

## WEST COAST PREMIERE OF BEAU WILLIMON'S NEW PLAY *FARRAGUT NORTH* OPENS AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

*Tony Award Winner Doug Hughes Helms Cast Including Mia Barron, Dan Bittner, Justine Huen, Chris Noth, Chris Pine, Olivia Thirlby and Isiah Whitlock, Jr*

LOS ANGELES, June 24, 2009 – The Geffen Playhouse rolls out the red (white and blue) carpet for the opening night of Beau Willimon's political powerhouse play *Farragut North* at the Geffen Playhouse. Directed by Tony-Award winning **Doug Hughes** (*Doubt*), the cast includes: Mia Barron, Dan Bittner, Justine Huen, Chris Noth, Chris Pine, Olivia Thirlby and Isiah Whitlock, Jr. After a successful run in New York, in which Noth, Thirlby and Whitlock were part of the original cast, *Farragut North* is making its West Coast premiere after a week of packed preview performances.

Set against the backdrop of a close presidential race, *Farragut North* is a timely tale of hubris, loyalty and the lust for power. **Chris Pine** (*Star Trek*) takes on the role of Stephen, a young press secretary working for a fast-rising candidate. With confidence and power beyond his years, Stephen is convinced he and seasoned campaign manager, Paul, played by **Chris Noth** (*Law & Order, Sex & The City*), can steer this team into the west wing without breaking a sweat. But that doesn't mean it won't take some spin. Working to snag positive coverage for his candidate, Stephen works with Ida Horowicz, a savvy New York Times reporter, played by **Mia Barron** (*The House of Blue Leaves, The Coast of Utopia*). Watching Stephen in awe as he works the system, is deputy press secretary Ben played by **Dan Bittner**, who recently appeared in *The Vertical Hour* on Broadway and can be currently seen on the big screen in *Adventureland*. When **Olivia Thirlby** (*Juno*) enters as Molly, the bright-eyed flirtatious intern, and **Isiah Whitlock, Jr.** (*The Wire*) as the conniving campaign manager for the rival candidate Stephen's invincibility gets a run of its own.

With quick-witted banter and an inside look into the world of politics, *Farragut North* makes its West Coast premiere at the Geffen Playhouse. The play, which originally opened at New York's Atlantic Theater Company in fall of 2008, is a 2007 recipient of an Edgerton Foundation grant for New American Plays.

### **FARRAGUT NORTH** (*West Coast Premiere*)

Written by Beau Willimon

Directed by Doug Hughes

*Opening Night:* Wednesday, June 24

*Closing Night:* Sunday, July 26

### **Cast**

Dan Bittner

Mia Barron

Justin Huen

Chris Noth

Ben

Ida Horowicz

Frank and a waiter

Paul Zara

-more-

Chris Pine  
Olivia Thirlby  
Isiah Whitlock, Jr

Stephen Bellamy  
Molly Pearsons  
Tom Duffy

### Production Credits

Set Designer	David Korins
Costume Designer	Cathy Zuber
Lighting Designer	Paul Gallo
Sound Designers	David Van Tieghem, Walter Trarbach
Original Music	David Van Tieghem
Video Collages	Joshua White, Bec Stupak

### Performance Schedule

Monday	No performances
Tuesday – Thursday	7:30pm
Friday	8:00pm
Saturday	4:00pm; 8:30pm
Sunday	2:00pm; 7:00pm

### Ticket Info

Tickets (\$45 to \$74) are on sale now at the Geffen Playhouse box office, online at [GeffenPlayhouse.com](http://GeffenPlayhouse.com), via credit card phone order at (310) 208-5454, at all Ticketmaster outlets, or by calling Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000.

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

### 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](http://GeffenPlayhouse.com).

### EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

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