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Kory Kelly - Director of Marketing at Pasadena Playhouse:

## ***THE FATHER*** Written by Florian Zeller

**Starring Alfred Molina**  
**Translated by Christopher Hampton**  
**Directed by Jessica Kubzansky**  
**Now through March 1, 2020**

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

February 11, 2019, Pasadena, CA | Pasadena Playhouse, The State Theater of California, presents *The Father*, written by Florian Zeller, translated by Christopher Hampton and directed by Jessica Kubzansky, now through March 1, 2020.

The production stars Alfred Molina (*Frida*, *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.

Molina is joined by Sue Cremin (*Neva* at Kirk Douglas Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, SCR) as "Anne;" Michael Manuel (*Buried Child* at A Noise Within) as "Pierre;" Pia Shah (*Orange* at SCR) as "Laura;" Robert Mammana (*Casa Valentina* at Pasadena Playhouse) as "Man;" and Lisa Renee Pitts (*Sweat* on Broadway) as "Woman."

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."

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](http://pasadenaplayhouse.org) by phone at 626-356-7529, and at the box office at 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101.

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

For this production, the Playhouse has partnered with Alzheimer's Los Angeles ([www.alzheimers.org](http://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.

There will also be an **Open Captioned performance of *The Father*** on Sunday, Feb 23 at 2:00 PM. Support for Open Captioning is provided in part by TDF. This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**ALFRED MOLINA** (André) - Alfred hails from London and has lived and worked in the USA since the early '90s. His career spans over 45 years with more than 200 credits in theater, television, and film. He made his film debut in Steven Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and quickly followed up with appearances for directors as diverse as Richard Donner, Mike Leigh, Jim Jarmusch, Lasse Hallström, Mira Nair, Stephen Frears, and Julie Taymor. His theater work includes the Royal Shakespeare Company, National Theatre, London's West End, and Broadway where he has been a three-time Tony Award nominee. He has also worked extensively in Los Angeles, with productions at the Mark Taper Forum, Geffen Playhouse, and The New American Theatre. This is his first full production with Pasadena Playhouse.

**SUE CREMIN** (Anne) appeared in the title role of *Neva* (Kirk Douglas, La Jolla Playhouse, SCR) as well as world premieres at The Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Repertory, Baltimore's Center Stage, Actors Theater of Louisville, and Yale Repertory. Favorites include *Twelfth Night* (The Old Globe) and *Candida* (Two River Theater). New York: *Such Things Only Happen In Books* (Keen Company), *Honey Brown Eyes* (Clurman Theatre), *Killing The Boss* (Cherry Lane Theatre), *A Part Of The Story* (MCC) and *Dinosaur Dreams* (NY Stage & Film). Film includes *California Love*, *Homeland*, *The Good War* and *The Tao of Steve*. Television includes *NCIS*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *The Good Wife*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Monk*, *Law & Order*. Currently recurring on ABC's new series *For Life*. MFA Yale School of Drama.

**MICHAEL MANUEL** (Pierre) was most recently seen at A Noise Within as Tilden in *Buried Child*, The Creature in *Frankenstein* and Iago in *Othello*. Michael has worked in regional theaters across the country including Alley Theatre, South Coast Rep,

Berkeley Rep, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Mark Taper, Yale Rep, Seattle Rep, Empty Space, Group Theatre, New Jersey Shakespeare Festival, Theatre for a New Audience, Cornerstone, Ojai Playwrights Conference, Geffen, UCB, Interact, Main Street and Impro Theatre, among others. Some of his television, movie and narration credits include *Wonderland*, *National Treasure* and the upcoming *Lafayette Escadrille*. Michael is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

**PIA SHAH (Laura)** Pia Shah most recently starred in the HBO anthology series *Room 104*, by the Duplass Brothers, opposite Charlyne Yi in the episode “FOMO.” She also starred in the role of Leela, a young woman on the spectrum, in *Orange* at South Coast Repertory. Shah recently made her first short film, *The Shower*, which she wrote, produced and starred in, while 8 months pregnant, opposite Emily C. Chang. Shah has workshopped dozens of new plays including *Getting There* (Geffen Playhouse), *Dry Land* (Ojai Playwrights Conference), *Noms de Guerre* (Pasadena Playhouse) and *Basketcases* (Seattle Rep). Film/TV credits: *Grey’s Anatomy*, *Good Trouble*, *Futurestates*, Disney’s *Planes*, *Mercy*, *The Wonderful Maladys*, *Dirty John*, *Pearson*. Shah starred in and co-wrote *Grass*, winner of Best Narrative Feature at the Austin Asian American Film (now streaming on Netflix). Shah is the voice of Qadira in the video game *Indivisible*. She has an MFA in drama from USC and a BA from The Johns Hopkins University.

**ROBERT MAMMANA (Man)** Robert is honored to be back at the Pasadena Playhouse. Past Playhouse appearances include *Casa Valentina* and *Sleepless in Seattle*. Broadway: *Les Misérables*. National Tours: *Show Boat*, *Les Misérables*, and *The Sound of Music*. Off-Broadway: *The Twentieth-Century Way* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater & Boston Court). Regional: Denver Center, South Coast Repertory, Portland Center Stage, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Pasadena Playhouse, McCarter Theatre Center, Goodman Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Pioneer Theatre Company. TV: *The Office* (as “Sweeney Todd”), *NCIS*, *CSI*, *The Good Wife*, *How To Get Away With Murder*, *Elementary*, *CSI:NY*, *Dexter*, *Heroes*, *The Young and the Restless*, *Days of Our Lives*, and *Enterprise*. Film: *Dead End*, *Just Say Love*, *Flightplan*, and *Menace*. Awards: LA Drama Critics Circle Recipient, LA Weekly Award Recipient, Helen Hays Nomination, three LA Ovation Nominations, and two Joseph Jefferson Nominations.

**LISA RENEE PITTS (Woman)** is overjoyed to make her Pasadena Playhouse Debut! Broadway: Tony nominated play *Sweat* by Lynn Nottage. Selected Regional Credits: *Tiny Beautiful Things* and *Doubt* (Portland Center Stage/ Critics Circle Award) *A Raisin in the Sun* (Virginia Stage Company/NAACP Theater Award Nominee), *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Syracuse Stage), *Proposals* (Norris Center Perf Arts) *La Ronde* (Williamstown) and *Intimate Apparel* (San Diego Rep/ Critics Circle Award). Selected Film and Television Credits; Dr. Dre’s mother, Verna, in *Straight Outta Compton* (Dir. F. Gary Gray) ; *True to the Game 1 & 2* (Dirs. Preston Whitmore & Jamal Hill); *XX* (Dir. Karyn Kusama); *Her* (Dir. Spike Jones) and *Baselines* (Dir. Nate Parker). Up next, Lisa will appear in Stephen Kings *The Stand* based on his best-selling novel. As a multi-award winning narrator, she has narrated over 100 audiobooks spanning all genres. Lisa holds a BFA degree from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. LisaReneePitts.com “victory”

**JESSICA KUBZANSKY (Director)** has been an Artistic Director of Boston Court Pasadena since its inception and is also an award-winning director working nationally specializing in new works and reenvisioned classics. Previously for the Pasadena

Playhouse: Jeanne Sakata's *Hold These Truths*, GB Shaw's *Pygmalion* and Theresa Rebeck's *Mauritius*. Recently for Boston Court: world premieres of Kit Steinkellner's *Ladies*, Sarah B. Mantell's *Everything That Never Happened*, Stefanie Zdravec's *Colony Collapse, RII* (her own three-person re-envisioning of Shakespeare's *Richard II*), Michael Elyanow's *The Children*, as well as Luis Alfaro's *Mojada, A Medea in Los Angeles* (a co-production at the Getty Villa), and the New York and world premieres of Sheila Callaghan's *Everything You Touch* (a co-pro with Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre at the Cherry Lane) among many others. Recently elsewhere: *Othello* (A Noise Within), Jeanne Sakata's *Hold These Truths* (Arena Stage, San Diego Rep), Sofia Alvarez's *Amos & Boris*, Aditi Kapil's *Orange* (South Coast Rep), Aaron Posner's *Stupid Fucking Bird* (ACT Theatre Seattle). Upcoming: Sarah B. Mantell's *Everything That Never Happened* for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Kubzansky has received numerous awards and honors, among them the Los Angeles' Drama Critics' Circle's Margaret Harford Award for Sustained Excellence in Theater.

### **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

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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: Now through Sunday, March 1

Tickets: Prices start at \$25

Online -- [pasadenaplayhouse.org](http://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: Tuesday-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.