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Kory Kelly – Director of Marketing at Pasadena Playhouse:

Latest News from Pasadena Playhouse

UNCLE VANYA **by Anton Chekhov** **Translated by** **Richard Nelson, Richard Pevear, and Larissa Volokhonsky** **June 1 – June 26, 2022**

Tickets at www.pasadenaplayhouse.org or by calling 626-356-7529

January 27, 2022, Pasadena, CA | Pasadena Playhouse Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman announces the Los Angeles premiere of the Richard Nelson, Richard Pevear, and Larissa Volokhonsky translation of ***Uncle Vanya*** by Anton Chekhov. Performances are scheduled from June 1 through June 26; the press opening is Sunday, June 5. Tickets are on sale now, starting at \$30 at pasadenaplayhouse.org.

This exhilarating revival pairs one of the greatest plays ever written with the world’s most celebrated translators of Russian literature. After years of caring for their family’s crumbling estate, Vanya and his niece receive an unexpected visit from his brother-in-law and his alluring wife. When hidden passions and tumultuous frustrations come to a boil in the heat of the Russian summer, their lives threaten to come undone. Comic, cutting, and true to life, this translation of ***Uncle Vanya*** provides an up-close, conversational-style encounter with a classic drama that every theater-lover must see.

“In addition to producing American musicals and new works, boldly re-envisioning classic plays is core to our mission at the Playhouse,” said Danny Feldman, Producing Artistic Director. “This new translation of *Uncle Vanya* breathes new life into a theatrical masterpiece, making it perfect for fans of Chekhov or people experiencing his work for the first time.”

Originally premiering at The Old Globe in 2018, Charles McNulty of the *Los Angeles Times* said, “This new “Vanya” has a conversational smoothness that removes the cobwebs sticking to those other translations that never let you forget that the play was written in 1897.”

Jennifer Vanasco of *WNYC News* said, “The exquisite translation, by Nelson along with Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky, strips the language to its essence. It’s clear and illuminating. When a gunshot goes off, it’s not the bang that surprises, but the sudden explosion of feeling. “

Richard Nelson, in writing of his collaboration with Pevear, and Volokhonsky, told *The New York Times*, "As we worked together, I, as both a playwright and director, was always thinking toward production, imagining the questions that would be asked by actors and designers, and trying to make sure we were asking them as we translated. We decided to come together once a year and translate a play, and found a publisher, TCG books, for the series. We began to get commissioned by theaters and eventually turned to the Everest of our ambitions: the major plays of Anton Chekhov."

Widely considered one of the world's greatest writers, **Anton Chekhov** was born on January 29, 1860, in Taganrog, Russia. In 1879 he entered the University of Moscow to study medicine and graduated in 1884. He kept a strict writing schedule and continued to practice medicine for the rest of his life. In addition to his numerous short stories, many considered masterpieces of the form, Chekhov wrote over a dozen plays, among them the classics of Western dramatic literature *Uncle Vanya*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Three Sisters*, and *The Seagull*.

Richard Nelson (Co-Translator) Mr. Nelson's plays include *The Gabriels* (*Hungry*, *What Did You Expect?*, and *Women of a Certain Age*) and *The Apple Family* plays (*That Hopey Changey Thing*, *Sweet and Sad*, *Sorry*, and *Regular Singing*), which were produced at The Public Theater in New York, toured internationally, and filmed for public television. His other plays include *Illyria*, *Oblivion*, *Nikolai and the Others*, *Farewell to the Theatre*, *Conversations in Tusculum*, *Frank's Home*, *How Shakespeare Won the West*, *Rodney's Wife*, *Franny's Way*, *Madame Melville*, *Goodnight Children Everywhere* (Olivier Award for Play of the Year), *The General from America*, *New England*, *Two Shakespearean Actors* (Tony Award nomination for Best Play), *Some Americans Abroad* (Olivier nomination for Comedy of the Year), and others. His musicals include *James Joyce's The Dead* with Shaun Davey (Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical) and *My Life with Albertine* and *Private Confessions*, both with Ricky Ian Gordon. His films include *Hyde Park on Hudson* (Focus Features), *Ethan Frome* (Miramax), and *Sensibility and Sense* ("American Playhouse"). With Larissa Volokhonsky and Richard Pevear, he has co-translated Ivan Turgenev's *A Month in the Country*, Nikolai Gogol's *The Inspector*, Mikhail Bulgakov's *Molière* and *Don Quixote*, and Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull* and *The Cherry Orchard* (all published by Theatre Communications Group). He is an honorary associate artist of the Royal Shakespeare Company and a recipient of the Arts and Letters Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the PEN/Laura Pels "Master Playwright" Award.

Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky (Co-Translators) Mr. Pevear was born in Boston, grew up on Long Island, and attended Allegheny College (B.A., 1964) and University of Virginia (M.A., 1965). After a stint as a college teacher, he moved to the Maine coast and eventually to New York City, where he worked as a freelance writer, editor, and translator, as well as a cabinetmaker. He has published two collections of poetry, many essays and reviews, and 38 books translated from French, Italian, and Russian. Ms. Volokhonsky was born in Leningrad, attended Leningrad State University, and upon graduating joined a scientific team whose work took her to the east of Russia, to Kamchatka and Sakhalin Island. She immigrated to Israel in 1973 and to the United States in 1975, where she attended Yale Divinity School and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. Soon after settling in New York City, she was married to Mr. Pevear, and a few years later they moved to France with their two children. Together they have translated 30 books from Russian, including works by Leo Tolstoy, Mikhail Bulgakov, Nikolai

Gogol, Anton Chekhov, Fyodor Dostoevsky, and Boris Pasternak. Their translation of Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* received the 1991 PEN/Laura Pels Translation Award, and their translation of Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* was awarded the same prize in 2002. In 2006 they were awarded the first Efim Etkind International Translation Prize by the European Graduate School of St. Petersburg.

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 *Uncle Vanya*

Uncle Vanya

by Anton Chekhov

Translated by Richard Nelson, Richard Pevear, and Larissa Volokhonsky

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

Dates: Wednesday, June 1 to Sunday, June 26
Press opening Sunday, June 5 at 5:00 p.m.

Tickets: Prices start at \$30
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.