



Contact: Davidson & Choy Publicity | Tim Choy t.choy@dcpubcity.com
Peter Goldman p.goldman@dcpubcity.com | 323 954 7510

Kory Kelly - Director of Marketing at Pasadena Playhouse:

Bold New Play, *The Father* by Florian Zeller, Helps Audiences Experience Living With Dementia

Dr. Paul Stephen Aisen, a leading figure in Alzheimer's Disease research for more than two decades, to lead a free discussion on dementia, Alzheimer's disease and the current state of therapeutic research on February 22, 2020 at 3:30 PM.

Tickets for *The Father* at pasadenaplayhouse.org or by calling 626-356-7529. No ticket necessary for February 22 discussion.

February 4, 2020, Pasadena, CA | Pasadena Playhouse, The State Theater of California, begins performances of *The Father*, written by Florian Zeller, translated by Christopher Hampton, directed by Jessica Kubzansky and starring Alfred Molina, tomorrow, February 5. Performances will continue through March 1, 2020.

Zeller's bold new play, *The Father*, explores unique form, skews time, and alters perception in an attempt to help the audience understand the disease and experience what reality may be like for someone suffering from dementia. It also portrays the sacrifices and heart-wrenching decisions a caregiver must make when dealing with loved ones with the disease.

According to the World Health Organization, around 50 million people have dementia with nearly 10 million new cases every year. *Forbes* states, "The condition strikes so often, so arbitrarily, and with such little warning that many have dubbed it the Silent Epidemic." It is the 6th leading cause of death in the US according to Alzheimer's Association. More than 16 million Americans provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's or other dementia (alz.org) without the ability to truly understand the reality of the patients for which they care.

For this production, the Playhouse has partnered with **Alzheimer's Los Angeles** (www.alzheimers.org) for training, support materials and awareness-building of this issue for both staff and audience members.

The Playhouse will host a conversation with **Dr. Paul Stephen Aisen**, a leading figure in Alzheimer's Disease research for more than two decades, about the issues raised by the play in the context of the neuroscience of dementia and research efforts to

develop an effective treatment. This event will be held on February 22, 2020 at 3:30 PM and is free and open to the public, no ticket required.

Dr. Aisen is the founding Director of the USC Alzheimer's Therapeutic Research Institute (ATRI) in San Diego, an organization with the mission to accelerate the development of effective therapies for Alzheimer's Disease. Prior to joining the USC faculty, Dr. Aisen had been Professor of Neurosciences at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and Director of the Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study (ADCS) from 2007 through 2015.

As Director of ATRI, he continues his work on the development, design, and implementation of multicenter trials, collaborating with academic groups and pharmaceutical companies. ATRI is the coordinating center for many large studies, including the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI), the A4 and LEARN studies, and the Trial-Ready Cohort for Preclinical/Prodromal AD (TRC-PAD). Most recently, Dr. Aisen, along with Drs. Reisa Sperling and Ron Petersen, was awarded the NIA Alzheimer's Clinical Trials Consortium (ACTC).

About *The Father*

Ben Brantley of *The New York Times* 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."

Award-winning actor Alfred Molina (*Frida*, *An Education*, *Enchanted April*) portrays André who was once a tap dancer. He lives with his daughter, Anne, and her husband, Antoine. Or was he 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.

Pasadena Playhouse Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman said, "Alfred Molina is one of the greatest actors of our time. We've been searching for a play to do together here at the Playhouse since I started a few years ago. ***The Father*** had a profound impact on me. I distinctly remember reading the script in my office and getting to the end and feeling breathless. I sent it to Fred and he quickly said 'this is the one'. I think it will be a performance that people will be talking about for years to come."

Alfred Molina says, "It is so exciting when a play comes along that offers so much to explore from both the perspective of an actor, and as importantly, if not more so, the perspective of the audience one performs for. ***The Father*** provides a deep and searing look into a world we still know so little about from the point of view of a person afflicted with Dementia. It is my deepest wish that this work will shed new light and understanding on what is fast becoming a worldwide epidemic."

The creative team features direction by Jessica Kubzansky; scenic design by David Meyer; costume design by Denitsa Bliznakova; lighting design by Elizabeth Harper; sound design by John Zalewski; and stage management by Sara Sahin.

Tickets for *The Father* start at \$25 and are available at pasadenaplayhouse.org by phone at 626-356-7529, and at the Box Office at 39 S. El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101.

The Father is underwritten, in part, by the Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation.

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 performance that will captivate audiences and leave you breathless.

Venue: Pasadena Playhouse, 39 S. El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

Dates: Wednesday, February 5 to Sunday, March 1
Press opening Tuesday, February 11 at 8:00 PM

Tickets: Tickets start at \$25
Online -- pasadenaplayhouse.org
By phone -- 626-356-7529
In person -- Pasadena Playhouse Box Office, located at 39 S. El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

Performance Schedule: Tuesday-Friday evenings at 8:00 PM
Saturday at 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM; Sunday at 2:00 PM and 7:00

PM