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John C. Reilly and Betsy Brandt to take the stage at the Pasadena Playhouse

Just Announced:

Gather: Surprising Stories & Other Mischief

Created by John C. Reilly and Patrick Murphy

Directed by Patrick Murphy

Featuring John C. Reilly

May 24 - June 22, 2019

Casting Announcement:

Good Boys

by *Riverdale* creator Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa

Directed by Carolyn Cantor

Featuring Betsy Brandt

June 26 - July 21, 2019

PASADENA, CA (April 25, 2019) - Pasadena Playhouse, the State Theater of California, announces the latest news on its spring and summer programming. Academy and Tony Award Nominee John C. Reilly and an amazing ensemble of actors will create a spirited evening of Story Theater in ***Gather: Surprising Stories & Other Mischief***, which Reilly has created with Patrick Murphy, who will also direct. The production will play Friday, May 24 through Saturday, June 22, in the Carrie Hamilton Theatre of the Pasadena Playhouse.

Tickets for *Gather* are currently exclusive to Members of the Pasadena Playhouse only. To learn more about Membership, visit pasadenaplayhouse.org/membership. Tickets will go on sale to the public at a later date based on availability.

In addition, Betsy Brandt, (CBS' *Life in Pieces*, and AMC's *Breaking Bad*), will star in the Los Angeles premiere of Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa's ***Good Boys***, directed by Carolyn Cantor on the mainstage of Pasadena Playhouse, June 26 through Sunday July 21; the press opening is June 30 at 5:00pm. The production is Aguirre-Sacasa's fresh and revisited look at his previous work, *Good Boys and True* (world premiere, Steppenwolf Theatre Company). Additional casting will be announced at a later date. ***Good Boys*** was originally scheduled for May 28-June 23.

Tickets for *Good Boys* are currently on sale to the general public at pasadenaplayhouse.org.

About Gather: Surprising Stories & Other Mischief

In ***Gather: Surprising Stories & Other Mischief***, audiences will be transported to wondrous worlds full of legendary creatures and colorful characters in a magical experience for young and old. Traditional folklore including such well-known tales as *The Bremen Town Musicians* as well as contemporary pieces such as *War Game* will spring to life side by side.

John C. Reilly has been acting in theater since he was a child and has been acting in films for the last 30 years. He is an alumnus of DePaul University where he met his mentor and friend Patrick Murphy who he collaborates with here for ***Gather: Surprising Stories and Other Mischief***. He is honored to be working here at the legendary Pasadena Playhouse with Danny Feldman and the whole creative team.

Some notable films he has appeared in include *Casualties of War*, *State of Grace*, *Hard Eight*, *Boogie Nights*, *Magnolia*, *The Thin Red Line*, *The Perfect Storm*, *Gangs of New York*, *Chicago*, *The Hours*, *A Prairie Home Companion*, *Talladega Nights*, *Walk Hard*, *Step Brothers*, *Cyrus*, *Wreck It Ralph*, *Kong: Skull Island*, *The Sisters Brothers* and *Stan and Ollie*.

Theater credits include *Grapes of Wrath* (Chicago and Broadway), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Chicago and Broadway), *True West* (Broadway), *Exit the King*, *Little Egypt* (Los Angeles). He has been acknowledged by The Academy, The Tonys, The Grammys and The Golden Globes.

Patrick Murphy has performed with the Oregon Shakespearean Festival and Act in Seattle. He was director of a new play ensemble called Map of the New World Players as well as Theatre-Go-Round, a touring improvisational theatre. Directing credits include *Oedipus*, *Hamlet*, *Royal Family*, *This is Not a Pipe Dream* and a production of *King Lear* with Morris Carnovsky. He directed *Xenogenesis* and *Dogtown* at the Eclipse Theatre Company in Chicago, which received Joseph Jefferson Awards for Best Ensemble and Best Sound Design. He was nominated for Best Comedy Direction by the *LA Weekly* for his production of *Exit the King* starring John C. Reilly at the Actor's Gang Theater. Patrick recently retired from the Theatre School at Depaul University where he served as Head of the Professional Actor Training Program.

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About Good Boys

Good Boys is a riveting drama set at a private prep school - involving a model student in the mold of his father, a disturbing video tape, and the privileged family that is faced with difficult choices.

Betsy Brandt can currently be seen starring in the CBS family comedy *Life in Pieces*, alongside Colin Hanks, Dianne Wiest and James Brolin. The series is currently in its fourth season. Betsy will also have a recurring role later this year in the highly

anticipated Suits spinoff, *Pearson*. She is also filming the Blumhouse horror-thriller, *Run Sweetheart Run*.

Last Fall, Betsy was seen in Lifetime's original movie, *Flint*, alongside Queen Latifah, Jill Scott and Marin Ireland. The film follows the true story of three of the real-life women turned activists from Flint, Michigan who brought the water crisis to a national level. It was nominated for a Critics Choice Award for Best Movie Made for TV.

Among her many television credits, Betsy is well-known to television audiences for her portrayal of Marie, the sister-in-law of meth-making mastermind Walter White in the Emmy, SAG and Golden Globe award-winning series *Breaking Bad*. She also starred as Michael J. Fox's wife in the comedy *The Michael J. Fox Show*. Her recurring television appearances include *Masters of Sex* and *Parenthood*.

Brandt received rave reviews for her starring role in the indie dream *Claire in Motion*, which had its World Premiere in the narrative feature competition line-up at the 2016 South by Southwest Film Festival. Her other film credits include: *Landline*, Steven Soderbergh's *Magic Mike* and the independent feature *Quest*.

On stage, she portrayed 'Holly' in the West Coast premiere of Geoffrey Nauffts' Tony-nominated *Next Fall* at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles. She originated roles in award-winner Julia Cho's World Premiere of *The Language Archive* at South Coast Repertory and Beth Henley's *Ridiculous Fraud* at San Jose Rep.

Brandt studied theatre with the Moscow Art School and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. She earned her BFA in Acting at Illinois Urbana-Champaign. A native of Bay City, Michigan, she currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two children. In her spare time, she works with Feeding America as a member of their Entertainment Council.

Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa has the unusual distinction of being a playwright (Manhattan Theatre Club, 2econd Stage, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, South Coast Rep), television writer (*Glee*, *Supergirl*, *Riverdale*, *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*) and Marvel Comics author (*The Stand*, *Spider-Man*). He is also the Chief Creative Officer of Archie Comics.

Tickets for ***Good Boys*** are available online at PasadenaPlayhouse.org, by phone at 626-356-7529, and in person at the Pasadena Playhouse Box Office, 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101.

In Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa's ***Good Boys***, Brandon Hardy, a senior at St. Joseph's Prep, has the world at his feet. He is handsome, athletic, smart, and a shining example of the perfect private school student, just like his father was. But when a disturbing videotape becomes the talk of the locker room, the comfortable lives of the Hardy family threatens to shatter. ***Good Boys*** is a riveting drama that explores what happens when a family must separate fact from fiction—and, ultimately, choose to either preserve their legacy or risk losing everything in pursuit of the truth.

Aguirre-Sacasa says, "The dramatic situations in this play are uncannily similar to incidents and issues that we're *still* grappling with in this country—viscerally—even more so than when I first wrote *Good Boys*. In revisiting the play, I further explored

themes like privilege, masculinity, and personal responsibility, as Brandon and Elizabeth find themselves on trial by their community and each other. *Good Boys* is a sort of ‘moral thriller,’ a game of cat and mouse between a mother and her son, with twists and turns that will keep you guessing about the truth right up to the end.”

The New York Sun said of *Good Boys and True* (the previous incarnation of this work), “Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa has proven to be a natural entertainer. Actors like to sink their teeth into his dialogue, and his hard-charging stories proceed with the speed and verve of television. But he takes a leap forward with his latest drama, *Good Boys and True*, displaying a new deftness in layering troubling moral questions under a smooth, entertaining surface. The play goes down easy, but its aftertaste is sharp.” *Bloomberg.com* called *Good Boys and True*, “a craftily constructed, psychologically astute, absorbing play that harbors claws the fiercest feline could envy.”

ROBERTO AGUIRRE-SACASA (playwright) is an award-winning playwright, comic book writer, and screenwriter. Broadway credits include the musical version of *American Psycho* based on the classic novel by Bret Easton Ellis and the upcoming Broadway musical *Magic Mike*. Mr. Aguirre-Sacasa was also part of the team brought in to overhaul *Spider-man: Turn Off the Dark*. His many plays include *Abigail/1702* (NYS&F), *Good Boys and True* (2econd Stage Theatre and Steppenwolf Theatre), *Based on a Totally True Story* (MTC), *King of Shadows*, *The Mystery Plays*, *Dark Matters*, and many others published by DPS. Roberto is the Creator and Executive Producer of the television series *Riverdale* on the CW network and *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* on Netflix. Additional television credits include *Big Love*, *Looking*, *Glee*, and *Supergirl*. For MGM Films, he wrote new versions of both *Carrie* and *The Town that Dreaded Sundown*. He is Chief Creative Officer of Archie Comics.

CAROLYN CANTOR (director) is a New York based director of primarily new work. Off-Broadway credits include *Sell/Buy/Date*, *Regrets* and *Pumpgirl* (Manhattan Theatre Club); *Indian Summer*, *Fly By Night*, *Great God Pan*, *After the Revolution* (Callaway Award), *Stone Cold Dead Serious* (Playwrights Horizons); *Arlington* (Vineyard Theatre); *In a Dark Dark House* (MCC Theater); *Something You Did* (Primary Stages); *The Talls* (Second Stage); *Core Values* (Ars Nova); *Orange Flower Water*, *Living Room in Africa*, *Now That's What I Call A Storm* and *Life is a Dream* (Edge Theater), and *EVE-olution* (Cherry Lane). Regionally her work has been seen in *THEO* (Two River), *Sell/Buy/Date* and *Rabbit Hole* (Geffen, Garland Award), *The Violet Hour* (Old Globe), *After the Revolution*, *Not Waving and King Stag* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *Vera Laughed* and *Get What You Need* (NYS&F), *Diary of Anne Frank* (Papermill) and many others. She has developed work at the O'Neill Playwrights Conference, the Ojai Playwrights Conference, the Sundance Theater Lab, Steppenwolf, the Goodman Theater, OSF and NYS&F. Carolyn has received the Seldes/Kanin Award from the Theatre Hall of Fame, the Boris Sagal and Bill Foeller Fellowships from WTF and a Drama League Directing Fellowship. She is a graduate of Dartmouth College, a member of SDC and the mother of two daughters

ABOUT THE PASADENA PLAYHOUSE -- The Pasadena Playhouse is a place where people have gathered for 100 years to experience bold and important theater. It is one of the most prolific theaters in American history with a legacy of profound theatrical impact and courageous new work. In 1937, the Playhouse was officially recognized as the State Theater of California for its contribution and commitment to the dramatic arts. Today it continues that tradition of excellence under the helm of producing artistic director Danny Feldman. Dedicated to enriching lives through theater, community programs and learning initiatives, Pasadena Playhouse is a living force in the community.

**Calendar Listing for *Gather: Surprising Stories & Other Mischief*,
Created by John C. Reilly and Patrick Murphy**

Venue: The Carrie Hamilton Theatre at Pasadena Playhouse, 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

Dates: Friday, May 24 to Saturday, June 22

Performance Schedule:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
(There are no performances Tuesday, May 28 and Saturday, June 8)

Tickets Tickets are currently only available for Playhouse Members. To learn more about Membership, please visit pasadenaplayhouse.org/membership. Tickets will go on sale to the public at a later date based on availability.

Prices start at \$45

Online -- PasadenaPlayhouse.org

By phone at 626-356-7529

In person -- Pasadena Playhouse Box Office, located at 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

Information: For more information on all productions at Pasadena Playhouse visit PasadenaPlayhouse.org.

Description: John C. Reilly and an ensemble of amazing actors create a spirited evening of Story Theater. Unleash your imagination and be transported to wondrous worlds full of legendary creatures and colorful characters. *Gather: Surprising Stories & Other Mischief* is a magical experience for audiences young and old.

Editor's Note (please do NOT publish this note): While there is no formal press opening for Gather, there will be a limited number of press tickets to select performances. Please contact Peter Goldman to request tickets. p.goldman@dcpublicity.com; 323-954-7510 ex 12

Calendar Listing for *Good Boys*

by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa

Venue: The Pasadena Playhouse, 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

Dates: Wednesday, June 26 to Sunday, July 21
Press opening Sunday, June 30 at 5:00 p.m.
Editors please note the original dates were May 28 - June 23.

Performance Schedule:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Tickets Prices start at \$25

Online -- PasadenaPlayhouse.org

By phone at 626-356-7529

In person -- Pasadena Playhouse Box Office, located at 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

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