

# upstage SPOTLIGHT

## BIRTHDAY CANDLES

### CREATIVE TEAM

|                 |                        |                     |                          |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Playwright      | <b>Noah Haidle</b>     | Director            | <b>Vivienne Benesch</b>  |
| Set Design      | <b>Christine Jones</b> | Costume Design      | <b>Toni-Leslie James</b> |
| Lighting Design | <b>Jen Schriever</b>   | Sound Design        | <b>John Gromada</b>      |
|                 | Original Music         | <b>Kate Hopgood</b> |                          |

### WHAT IS THE SHOW ABOUT?

Debra Messing (*Will & Grace*) returns to the stage as Ernestine Ashworth, who spends her 17th birthday agonizing over her insignificance in the universe. Soon enough, it's her 18th birthday. Even sooner, her 41st. Her 70th. Her 101st. Five generations, dozens of goldfish, an infinity of dreams, one cake baked over a century. What makes a lifetime...into a life?

A writer of "freewheeling ambition" (Charles Isherwood, *The New York Times*), Noah Haidle makes his Broadway debut with a poignant new play as fearless in scope as it is tremendous in heart.

**WHERE: A KITCHEN IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

**WHEN: 90 YEARS AND 90 MINUTES CONCURRENTLY**



## Happy Birthday, Ernestine Ashworth!

### MEET THE CHARACTERS

#### ERNESTINE ASHWORTH

Travels from age 17 to 107. In that time she will be a daughter, a girlfriend, a wife, a mother, a friend, an aunt, a mother-in-law, a widow, a second wife, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, and a great-great-grandmother.

**ALICE** Ernestine's mother.

**KENNETH** Ernestine's next door neighbor.

**MATT** Ernestine's boyfriend then husband.

**BILLY** Ernestine and Matt's son.

**MADELINE** Ernestine and Matt's daughter.

**JOAN** Billy's wife.

**ALEX** Billy and Joan's daughter.

**ERNIE** Alex's daughter.

**WILLIAM** Alex's son.

**JOHN** A man who is woken up in the middle of the night.

**BETH** John's domestic partner.

