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Kory Kelly - Director of Marketing at Pasadena Playhouse:

## *Latest News from Pasadena Playhouse*

**The Los Angeles Premiere of  
*ANN***

**Written by and starring Holland Taylor  
Directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein  
May 27 - June 28, 2020**

**Tickets now on sale for  
*THE FATHER***

**Written by Florian Zeller  
Starring Alfred Molina  
Translated by Christopher Hampton  
Directed by Jessica Kubzansky  
February 5 - March 1, 2020**

**Tickets at [www.pasadenaplayhouse.org](http://www.pasadenaplayhouse.org) or by calling  
626-356-7529**

November 12, 2019, Pasadena, CA | Pasadena Playhouse Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman announces the Los Angeles premiere of *ANN* - written by and starring Holland Taylor and directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein from May 27 to June 28, 2020, and the on-sale of tickets for *The Father*, written by Florian Zeller and starring Alfred Molina, translated by Christopher Hampton and directed by Jessica Kubzansky, from February 5 to March 1, 2020.

Tickets for *The Father* are now available at [pasadenaplayhouse.org](http://pasadenaplayhouse.org), by phone at 626-356-7529, and at the box office at 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101. *Ann* will be available to Members of the Playhouse in mid-December, and to the General public in January 2020. Membership are currently available at [pasadenaplayhouse.org](http://pasadenaplayhouse.org).

*The Father* by French playwright Florian Zeller, stars Alfred Molina (*Frieda, An Education, Enchanted April*) in a tour-de-force role in perhaps one of the most awarded plays of recent times on two continents - winning the 2014 Molière Award,

and nominations for the Evening Standard Theatre Award, Olivier Award for Best New Play, and Tony Award for Best Play.

André was once a tap dancer. He lives with his daughter, Anne, and her husband, Antoine. Or was André an engineer, whose daughter Anne lives in London with her new lover, Pierre? The thing is, he is still wearing his pajamas, and he can't find his watch. He is starting to wonder if he's losing control.

A *New York Times* Critics Pick, Ben Brantley said that *The Father* is "harrowing ... one of the most disorienting experiences in town ... *The Father* operates from an exceedingly ingenious premise ... that's presenting the world through the perspective of a mind in an advancing state of dementia, making reality as relative and unfixed as it might be in a vintage Theatre of the Absurd production ... [however] André's ego is too large and impregnable to be deflated by senility. Dementia is inherently tragic. That's what Shakespeare saw in King Lear, himself a precursor to this absurdist existential hero." Lyn Gardner said in *The Guardian* that *The Father* is "hugely rewarding ... a play that constantly confounds expectations and works almost like a thriller, with a sinister Pinteresque edge."

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Iconic, heroic and hilarious, Texas Governor Ann Richards had a heart as big as the state from which she hailed, a wit to rival the greats, and an enduring passion for fair play. Neither partisan nor political, *Ann* is pure entertainment - an uplifting tribute to this courageous leader, dedicated mother, loving grandmother and legendary personality. Researched, written and performed by Emmy Award-winner **Holland Taylor** (*The Practice*, *Legally Blonde* and *Two and a Half Men*), whose unforgettable performance the *New York Times* called "frank, funny and warm...a FIERY DYNAMO," this richly imagined play reveals a complex, colorful and captivating character whose capacity to inspire us all burns even brighter today. *Ann* is a no-holds-barred, "blisteringly funny" comedy (*Washingtonian*) you won't soon forget.

**Holland Taylor** takes the audience on a journey, neither political nor a history lesson, swirling together the past and present to reunite Ann Richards with old friends and introduce her to a new generation. After playing throughout Texas to sold-out audiences, *Ann* went on to win critical acclaim in Chicago, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and on Broadway at Lincoln Center's Vivian Beaumont Theater.

Holland Taylor says, "Even after a great revival a few years ago when I brought her home to Texas, I didn't feel quite 'complete' with playing *Ann*. Galveston, San Antonio, Austin, Washington DC, Chicago, and New York-- clearly left the West Coast out, and I always wanted to play her in Los Angeles. I have to consider that I can't do it forever, I'm getting up there--and as with childbearing, we forget the labor, and only think of the joy ahead. It also seems a time yearning for the spirit of Ann Richards. The glorious Pasadena Playhouse has had a permanent invitation extended to us for years, and the time has come to RSVP. "I'll be there!"

*Ann* began as Taylor's quest to understand what it was about this housewife, mother, grandmother, leader and iconic patriot that inspired so many people so deeply. Writing the play became a four-year journey for Taylor, crisscrossing the country, interviewing people who knew the Governor, watching countless hours of video coverage, and pouring over reams of Richards' personal and public papers at the

University of Texas. In the end, her greatest resources were the family, friends, staff and colleagues of the Governor who allowed Holland to “know” Ann Richards.

About *Ann*, Feldman said, “In 2013, I saw Holland Taylor perform her love letter to Texas Governor Ann Richards on Broadway. I haven't stopped thinking about it since. Schedules finally aligned and I'm thrilled to have her bring her tour-de-force performance here at the Playhouse for our audiences. The show is delightfully entertaining. With *Ann*, Holland has reminded us all what it means to put country above party, and people above politics. I invite everyone to fall in love with Ann Richards once again.”

**HOLLAND TAYLOR** - *The New Yorker* has called Holland Taylor “the first vaudeville Gentile we ever saw.” Her New York stage performances include Bess in *Breakfast with Les and Bess*, the original productions of *Butley*, opposite Alan Bates, A.R. Gurney's *The Cocktail Hour*, and more recently--David Lindsay Abair's dark comedy *Ripcord* at The Manhattan Theatre Club, and Broadway's stellar *The Front Page*, with Nathan Lane. She still holds her head high after long ago on Broadway opening the historic flop, *Moose Murders*, having taken over for Eve Arden during previews a mere week before.

Holland most notably stormed Broadway at Lincoln Center's Beaumont Theatre as both writer and star of *ANN*, a play about the late Texas Governor Ann Richards. *ANN* garnered rave reviews, bringing Holland a TONY Award nomination for Best Actress, Drama Desk and Drama League nominations, and the Outer Circle Critics award for Best Solo Performance. There is a filmed version of the 2016 Zach Theatre production of *ANN* in Austin, when Holland triumphantly brought the show home to Texas as she said she would. That live performance movie of *ANN* now streams on *BroadwayHD.com*, and will be broadcast across the country on PBS in summer of 2020.

Over the years in Los Angeles, she has performed on stage in *Kindertransport*, and played opposite Christopher Lloyd in Yasmina Reza's two hander *The Unexpected Man* at the Geffen Theatre. Narrating for the Los Angeles Philharmonic in Stravinsky's *Persephone* for Esa-Pekka Salonen, and for John Adams in Phillip Glass' *Ahknaten*, Holland also delivered the spoken word in the *Harry Potter Suite* for Maestro John Williams with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

She has worked extensively in film, appearing in *Romancing the Stone*, *Jewel of the Nile*, *To Die For*, *Next Stop Wonderland*, *One Fine Day*, *George of the Jungle*, *The Truman Show*, *Happy Accidents*, *Spy Kids (2 & 3)*, *Keeping the Faith*, *Legally Blonde*, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler's *Baby Mama*, and *Gloria Bell*, starring the glorious Julianne Moore.

On television, Holland has been nominated for the Emmy seven times, winning Best Supporting Actress in a Drama for the sexy, smart Judge Roberta Kittleson on *The Practice*. Among numerous series starring roles: *The Powers that Be*, Norman Lear's short-lived, highly acclaimed political satire; *Bosom Buddies*, with Tom Hanks; and, of course, the juggernaut, Charlie Sheen's *Two and a Half Men*. Her final season is airing now of *Mr. Mercedes*, a limited TV series for Audience Network, starring the great Irish actor Brenden Gleeson. It is written by Executive Producer David Kelley, run by director Jack Bender, and based on a trilogy of novels by Stephen King.

While working in this project, Holland also filmed three movies-- *The Stand-In* with Drew Barrymore, *Bombshell*, the Jay Roach picture about Roger Ailes, starring Charlize Theron, Nicole Kidman, Margot Robbie, and John Lithgow, and--the cherry on the cake, she played “The Great Leader,” in *Bill and Ted Face the Music*, which die-hard hordes of fans await next summer.

Holland also especially enjoyed the role of ‘Stormy,’ in NETFLIX’s *To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before* sequel, a wildly popular romantic film for young adults based on the charming Jenny Han novels. It airs in February 2020.

Currently she is having a wonderful time filming one of creative mogul Ryan Murphy’s projects for NETFLIX-- *Hollywood*—a behind the scenes take on the lives of a movie studio’s denizens from the fabled forties.

**BENJAMIN ENDSLEY KLEIN (Director ANN)** was born in Charlotte, NC and is a proud alumnus of the University of Michigan. Director of *Ann* starring Tony Nominated actress Holland Taylor as Governor Ann Richards. Before playing Broadway’s Vivian Beaumont Theatre at Lincoln Center, the production played Chicago and The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Selected credits as Director include *Pump Boys & Dinettes* and *First Date* at Pittsburgh CLO, *Bend in the Road* at New York Musical Theatre Festival (included in Huffington Post’s “The Best Shows of 2013”), the world premiere musical *Hello Out There* at The Adirondack Theatre Festival, the East Coast Premiere of *Sick* by Zayd Dohrn at New Jersey Repertory, *Hairspray* at Charlottetown Festival (Prince Edward Island, Canada), *Notes to MariAnne* at the Eugene O’Neill Musical Theatre Conference, and *Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas* at The Old Globe in San Diego, California. As Resident or Associate Director credits include *The Ferryman* (Tony Award Best Play), *Carousel*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Tony Award Best Play), *War Horse* at Lincoln Center Theatre (Tony Award Best Play), *Love Never Dies* in the West End, *Hairspray* in the West End (Olivier Award for Best Musical), UK tour of *Hairspray*, Lincoln Center Theater’s *The Coast of Utopia* (Tony Award Best Play), and Broadway, 1st National US Tour, and Regional productions of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. SDC Member.

## **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 *The Father***

#### ***The Father***

by Florian Zeller

translated by Christopher Hampton

Directed by Jessica Kubzansky

Starring Alfred Molina

André was once a tap dancer. He lives with his daughter, Anne, and her husband, Antoine. Or was André an engineer, whose daughter Anne lives in London with her new lover, Pierre? The thing is, he is still wearing his pajamas, and he can't find his watch. He is starting to wonder if he's losing control.

Featuring acclaimed actor Alfred Molina (*Frida, An Education, Enchanted April*) in a tour-de-force role that will captivate audiences and leave you breathless.

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

Dates: Wednesday, February 5 to Sunday, March 1  
Press opening Sunday, February 9 at 5:00 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

Performance Schedule: Wednesday-Friday evenings at 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

### Calendar Listing for *ANN*

#### *Ann*

Written by and starring Holland Taylor  
Directed by Benjamin Endsley Klein

Tough as nails. Funny as hell.

Iconic, heroic and hilarious, Texas Governor Ann Richards had a heart as big as the state from which she hailed, a wit to rival the greats, and an enduring passion for fair play. Neither partisan nor political, Ann is pure entertainment - an uplifting tribute to this courageous leader, dedicated mother, loving grandmother and legendary personality. Researched, written and performed by Emmy Award-winner Holland Taylor (*The Practice, Legally Blonde* and *Two and a Half Men*), whose unforgettable performance the *New York Times* called "frank, funny and warm...a FIERY DYNAMO," this richly imagined play reveals a complex, colorful and captivating character whose capacity to inspire us all burns even brighter today.

Ann is a no-holds-barred, "blisteringly funny" comedy (*Washingtonian*) you won't soon forget.

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

Dates: Wednesday, May 27 to Sunday, June 28

Press opening Sunday, May 31 at 5:00 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

Information: For more information on all productions at Pasadena Playhouse visit  
[PasadenaPlayhouse.org](http://PasadenaPlayhouse.org).

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Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m; Sunday at 2:00 p.m.