gothic Romance Music composed by Tchaikovsky A New Adventures Production November 21 – December 1, 2013

SECOND SEASON PRODUCTION

# Peter and the Starcatcher

by Rick Elice
Based on the novel by Dave Barry
and Ridley Pearson
Directed by Roger Rees and
Alex Timbers
December 3, 2013 – January 12, 2014

SPECIAL EVENT PRESENTATION

### A Word or Two

Written, Arranged and Performed by Christopher Plummer Directed by Des McAnuff January 19 – February 9, 2014

THIRD SEASON PRODUCTION

### Harmony

A New Musical Music by Barry Manilow Book and Lyrics by Bruce Sussman Directed by Tony Speciale Choreographed by JoAnn Hunter March 4 – April 13, 2014 FOURTH SEASON PRODUCTION

# The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess

by George Gershwin,
DuBose and Dorothy Heyward, and
Ira Gershwin
Book Adapted by Suzan-Lori Parks
Musical Score Adapted by
Diedre L. Murray
Directed by Diane Paulus
April 22 – June 1, 2014

SEASON BONUS OPTION

David Suchet and Brian Bedford in

### The Last Confession

by Roger Crane
Directed by Jonathan Church
United States Premiere
June 7 – July 6, 2014

FIFTH SEASON PRODUCTION
Queen and Ben Elton's

### We Will Rock You

Created by Ben Elton Musical Supervisors – Queen's Brian May and Roger Taylor July 15 – August 24, 2014







SEASON SPONSORS

# Inspiring Our Future

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Richard Willis Sonia Friedman Productions

Roger Berlind Tulchin Bartner Productions Rupert Gavin Scott M. Delman Darren Bagert/Martin Massman

Presents

# Danny DeVito and Judd Hirsch

in

## **Neil Simon's**

# The Sunshine Boys

with

Justin Bartha

and

Annie Abrams Matthew Bohrer Gibby Brand Johnnie Fiori

Frank Kopyc

Benjamin Burdick

PaSean Wilson

SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER

**Hildegard Bechtler** 

LIGHTING DESIGNER

MUSIC

**Neil Austin** 

**Adrian Johnston** 

SOUND DESIGNER

Cricket S. Myers

CASTING

Jim Carnahan, CSA

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Barclay Stiff

LOS ANGELES CASTING

Mark B. Simon, CSA

TECHNICAL SUPERVISOR

Matt Towell

CTG ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Neel Keller

DIRECTED BY

Thea Sharrock

September 24 – November 3, 2013 Ahmanson Theatre

### CAST (in order of appearance)

Willie Clark
Ben Silverman Justin Bartha
Al Lewis Judd Hirsch
PatientGibby Brand
V.O. TV Director Frank Kopyc
Eddie Matthew Bohrer
Miss MacKintosh Annie Abrams
Registered Nurse Johnnie Fiori

### **UNDERSTUDIES**

Understudies never substitute for the listed players unless a specific posting or announcement is made at the time of the performance.

For Ben Silverman — Matthew Bohrer

For Willie Clark — Gibby Brand

For Al Lewis and Patient — Frank Kopyc

For V.O. TV Director and Eddie — Benjamin Burdick

For Registered Nurse and Miss MacKintosh — PaSean Wilson

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

STAGE MANAGER

**Barclay Stiff** 

Michelle Blair

### ACT I

Scene 1: An apartment in an old hotel on upper Broadway in New York City.

Early afternoon. Mid-winter, 1972.

Scene 2: The following Monday. A few minutes before eleven.

### ACT II

Scene 1: A televison studio. Scene 2: Willie's apartment two weeks later. Late afternoon.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

### Rehearsal Photos

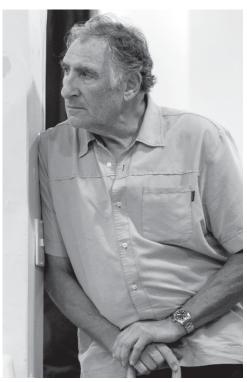


FRONT ROW (L TO R): Judd Hirsch and Danny DeVito.

BACK ROW (L TO R): Matthew Bohrer, Gibby Brand, Justin Bartha, Director Thea Sharrock, Johnnie Fiori, Annie Abrams and Frank Kopyc.







Judd Hirsch.

PERFORMANCES MAGAZINE P5



Justin Bartha in rehearsal for The Sunshine Boys. PHOTO BY CRAIG SCHWARTZ.

"Ithinkthemistakethat somanywritersmakeis tryingtoplease'thosepeople'—thefigurative'them'. Itrytowritewhatmyselfwould laugh at at a theatre."
—NEIL SIMON

# THE SUNSHINE BOY

### WHENTANKRICHFORMERCHIEFTHEATRECRITICOF

The New York Times, described Neil Simon as "Broadway's signature playwright for three decades," he was not exaggerating. Such is Simon's hit rate on the Great White Way that he has been called the most commercially successful playwright in history. From his debut in 1961, Come Blow Your Horn, which Noël Coward called "the funniest play in New York," he has produced long-running shows in astonishing numbers.

As the author of 34 plays and two dozen screenplays, Simon is unusually prolific. For the best part of four decades, a new Neil Simon comedy appeared every year. During the 1966–67 season, he had four plays running on Broadway simultaneously. Time magazine once called him the "patron saint of laughter."

Underscoring his comedy, however, is a serious intent. His is a laughter born of adversity and, although he is dedicated to the art of comedy, he frequently addresses themes that many would consider no laughing matter. His plays have touched on the Jewish immigrant experience, the loss of a loved one to cancer and the pain of divorce.

"I think my attitudes are sort of funny because if you don't laugh at life, life becomes too depressing to even bear," Simon said about the original Broadway recording of *Sweet Charity*, the musical he wrote in 1965 with Cy Coleman and Dorothy Fields.

"In *The Odd Couple*, it's a rather sad situation of these two men being divorced, but I think if you don't treat it humorously, it becomes too depressing. Every very depressing subject, from a bad marriage to war, treated humorously makes the point much stronger."

He knows you can use humor not only to give an audience a good time, but also to make that audience consider some of life's more troubling aspects. This combination of serious intent and comedic form has meant Simon's gifts have sometimes been underestimated. "He is too popular to be considered 'art' and more subtle, especially when writing about comedians and comedy, than the public fondly thinks," suggested the critic John Lahr, highlighting one of the great paradoxes of Simon's career.

What makes him so funny has a lot to do with his love of language, the dry backchat of the New York streets and the purity of a perfectly timed gag. "He does what he does better than anyone else," said the theatre scholar Gerald M. Berkowitz. "His plays are built on verbal and visual gags, artfully constructed with the form, rhythm and frequency that will produce the greatest number of laughs."

Both the content and the style of his plays are the product of his formative years. We learn a lot about his background from his semi-autobiographical 'BB' trilogy — *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (1983), *Biloxi Blues* (1984) and *Broadway Bound* (1986) — as well



(L TO R) Judd Hirsch and Danny DeVito. PHOTO BY CRAIG SCHWARTZ.

as the later *Lost in Yonkers* (1991). He grew up in the Depression years in the Bronx, the son of Mamie, a department store worker, and Irving, a traveling salesman whose inconstant ways led him repeatedly to abandon the family. Big brother Danny, nearly nine years older than Neil, became a substitute father.

It was not an especially happy childhood. In addition to the poverty of the Depression years, the brothers had to adapt to their parents' tempestuous relationship and were sometimes farmed out to relatives. To make ends meet, Mamie would take in lodgers. "The horror of those years was that I didn't come from one broken home but five," recalled Simon. "It got so bad at one point that we took in a couple of butchers who paid their rent in lamb chops."

Laughter was a good defense mechanism, a way of protecting himself from the pain and unhappiness of this disrupted lower-middle-class Jewish upbringing. The young Simon would escape to the movies to seek solace in the comedy of Charlie Chaplin. He said his aim was "to laugh until I was able to forget what was hurting."

His plays bear witness both to this background and to his early career. Like Eugene Jerome, his 15-year-old alter ego at the heart of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, Neil Simon had a passion for jokewriting. He got a taste for it when, at the age of 15, he co-wrote a set of sketches with his brother for a staff party at the department store where Danny was working. The two collaborated for the next 12 years, contributing quick-fire comedy material to many of the most popular radio and television shows of the day.

Neil would eventually eclipse his brother in terms of fame, but Danny, who died in 2005, was a formidable talent in his own right. Woody Allen, a fellow contributor to Sid Caesar's TV shows, would later say: "I've learned a few things on my own and modified a few things he taught me, but everything, unequivocally, that I learned about comedy writing, I learned from Danny Simon."

He loomed large in Neil's life too. Figures that bear more than a passing similarity to Danny would appear in *Come Blow* 

Your Horn (a ladies' man), Plaza Suite (a Hollywood producer) and Brighton Beach Memoirs (a big brother). If you look at the husband-and-wife-style relationship of the disorganized Oscar and the meticulous Felix in The Odd Couple. you can see a reflection of Neil and Danny — indeed, the play was based on an idea by Danny who had divorced and started sharing a flat with a male friend.

By 1960, Neil had worked on hit shows starring Phil Silvers, Tallulah Bankhead and Jerry Lewis, as well as the *Sergeant Bilko* series. This grounding in comedy informed not only his feel for a perfectly crafted joke, but also much of his subject matter. His experience working alongside Mel Brooks and Sid Caesar on *The Show of Shows* in 1956 fed directly into *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (1993), which is about a bunch of joke-writers plying their trade while the McCarthy hearings are in full swing. "Funny is money," says one character, which could be an epitaph for Simon's career.

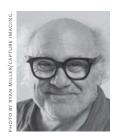
The Sunshine Boys is another instance of Simon drawing on his knowledge of the comedy business and there are many more examples of real life creeping into his plays. Barefoot in the Park, which starred a young Robert Redford in 1963, drew on the early years of his marriage to Joan Baim. The inspiration for Chapter Two came from Joan's death from cancer 20 years after they were married and Simon's subsequent relationship with Marsha Mason. The critic Sheridan Morley called it "a comedy about death and despair and a very funny one."

Further instances abound of Simon drawing on real life, but wherever his source of inspiration, he has been guided through so many decades of success by a principle he set out as early as 1965: "The only thing that I do try to apply to my writing is something that will please me," he said. "I think the mistake that so many writers make is trying to please 'those people'—the figurative 'them'. I try to write what I myself would laugh at at a theatre." And, as a result, he has kept many millions of theatregoers laughing ever since.

### by Mark Fisher

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### Who's Who



DANNY DEVITO (Willie Clark). Theatre credits include The Man with the Flower in His Mouth, Down the Morning Line, The Line of Least Existence, The

Contrast, Shoot Anything with Hair That Moves, Where Do We Go From Here?, Vinyl Visits an FM Station, The Shrinking Bride and One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. Directing credits include Untitled Danny DeVito Project, The Ratings Game, Throw Momma From The Train, War of the Roses, Death to Smoothy and Matilda. Acting film credits include The Lorax, Be Cool, When In Rome, Man on the Moon, Get Shorty, Hoffa, Matilda, Living Out Loud, Junior, Batman Returns, Mars Attacks!, Twins, Romancing the Stone, The Jewel of the Nile, Ruthless People, Tin Men, Other People's Money, Big Fish, Renaissance Man, The Big Kahuna, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Terms of Endearment, Deck the Halls, Solitary Man, Drowning Mona, The Rainmaker and L.A. Confidential. Producing credits include Freedom Writers, Garden State, Reno 911, Reality Bites, Feeling Minnesota, Gattaca, 8 Seconds, Kate Brasher, UC Undercover, How High, Along Came Polly, Pulp Fiction, Out of Sight, The Caveman's Valentine and Erin Brockovich. Television credits include It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia, Taxi, Karen Sisco, Pearl and The Simpsons. You can follow his trollfoot tweets on the social network twitter @dannydevito.



JUDD HIRSCH (Al Lewis). Bronx-born actor Judd Hirsch attended CCNY, where he majored in engineering and physics. A blossoming fascination with

theatre convinced Hirsch that his future lay in acting. He studied at the AADA and at the famed HB Studios in N.Y. before making his 1966 Broadway debut in *Barefoot in the Park*. He spent many years at New York's Circle

Repertory, where he appeared in the first-ever production of Lanford Wilson's The Hot | Baltimore. After an auspicious TV-movie bow in the Emmy-winning TV movie The Law (1974), Hirsch landed his first weekly series, playing the title character in the detective drama Delvecchio (1976-77). From 1978 to 1982, he was Alex Reiger in one of the most celebrated television ensemble comedies Taxi, earning several Golden Globes and two Emmys in the process. While occupied with Taxi, Hirsch continued his stage career with an off-Broadway production of Lanford Wilson's Talley's Folly which earned him an Obie Award. The show subsequently moved to the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles and finally to Broadway where he was nominated for both a Tony and a Drama Desk Award. He won Tony Awards for his starring role in two of Herb Gardner's best plays, I'm Not Rappaport and Conversations with My Father. He played the role of Willy Loman in Arthur Miller's classic play Death of a Salesman in Toronto and was in productions of Yazmina Reza's play Art on Broadway and in Chicago, Toronto and London. He has further expanded his love of theatre by directing productions of Art in Seattle, Miami, New Jersey and Ogunquit, Maine. Judd's most recent theatre credits include the world premiere of The Whore and Mr. Moore by Michael Christopher at the Dorset Theatre in Vermont and the role of Sigmund Freud in the Broad Theatre Company's production of Freud's Last Session which he did in Los Angeles in January of 2013. Judd's post *Taxi* TV career continued with a Golden Globewinning turn as John Lacey in Dear John (1988–92), Grocer and Leo (with Bob Newhart), and five seasons of the CBS hit series, Numbars. He played Glenn Close's former law mentor who has, subsequently, fallen on hard times in the 4th and 5th seasons of the critically acclaimed series Damages. Last year he starred in the TNT movie Silent Witness, and this year he has played Marc Maron's father in several episodes of the cable comedy hit series Maron and can next be seen in a guest starring role on

TNT's new series *Perception*. On the feature front Judd was nominated for an Oscar for his iconic performance as Tim Hutton's psychiatrist in the Academy Award-nominated feature Ordinary People. He played Russell Crowe's mathematics mentor in another Oscar winning film A Beautiful Mind, and was seen as Jeff Goldblum's father in the movie blockbuster Independence Day. Recently he starred with Sean Penn in This Must Be the Place, the first English language film by famed director Paulo Sorrentino which was well noticed at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival. His other films include King of the Gypsies, Without a Trace, Teachers, The Goodbye People, Running on Empty and, recently the comedy/ action film Tower Heist.



JUSTIN BARTHA
(Ben Silverman). In
2010, Justin Bartha
made his Broadway
debut in Ken
Ludwig's Lend Me A
Tenor alongside
Tony Shalhoub and
Anthony LaPaglia

(directed by Stanley Tucci). Since then, he has also starred in the off-Broadway plays All New People by Zach Braff, and Asuncion alongside the writer Jesse Eisenberg. Bartha was most recently seen in the third installment of the Warner Bros. franchise, The Hangover III, reprising the role he played in the last two films. He also starred in NBC's The New Normal created by Ryan Murphy and Ali Adler and will next be seen in CBGB, a biopic about the iconic New York punk club during its heyday in the mid 70s. He last starred in the Todd Solondz feature Dark Horse with Selma Blair. Mia Farrow and Christopher Walken. Prior to that, he starred in the gritty indie drama Holy Rollers with Jesse Eisenberg. Other films include New York, I Love You, the American version of Paris, Je T'aime, and Failure to Launch with Matthew McConaughey, National Treasure and National Treasure: Book of Secrets as Riley Poole alongside Nicholas Cage's Ben Gates. Bartha studied acting at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts,

then graduated from their film school. He currently resides in Los Angeles.



ANNIE ABRAMS (Miss MacKintosh). Los Angeles/West Coast: Brooke in Noises Off (La Mirada), Philia in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

(Reprise), Ursula Duran in Tickled Pink (Laguna Playhouse), Clea in The Scene (Ensemble Theatre Company), Sybil in Private Lives (GTC Burbank), Luciana in The Comedy of Errors (A Noise Within), Sybil Vane in The Picture of Dorian Gray (Boston Court), Cécile in Les Liaisons Dangereuses (The Blank), Myrrhine in the premiere of Amy Freed's Lysistrata (Stanford Summer Theater). TV: Without a Trace, Veronica Mars, Joan of Arcadia, King of Queens, Cold Case, How I Met Your Mother and True Blood, B.A. in Drama from Stanford University. Love to my family and Adam. Much gratitude to Nick Campbell and Jodie Bowman. www. annieabrams.com.



MATTHEW
BOHRER (Eddie/
Understudy Ben
Silverman). CTG
debut! A 2010
Harvard College
grad, Matthew
studied at the
A.R.T., acted with

the Hasty Pudding, and sang with the Kroks at Carnegie Hall and on a world tour. Regional/International: The oneman show Step into the Night and Jason and Claire (Playwrights Project with Old Globe), The Magic City and Shafted (Edinburgh Fringe), Falsettos (Diversionary). L.A.: Romeo in Romeo and Juliet and Feste in Twelfth Night (La Cañada Shakespeare Fest), Doomsday Cabaret (The Blank), Santa Chata (Casa 0101). Film: Offline, Elie in the award-winning Elie's Overcoat, currently at festivals. Thanks to my family, Mark, Steven, and the entire creative team. For my grandpa, who kind of looked like Neil Simon. matthewbohrer.net.



GIBBY BRAND
(Patient/Understudy
Willie Clark).
Broadway: Beauty
and the Beast
(Cogsworth), Neil
Simon's Rumors,
Passion, Little Me,
Peter Pan. Regional:

South Coast Rep, Seattle Rep, Goodspeed Opera House, Cincinnati Playhouse, St. Louis Rep. Moscow tour of William Gibson's Rag Dolly in the first international exchange with the former Soviet Union. CTG: Big River, The Dinner Party. L.A.: Doc Baugh, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (Geffen Playhouse), The Abbess, The Comedy of Errors (A Noise Within), Music Man (Hollywood Bowl), Titanic (South Bay CLO), 1776, Flora, the Red Menace (Reprise). Films: Raise Your Voice, Auto Focus, Father of the Bride, F/X. TV: Recurring on Ally McBeal, The Practice, Numbars, Parks and Recreation, Curb Your Enthusiasm, Desperate Housewives, Boston Legal, The West Wing, Law & Order. Gibby is married to writer Lucy Chase Williams.



JOHNNIE FIORI (Registered Nurse). U.K. theatre credits include Shakespeare Sonnet Walks (The Globe Theatre, director, Mark Rylance), The Sunshine Boys

(Savoy Theatre, director, Thea Sharrock), Vernon God Little (Young Vic, director, Rufus Norris), Hairspray (Shaftesbury Theatre, director, Jack O'Brien), Ma Rainey's Black Bottom (Royal Exchange Theatre, director, Jacob Murray), The Exonerated (Riverside Studios, director, Bob Balaban), 1984 (Royal Opera House, directors, Loren Maazel and Robert Lepage), Thoroughly Modern Millie (Shaftesbury Theatre, director, Michael Mayer), 125th Street (Shaftesbury Theatre, director, Rob Bettison) and The Wiz (Hackney Empire, director, Jamie Hind). Film: Powder Room directed by MJ Delaney. Johnnie is an American recently living in London and is both pleased and honored to be making her L.A. theatre debut for her friends and family. www.johnniefiori. com.



FRANK KOPYC
(V.O. TV Director/
Understudy Al
Lewis/Patient).
Broadway: Sweeney
Todd, Sunday in The
Park With George,
Follies in Concert,
Happy End.

Regional: Twelfth Night (Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival), The Sum of Us (Alliance Theatre), Hot Mikado (Ford's Theatre, Washington, D.C., Helen Hayes Award). Noises Off (Cleveland Playhouse). Film: Total Recall, Father of The Bride, The Last Boy Scout, Dunston Checks In. TV: Parks and Recreation, Grey's Anatomy, The Closer, The West Wing, Star Trek DS9, 3rd Rock From The Sun, Murphy Brown and The Last Newhart.



BENJAMIN BURDICK (Understudy V.O. TV Director/Eddie). Benjamin is a native of Idaho, and a graduate of Yale University. He is thrilled for his first

opportunity to work with CTG. Regional: Blood and Gifts (La Jolla Playhouse), God of Carnage (The Hippodrome, Gainesville), The Real Thing (ETC, Santa Barbara). Other L.A.: Arcadia (Sierra Madre), Rock-n-Roll (Los Angeles premiere), Light Up The Sky (L.A. Weekly nomination, Best Actor in a Comedy), Travesties (L.A. Weekly winner, Best Actor in a Comedy), Neil LaBute's Autobahn (West Coast premiere). Film: The Stranger, Tattoo: A Love Story (Grand Jury Prize, Florida Film Fest), The Board Room (HBO and Montreal Comedy Festivals). Television: Arrested Development, Enlightened, CSI, Awake (recurring), The Glades, The Mentalist, Entourage, Monk, Conspiracy (series regular), 24, Las Vegas, Born Free (series regular).



PASEAN WILSON (Understudy Miss MacKintosh/ Registered Nurse). Broadway: Once On this Island (Booth Theatre). Los Angeles: How We Got On (B Street Theatre), Cassiopeia (Theatre @ Boston Court), GLWITWCT (Nate Holden Theatre). Regional: Dreamgirls. Off-Broadway: Song of Sheba, Miss Morning (National Black Theatre), Body Shop (Westbeth Theatre), Love Scrawls (La Mama, Etc), We Shall (Guinivere Theatre), Mama I Want to Sing (Heckscher Theatre). Film: Scary or Die, If You Could Say it In Words, Tapped Out, Surviving Eden, Carman: The Champion, Striptease, Love Cycle, Same Difference. TV: Greek, Beverly Hills, 90210, America's Most Wanted. One on One. Another World. PaSean is thrilled to be making her Ahmanson Theatre debut. In addition to acting, PaSean is currently producing the documentary The Stranger Within: Fibroid Stories.



(Playwright). The world's most

**NEIL SIMON** 

beloved playwright, his works include Come Blow Your Horn, Little Me, Barefoot in the Park, The Odd Couple,

Sweet Charity, The Star-Spangled Girl, Plaza Suite, Promises, Promises, Last of the Red Hot Lovers, The Gingerbread Lady, The Prisoner of Second Avenue, The Sunshine Boys, The Good Doctor, God's Favorite, California Suite, Chapter Two, They're Playing Our Song, I Ought to Be in Pictures, Fools, Brighton Beach Memoirs, Biloxi Blues, The Odd Couple (female version), Broadway Bound, Rumors, Lost in Yonkers, Jake's Women, The Goodbye Girl, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, London Suite, Proposals, Hotel Suite, The Dinner Party, 45 Seconds From Broadway, Oscar and Felix and Rose's Dilemma as well as the motion pictures After the Fox, The Out-of-Towners, The Heartbreak Kid, Murder by Death, The Cheap Detective, Seems Like Old Times, Only When I Laugh, Max Dugan Returns, The Slugger's Wife and The Marrying Man, and the books Rewrites and The Play Goes On. His plays won numerous Tony Awards and he received the Pulitzer Prize for Lost in Yonkers, as well as the Sam S. Shubert Foundation Award, Kennedy Center Honors, a UCLA Medal, the Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award, the William Inge

Theater Festival Award for Distinguished Achievement in the American Theater, the Writers Guild Laurel Award and an American Comedy Award for Lifetime Achievement.



THEA SHARROCK

(Director). Recent credits include The Bodyguard A New Musical, 13, After the Dance, Happy Now?, The Emperor Iones and Free for the National

Theatre. As artistic director of The Gate, she directed The Chairs, The Emperor Jones and Tejas Verdes. As artistic director at Southwark Playhouse, her productions included A Doll's House, Mongoose, Trip's Cinch and The Sleeper's Den. She is an associate of The Old Vic. where she directed Cause Célèbre. Other theatre work includes Plenty at Sheffield Crucible: Mrs. Klein and Cloud Nine at the Almeida: As You Like It at Shakespeare's Globe; Private Lives, Don Juan, The Fight for Barbara and The Deep Blue Sea at Theatre Royal, Bath for Peter Hall. As winner of the James Menzies-Kitchin Memorial Trust's Young Director of the Year Award 2000, she directed her first production, *Top Girls*, at the Battersea Arts Centre, which then went on tour before transferring to the West End. Other West End credits include The Misanthrope, Equus (also Broadway), A Voyage Round My Father (also Donmar) and Heroes. TV: She has just finished filming the Christmas special of Call the Midwife, last year she filmed Henry V, starring Tom Hiddleston, for Sam Mendes and the BBC.



HILDEGARD BECHTLER

(Set and Costume Designer). Broadway/Off-Broadway: Arcadia by Tom Stoppard, The Seagull with Kristin Scott

Thomas, Hedda Gabler with Mary-Louise Parker, Primo with Anthony Sher, My Name is Rachel Corrie. Recent West End shows include Top Hat

(2012 Olivier Award nomination), Passion Play, Old Times, Blithe Spirit, The Misanthrope, After The Dance winner of 2011 Olivier Award for Best Costume Design and Iphigenia at Aulis - Evening Standard Best Designer nomination (National Theatre). Opera: The Damnation of Faust directed by Terry Gilliam (English National Opera) and The Letter at Santa Fe Opera plus other productions at Royal Opera House, La Scala Milan, Paris Opera, Opera Australia and Canadian Opera Company. Future work includes La Traviata (Glyndebourne Festival Opera). Film design: Primo (HBO/ BBC) and Krapp's Last Tape starring Harold Pinter.



**NEIL AUSTIN** 

(Lighting Designer). Recipent of the 2010 Tony Award and Drama Desk Award for Red at the Golden Theatre. New York and the 2011 Laurence

Olivier Award for The White Guard at the National Theatre, London. Previously for CTG: Parade, Red. Broadway: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Evita (Drama Desk nomination), Red, Hamlet (Tony and Drama Desk nominations), The Seafarer, Frost/ Nixon. National Tours: Evita, Frost/ Nixon, King Lear and The Seagull starring Ian McKellen. Other New York: King Lear at BAM starring Derek Jacobi, all-female Julius Caesar at St. Ann's Warehouse. Extensive shows in the U.K. for the National Theatre. Donmar Warehouse, Royal Opera House, Royal Shakespeare Company and in the West End.

ADRIAN JOHNSTON (Music). British Theatre includes The Sunshine Boys (Savoy Theatre, London), After The Dance (National Theatre), Cause Célèbre (Old Vic), Plenty (Sheffield Crucible), Coriolanus (RSC).Film includes Becoming Jane, Kinky Boots, Red Riding 1974, Brideshead Revisited, Jude, Welcome To Sarajevo, The Lawless Heart, Lassie. Television includes Dancing On The Edge, Henry V, The Lost Prince, Gideon's Daughter, Capturing Mary, Shooting The Past, Perfect Strangers, Shackleton

(Emmy Award - Outstanding Music Composition for a Miniseries), The Mayor of Casterbridge, Tipping The Velvet, Broken Glass, Our Mutual Friend, Touching Evil.



CRICKET S. MYERS (Sound Designer). Broadway: Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo (Drama Desk Award, Tony nomination). Off-Broadway:

Marvelous Wonderettes. Mark Taper Forum: Joe Turner, Vigil, Burn This, The Lieutenant of Inishmore (Ovation nomination), Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo, The Subject Was Roses, The School of Night, Nightingale. Kirk Douglas Theatre: The Wake, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo (Ovation nomination), The Little Dog Laughed (Ovation nomination), Two Unrelated Plays by David Mamet, Come Back, Little Sheba. Regional: Sideways, The Nightingale (La Jolla Playhouse), Book Club Play (Arena Stage), In the Wake (Berkeley Rep), Wrecks, Some Girl(s), Emergency (Ovation, NAACP nomination; Geffen), The Fantasticks, Elemeno Pea, Three Days of Rain, Trip to Bountiful (South Coast Rep), Crowns, Orson's Shadow (Pasadena Playhouse), Marvelous Wonderettes (Laguna Playhouse). Cricket has earned 13 Ovation nominations, as well as winning an LADCC and a Garland Award. www.cricketmyers.

JIM CARNAHAN, CSA (Casting) also serves as Roundabout's director of artistic development. Roundabout: Big Knife, Talley's Folly, Drood, If There Is..., Harvey, Anything Goes, Sondheim on Sondheim, Hedda Gabler, Liaisons Dangereuses, Sunday in the Park..., The Ritz, 110 in the Shade, Pajama Game, 12 Angry Men, After the Fall, Assassins, Twentieth Century, Big River, Nine, Joe Egg, Cabaret, Follies, Major Barbara, Man Who Came To Dinner, Betrayal, Side Man, 1776. Other Broadway: Matilda, Once, Peter and the Starcatcher, Clear Day, The Scottsboro Boys, American Idiot, Mountaintop, Jerusalem, Arcadia, Boeing-Boeing, Spring Awakening, Curtains, Faith Healer, Festen, Woman in White,

Pillowman, Chitty, Democracy, La Cage, Millie, Noises Off, Into The Woods, True West, Copenhagen. Film: Home At The End Of The World, Flicka. Television: Glee (Emmy nomination).

MARK B. SIMON, CSA (Los Angeles Casting). CTG: The Royale (Artios nomination), Neva (Kirk Douglas Theatre); The Scottsboro Boys, End of the Rainbow, Backbeat (Ahmanson Theatre); A Parallelogram, Los Otros (Mark Taper Forum). Prior to joining the CTG casting department, Mark worked as a New York-based independent casting director for clients including Hal Prince, Jason Robert Brown, Graciela Daniele, Susan Stroman, Patricia Birch, Stephen Sondheim, Marvin Hamlisch, Nick Hytner, Alfred Uhry, Carol Burnett, Jeremy Sams, New York City Opera and the Radio City Christmas Spectacular on projects including 13, Parade, The Last Five Years, Show Boat, Candide, 3hree, Hollywood Arms, Bounce, LoveMusik, Paradise Found, Sweeney Todd, Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life, Sweet Smell of Success and Ragtime. Treasurer of the Board, Casting Society of America.

BARCLAY STIFF (Production Stage Manager). Broadway: The Assembled Parties, The Other Place, Don't Dress For Dinner, Wit, The House of Blue Leaves, Elling, Enron, Brighton Beach Memoirs, Mary Stuart, The Country Girl, The Seafarer, Inherit the Wind, Losing Louie, Shining City, Whoopi, Hedda Gabler, The Price. Off-Broadway: Gruesome Playground Injuries, Farragut North, Beauty of the Father, A Picasso, House/Garden, From Door to Door, Juvenilia, Frank's Home, Debbie Does Dallas, Fully Committed. Williamstown: eight seasons.

MICHELLE BLAIR (Stage Manager). For CTG: A Parallelogram, Joe Turner's Come and Gone, Backbeat, Krapp's Last Tape, Red, Los Otros, Clybourne Park, Vigil, Poor Behavior, Burn This, Leap of Faith, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, Parade, Lydia, The School of Night, Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, Distracted, Nightingale, Without Walls, Lewis and Clark Reach the Euphrates, all wear bowlers (also at the Barbican Theatre, Berkeley Rep., La Jolla Playhouse and Studio Theatre), Flight,

Nothing But The Truth, Stones in His Pockets, Topdog/Underdog and "QED" at Lincoln Center Theater. Other favorites include The Pee-wee Herman Show at Club Nokia, A Long Bridge Over Deep Waters with Cornerstone Theater Company and Amnesia Curiosa with the gentlemen of Rainpan 43. Graduate of the University of Southern California and the University of Amsterdam. Mom to five-year-old Liam and one-year-old Imogen.

**MATT TOWELL** (Technical Supervisor). West End: The Book of Mormon (Prince of Wales), Quartermaine's Terms, The Bodyguard, A Chorus of Disapproval, The Sunshine Boys (Savoy), Master Class (Vaudeville), Much Ado About Nothing (Wyndham's), The Wizard of Oz (Palladium), Private Lives (Vaudeville), Legally Blonde (Savoy), La Bête (Comedy), Priscilla Queen of the Desert (Palace), The Sound Of Music, Kiss Me, Kate, Bombay Dreams, Acorn Antiques, Smaller, Tonight's the Night, Movin' Out. U.K. National: Ghost, The Sound of Music, Grease, Cats, Saturday Night Fever, The King and I, Starlight Express, Fosse, Chicago, The Sound of Music. International: Batman Live (world arena tour), Priscilla Queen of the Desert (Sao Paulo), Saturday Night Fever (Johannesburg), Mamma Mia! (South Africa and world tour), Starlight Express (New Zealand), Cats (Sao Paulo, Germany and Italy).

**RICHARD WILLIS** (Co-Producer). Mr. Willis is a producer, theatre operator and owner of Richmark Entertainment and Seven Arts Productions with offices in New York and Los Angeles. He has operated The Wadsworth and Brentwood Theatres in Los Angeles for the past 15 years. A few producing credits include Neil Simon's The Sunshine Boys (West End), Noel Coward's Hay Fever (West End), One Man, Two Guvnors (Broadway), War Horse (North America), Priscilla Queen of the Desert (Broadway), Jerusalem (Broadway), Next Fall, 33 Variations, Souvenir, Jay Johnson: The Two and Only, Eve Ensler's The Good Body, Golda's Balcony, Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam, Steve Tyrell in Concert, Adam Pascal Live, Ennio and more.

### **SONIA FRIEDMAN PRODUCTIONS**

(Co-Producer). Sonia Friedman Productions is a West End and Broadway theatre production company responsible for some of the most successful theatre productions in London and on Broadway over the past few years. Since 1990, Sonia has developed, initiated and produced over 130 new productions and won numerous Olivier and Tony Awards. Recent and upcoming productions include: the U.K. premiere of *The Book* of Mormon, Mojo, Chimerica, Twelfth Night and Richard III, Merrily We Roll Along, Old Times, The Sunshine Boys, Jerusalem, Betrayal, Much Ado About Nothing, The Mountaintop, Legally Blonde The Musical, The Children's Hour, La Bête, Nice Work If you Can Get It, A Chorus of Disapproval, Hay Fever, Absent Friends, Master Class, Top Girls, Arcadia, Clybourne Park, All My Sons, Private Lives, A Flea in Her Ear, A View From the Bridge, La Cage aux Folles, The Norman Conquests, A Little Night Music, Othello, Dancing at Lughnasa, Boeing-Boeing, No Man's Land, The Seagull, Maria Friedman: Re-arranged, Under the Blue Sky, That Face, Dealer's Choice, Hergé's Adventures of Tintin, Rock 'n' Roll, In Celebration, The Dumb Waiter, Donkey's Years, Love Song, Faith Healer, The Woman in White, Celebration, Shoot the Crow, Otherwise Engaged, As You Like It, The Home Place, Whose Life is it Anyway?, By the Bog of Cats, Guantanamo: 'Honor Bound to Defend Freedom', Endgame, Jumpers, See You Next Tuesday, Hitchcock Blonde, Absolutely! {perhaps}, Sexual Perversity in Chicago, Ragtime, Macbeth, A Day In the Death of Joe Egg, Afterplay, Up for Grabs, On an Average Day, Noises Off, A Servant of Two Masters, Port Authority, Spoonface Steinberg, Speedthe-Plow. Prior to forming Sonia Friedman Productions, Sonia spent three years as the producer for the Ambassador Theatre Group. Before joining ATG she was the producer and co-founder of Out of Joint, now one of Britain's leading theatre companies. From 1989 to 1993 Sonia was a producer at the National Theatre, specializing in touring productions and theatre for young people. Sonia Friedman Productions is a subsidiary of the Ambassador Theatre Group.

For a full list of SFP's theatre credits please visit www.soniafriedman.com.

ROGER BERLIND (Co-Producer).
Recent productions include Kiss Me, Kate, Copenhagen, Proof, Medea, Doubt, The History Boys, Faith Healer, The Vertical Hour, The Year of Magical Thinking, Curtains, Gypsy, Equus, 13, A Little Night Music, La Bête, Arcadia, Jerusalem, Death of a Salesman, Nice Work If You Can Get It, One Man Two Guvnors, Clybourne Park, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Lucky Guy. Current productions are The Book of Mormon and the revival of Annie.

ROBERT G. BARTNER and NORMAN TULCHIN (Co-

Producers). Bob Bartner and Norman Tulchin produce frequently on Broadway and in the West End and together have garnered seven Olivier Awards and seven Tony Awards. Broadway: Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, The Gershwin's Porgy and Bess (Tony Award), The Book of Mormon (Tony Award), Jerusalem, La Cage Aux Folles (Tony Award), The Motherf\*\*ker With The Hat, La Cage Aux Folles (Tony Award), A View From the Bridge, The Norman Conquests (Tony Award), Boeing-Boeing (Tony Award), Rock 'n' Roll, Company (Tony Award) and Sweeney Todd. Upcoming: Betrayal, Twelfth Night – Richard III. U.S. Tour: Book of Mormon. In the West End: Trafalgar Transformed with Jamie Lloyd (Macbeth, The Hothouse, The Pride), The Audience, A Chorus Line, Book of Mormon, The Bodyguard, Richard III/ Twelfth Night, A Chorus of Disapproval, Top Hat (Olivier Award), Posh, Long Day's Journey Into Night (Olivier Award), South Downs/ The Browning Version, Sweeney Todd, Absent Friends, Hay Fever, Top Girls, Ghost, Betrayal, Flare Path, Clybourne Park (Olivier Award), La Bête, Jerusalem, Legally Blonde (Olivier Award), The Misanthrope, No Man's Land, The Mountaintop (Olivier Award), Dancing at Lughnasa, Carousel, Sunset Boulevard, La Cage Aux Folles (Olivier Award), That Face, A View From the Bridge, Elling, The Dumb Waiter, Company, Rock 'n' Roll, Guys and Dolls (Olivier), Eh Joe, Porgy & Bess, Donkeys' Years, Hitchcock Blonde. Upcoming: Chimerica, Perfect Nonsense! U.K. tour:

Cats, Priscilla Queen of the Desert, West Side Story, Flashdance.

**RUPERT GAVIN for Incidental Colman** 

(Co-Producer). Incidental Colman is the producing partnership between Rupert Gavin and Dan Colman, who between them have been responsible over the last 35 years for producing and co-producing an extraordinary range of theatre productions from West End to regional, from Broadway to the back of beyond, from drama to comedy, from visual spectacular to children's entertainment, from mime to musical. At all times, their aim is to be innovative and, when faced with a boundary, they refuse to be defeated by it. To date, this path has delivered an exceptional range of dramatic successes, six Olivier Awards and only one show raided by the police, which led to arrests. Recent co-productions have included West Side Story (Sadler's Wells, U.K. and Australian tour); A View From the Bridge (West End); *Jerusalem* (West End and Broadway); All My Sons (West End), Betrayal (West End); The Children's Hour (West End); Legally Blonde (West End, U.K. tour and Australian tour); South Pacific (Barbican and U.K. tour); Absent Friends (West End); Long Day's Journey Into Night (U.K. tour and West End); The Sunshine Boys (West End and Los Angeles); Twelfth Night and Richard III (Shakespeare's Globe, West End and Broadway), Jumpy (West End) and Brainiac (West End).

SCOTT M. DELMAN (Co-Producer). Scott M. Delman is the Managing Partner at DGZ Capital, a private equity firm, where he spends his days singing show tunes and contemplating new theatrical ventures. Mr. Delman has co-produced over 30 Broadway and West End plays and musicals, winning Tony Awards for The Book of Mormon and Death of a Salesman. Nevertheless, his son Edward and daughter Rebecca remain his favorite mainstage productions.

DARREN BAGERT/MARTIN

MASSMAN (Co-Producers). Darren Bagert is currently producing the comedy Buyer & Cellar and the awardwinning play My Name Is Asher Lev. Broadway Shows: The Glass Menagerie (currently), The Best Man (Tony

nominee), Company (Tony winner), Sweeney Todd (Tony nominee), Long Day's Journey (Tony winner) and others. Martin Massman is glad to have Neil Simon back to CTG, "We missed you."



MICHAEL RITCHIE (Artistic Director) is in his eighth season as Center Theatre Group's Artistic Director, and has led over 130 productions to the Ahmanson, Taper

and Douglas stages since his arrival in 2005. From 1996 to 2004 Michael was the Producer of the Williamstown Theatre Festival and prior to that he was a Production Stage Manager in NYC. At CTG, he premiered six musicals that moved to Broadway — The Drowsy Chaperone (which won 13 Tony Award® nominations), Curtains (eight Tony nominations) 13, 9 to 5: The Musical, Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson and Leap of Faith. He has produced 33 world premieres including the musicals Minsky's, Venice and Sleeping Beauty Wakes, and the plays Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo (a Pulitzer Prize finalist that also moved to Broadway), Water & Power and Yellow Face, and he presented a broad range of plays and musicals ranging from Dead End to The Black Rider to Edward Scissorhands to blockbusters such as God of Carnage, Mary Poppins, Jersey Boys and August: Osage County. In addition, Michael inaugurated CTG's New Play Production Program, designed to foster the development and production of new work.



EDWARD L. RADA (Managing Director) returned to Center Theatre Group in 2011 after previously serving as CTG's Chief Financial Officer for 12 years (1996–2008). Rada

spent three years (2008–2011) as President of the Music Center Foundation, a non-profit corporation that holds and invests the endowment and reserve funds for the Music Center and its resident companies (including CTG). Prior to his years at CTG, he was the Director of Finance at The Old Globe in San Diego and principal of

Rada & Associates, an accounting firm that specialized in entertainmentrelated non-profit organizations and theatrical productions. He is a graduate of Occidental College in Los Angeles with numerous post-graduate coursework and credentials. He currently serves on the board of directors for Entertainment Industry Foundation, Theatre @ Boston Court, and United Support of Artists for Africa/USA for Africa, among other affiliations. He also serves on the board of trustees for the pension, health and welfare and 401(k) plans of I.A.T.S.E. Local 33 Stagehands Union.



DOUGLAS C.
BAKER (Producing Director) is now in his 23rd season at CTG. Previously, he managed Broadway and touring productions including Tru, Born

Yesterday, The Gospel at Colonus, Annie, A Chorus Line, Working, The Wiz, and Legends!, which premiered at the Ahmanson Theatre in 1986 and starred Mary Martin and Carol Channing. Doug is a member of the Achievement Hall of Fame of Chagrin Falls Schools in Ohio and a graduate of Albion College. He is an active member of the Broadway League, the Independent Presenters Network and is a proud member of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers. In May 2013 Doug received The Broadway League's prestigious Outstanding Achievement in Presenter Management Award. Doug fondly recalls working as a college intern on the original Broadway production of The Sunshine Boys with Jack Albertson and Sam Levene.



### **NEEL KELLER**

(Associate Artistic Director). For CTG Neel has directed the world premieres of Jennifer Haley's The Nether and Jessica Goldberg's Good Thing, the

American premiere of David Greig's Pyrenees, the decidedly silly Stones in His Pockets, and many readings and workshops for CTG's varied new play development initiatives. As a senior

artistic staff member Neel has helped produce a wide range of plays and musicals at CTG, including the world premieres of The Second City's A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens!, Leap of Faith, Randy Newman's Harps and Angels, 13, Yellow Face, Poor Behavior, Bones, Of Equal Measure, Minsky's and Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo. Before joining CTG, Neel served as Artistic Director of Chicago's Remains Theatre, Associate Artistic Director at La Jolla Playhouse and was on the staffs of Williamstown Theatre Festival, Lincoln Center Theater, the American National Theatre, and Jerome Robbins' Broadway.



### GORDON DAVIDSON

(Founding Artistic Director) led the Taper throughout its first 38 seasons, guiding over 300 productions to its stage and winning

countless awards for himself and the theatre — including the Tony Award® for theatrical excellence, Margo Jones Award, The Governor's Award for the Arts and a Guggenheim fellowship. The Kentucky Cycle and Angels in America (Part One) won the Pulitzer in consecutive years and, in 1994, three of the four plays nominated for the Tony Award® for Best Play were from the Taper (Angels in America won). In 1989 Gordon took over the Ahmanson and, in 2004, he produced the inaugural season in the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

### For the London Production

For Sonia Friedman Productions

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Associate Producer Lucie Lovatt
Associate Producer Fiona Stewart
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Accounting Department Jean Garv	еу
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Original U.K. Sound Designer Ian Dickinson for Autograph

Original U.K. Sketch Consultant Jos Houben



### For the Ahmanson Theatre Production

### Credits

Consultants/David King, Lisa Carr

Lighting equipment from Hollywood Rentals.
Sound equipment from Jabworks. Scenery for
London and U.S. by Souvenir Scenic Studios.
International cargo by Rock-It Cargo. London
costume rentals from Angels. Costumes
also provided by the Center Theatre Group
Costume Shop and additional staff: Tailor
- Swantje Tuohino; Tailor's Assistant - Iris
Marshall; Stitcher - Leonardo Lopez, Agnes
Ingram. Original artwork design by aka.
Artwork photography by Michael Birt and Joan
Marcus. Los Angeles production and rehearsal
photography by Craig Schwartz.

### Special Thanks

Maggie Lunn (U.K. Casting); Scott Lazarus, Robert Harris; Carol Bressi-Cilona; 101 Productions, Ltd: Wendy Orshan, Jeffrey M. Wilson, Elie Landau, Ron Gubin, Chris Morey.

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The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of

Professional Actors and Stage Managers of the United States. This Theatre operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



The following employees are represented by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Machine

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The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.



United Scenic Artists represents the designers and scenic painters for the American theatre.

### ATPAM

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Center Theatre Group is a member of the American Arts Alliance, the Broadway

League, Independent Producers' Network (IPN), LA Stage Alliance, League of Resident Theatres (LORT), National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT) and the Theatre Communications Group (TCG).



# A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD GRIFFITHS

### THIS PRODUCTION OF THIS UNSHINED OF SORGINATED

in London in the spring of last year with Danny DeVito playing Willie Clark and Richard Griffiths playing Al Lewis. It was to be Richard's last performance on stage.

Richard was the most original actor of his generation. He had a sensitivity that others could only wish for. As Willie says of Al, "There'll never be another one like him." He was a wonderful man, an incredible story teller, and the warmest, most gentle friend you could ever ask for. I was lucky enough to work with him seven times over twelve years.

Every show has a journey, this one is unique. Richard and I worked together for the first time in 2001 with George Segal and Paul Freeman in a production of *Art* in London. We all became great friends. Years later, I worked again with George and Richard Benjamin at the Geffen Playhouse. It was through Richard Benjamin and George that Richard (Griffiths) and I first learned of *The Sunshine Boys*. And in turn it was Richard's suggestion that we approach Danny DeVito to make his London debut to play alongside him. And now, Judd Hirsch joins DeVito for the first time since *Taxi*, 30 years ago. With this parallel of the play itself, the circle is complete as this new production begins at the Ahmanson, the original home of so many of Neil Simon's plays.

Thea Sharrock

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