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Alfred Molina & John Douglas Thompson
lead boldly reimagined

INHERIT THE WIND

with **Chris Perfetti**

by **Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee**
directed by **Michael Michetti**

Wednesday November 1, 2023 to Sunday November 26, 2023
Press Opening November 5, 2023
Tickets at pasadenaplayhouse.org

PASADENA, CA (September 28, 2023) – Danny Feldman, Producing Artistic Director of Pasadena Playhouse, the State Theater of California, announces casting for the Playhouse’s fresh take on Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee’s *Inherit the Wind* (November 1 to November 26) which will be helmed by celebrated Los Angeles director Michael Michetti and feature a cast of 17.

The cast of *Inherit the Wind* is led by Alfred Molina (*The Father* at Pasadena Playhouse, *Frida*, *Spider-Man 2*) as Henry Drummond, John Douglas Thompson (*Till*, *The Gilded Age*, Tony Nomination for *Jitney*) as Matthew Harrison Brady, and Chris Perfetti (ABC’s *Abbott Elementary*) as E.K. Hornbeck.

The production also features Abubakr Ali (Netflix’s *Grendel*) as Bertram Cates, David Aaron Baker (Broadway’s *A Raisin in the Sun*) as Reverend Jeremiah Brown, and Rachel Hilson (*Red, White & Royal Blue*; CBS’ *The Good Wife*) as Rachel Brown.

For this new production, audience members will be a part of the action with onstage seating in the courtroom gallery as well as a jury box located at the foot of the stage. More information on tickets to this onstage seating experience being sold in partnership with TodayTix Group will be announced soon.

The full cast is rounded out by Jared Bybee as Dunlap/Reporter/Radio Man, Brian Cali as Meeker/Photographer/Townsperson, Marlene Forte as Mrs. Brady, Matt Gomez Hidaka as Howard Blair, Thomas Hobson as Tom Davenport/Reporter, Michael Kostroff as Mayor/Reporter, John W. Lawson as Bannister/Reporter, Phillip J. Lewis as Sillers/Reporter, Gabriella Pizzigoni as Melinda Loomis, Rene Rivera as Judge/Reporter/Townsperson, and Pam Trotter as Mrs. Krebs.

The creative team includes Sara Ryung Clement (Costume Designer), Omar Madkour (Lighting Designer), Jeff Gardner (Sound Designer), Darryl Archibald (Vocal Arranger), Jeffrey Bernstein (Vocal Director), Miranda Johnson-Haddad (Dramaturg), and Casting by RBT Casting (Ryan Bernard Tymensky, CSA and Rose Bochner, CSA).

Two of the nation's leading lawyers go head-to-head in the ultimate battle of wit, wisdom, and will in this powerful drama. With freedom of speech hanging in the balance, will this small-town courtroom bring us together or tear the nation apart? In a fresh production boldly reimagined for today, ***Inherit the Wind*** will make you rethink what you know and dare you to question just how much society has evolved. "Even more topical than half a century ago."-*NEW YORK TIMES*

Inherit the Wind is made possible in part by the Pasadena Arts & Culture Commission and the City of Pasadena Cultural Affairs Division. Additional production support provided by The Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation.

Tickets and information for ***Inherit the Wind*** are available at pasadenaplayhouse.org, by phone at 626-356-7529, and at the box office at 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101.

About Pasadena Playhouse

Pasadena Playhouse, the official State Theater of California and recipient of the 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award, is one of the most prolific theaters in the country. The Playhouse has staged thousands of original productions since its founding in 1917 including premieres of works by Tennessee Williams, Eugene O'Neill, Suzan Lori Parks and hundreds more. For decades, its pioneering School for Theater Arts was a training ground for actors and theatermakers who went on to make significant contributions to the entertainment industry. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman since 2016, Pasadena Playhouse's productions and community programs are centered on its founding idea of being a living force in its community, making theater for everyone.

Calendar Listing for *Inherit the Wind*

Inherit the Wind

By Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee

On Trial: The Right to Think

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

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

Tickets: Prices start at \$35
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. and 7:00 p.m.

BIOGRAPHIES

For a full company bios visit <https://www.pasadenaplayhouse.org/event/inherit-the-wind/#cast>

Alfred Molina (Henry Drummond): Alfred was born in Paddington, London to a Spanish immigrant father and an Italian immigrant mother who moved to Britain after WWII. A seasoned theater and film actor, Molina has been featured in an extensive range of plays and films, from *Oklahoma!* in the West End (which earned him a Laurence Olivier Award nomination) to Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and Sam Raimi's *Spider-Man 2*. Alfred made his Broadway debut in Yasmina Reza's *Art* in 1998 and subsequently performed on Broadway as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* and Mark Rothko in *Red*. Alfred has been nominated for three BAFTA Awards, two Emmy Awards, one Golden Globe Award, five SAG Awards, three Tony Awards, and two Olivier Awards over the course of his career. He was last seen on the Playhouse stage in his award-winning role in *The Father* (Ovation Award, LA Drama Critics Circle Award). He currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife, director Jennifer Lee.

John Douglas Thompson (Matthew Harrison Brady): Through his impressive body of work, John has established himself as a highly regarded and versatile actor in theater, film, and television. Broadway: *Jitney*, *King Lear*, *Carousel*, *A Time to Kill*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and *Julius Caesar*. Off-Broadway: *Endgame*, *The Merchant Of Venice*, *Tamburlaine*, *Satchmo at the Waldorf*, *The Father*, *A Doll's House*, *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *The Forest*, *The Emperor Jones*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Othello*, *Richard III*, and *Mother Courage*. Other Credits: *The Iceman Cometh*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Mother Courage*, *Man in the Ring*, and *Tamburlaine*. Television: *Mare Of Easttown*, *The Gilded Age*, *For Life*, and *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. Film: *Till*, *21 Bridges*, *355*, *Let Them All Talk*, *Wolves*, *The Bourne Legacy*, and *Glass Chin*.

Chris Perfetti (E.K. Hornbeck): Chris stars as a series regular on the award-winning ABC comedy series *Abbott Elementary*. Chris starred in the world premiere of *King James* at Steppenwolf and CTG followed by a run at Manhattan Theatre Club Off-Broadway, to great acclaim. New York Theater: *Moscow Moscow Moscow Moscow* (MCC Theater, Outer Critics Circle Honor, Drama Desk Award, and Drama League nominations); *The Low Road* (The Public Theater); *Six Degrees of Separation* (Broadway); *Everybody* (Signature Theater); *Picnic* (Broadway); *The Tempest* (Delacorte Theater); *The Tutors* (2nd Stage); *Cloud Nine* (Atlantic Theater Company); and *Sons of the Prophet* (Roundabout, Theater World Award). Other TV appearances include *Looking* (HBO), *The Night Of* (HBO), *The Resident* (FOX), *In the Dark* (CW), *Bonding* (Netflix), *What We Do in the Shadows* (FX), *Crossbones* (NBC) *Next Caller* (NBC), *Bull* (CBS), and *Gotham* (FOX). In film, Chris has recently been seen in *The Virtuoso*, *Minyan*, *The Surrogate*, and *Before I Go*.

Jerome Lawrence & Robert E. Lee (Playwrights): Jerome Lawrence (1915-2004) and Robert E. Lee (1918-1994), whose collaboration spanned more than fifty years, were among the most prolific teams of playwrights in the history of the American theater. Since its 1955 Broadway premiere, their Pulitzer-nominated *Inherit the Wind* has been translated into 34 languages and celebrated for its continuing relevance. Among their other major stage works are *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, the play and the film of *First Monday in October*, *Auntie Mame*, and the books for the musicals *Mame* and *Dear World*. Lawrence and Lee were inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame in 1990 and that same year became members of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre at the Kennedy Center. In addition to receiving recognition for their work in the theater, they have also been honored for their contributions as writers for radio, television, and film. In an effort to encourage new work for the stage and to honor the Dallas producer who gave *Inherit the Wind* its first production, they created the Margo Jones Award in 1961 and co-founded the American Playwrights Theatre a few years later. In 1986, the Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute was established at Ohio State University. The Institute houses an outstanding and growing collection of memorabilia and personal papers of theater artists from all over the world. Dedicated teachers of playwriting, Lawrence and Lee hoped to communicate to their students a passionate belief that the theater must deal with ideas and issues of social significance. "All of our plays," they wrote, "share the theme of respecting the dignity of the individual, and our perpetual battle against limitation and censorship."

Michael Michetti (Director): Michael is thrilled to return to Pasadena Playhouse, having previously directed *Uncle Vanya*, *King Charles III*, and *A Life in the Theatre*. He was formerly a founding Co-Artistic Director of Boston Court Pasadena where his directing credits include: *The Judas Kiss*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Stupid F**king Bird*, and *The Twentieth-Century Way*, which was also produced off-Broadway at Rattlestick Playwright's Theatre. Elsewhere, he has directed the world premiere of Robert Schenkkan's *Building the Wall* at the Fountain Theatre; *District Merchants* at South Coast Repertory; and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Frankenstein*, his own adaptation of *A Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Figaro*, and *The Grapes of Wrath* at A Noise Within. Additionally, he directed *Kiss Me, Kate*; *Carousel*; and *Man of La Mancha* at Reprise. He is the recipient of two Ovation Awards, and five Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards for his direction as well as a special LADCC Award for Distinguished Achievement in Direction.

Sara Ryung Clement (Costume Design): Off-Broadway: *Golden Shield* (Manhattan Theatre Club); *Somebody's Daughter* (Second Stage Uptown); *Fruiting Bodies* (Ma-Yi). Regional: Guthrie Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Alley Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Boston Lyric Opera, South Coast Repertory, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Geffen Playhouse, Asolo Repertory, Folger Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, Seattle Rep, and others. Set design faculty at UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television. MFA, Yale School of Drama; AB, Princeton University. sararyungclement.com

Omar Madkour (Lighting Design): Omar is a lighting designer from Cairo, Egypt and based in Los Angeles. His experience in lighting includes theater, opera, dance, music as well as architectural and museum lighting. Most recently he designed *Boney Manilli* at REDCAT, *Medea Refracted* at The Getty Villa, and *Into The Woods* at Pasadena Civic Auditorium with Pasadena Playhouse and Pasadena Unified School District. Omar holds an MFA in lighting from CalArts.

Jeff Gardner (Sound Design): Jeff is an award-winning sound designer, foley artist, and actor. Pasadena Playhouse: *The Sound Inside*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *It's a Wonderful Life*. Select credits include *Twilight*:

Los Angeles, 1992 and *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* at the Mark Taper Forum. Elsewhere: Williamstown Theatre Festival, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Cleveland Playhouse, Baltimore Center Stage, Shakespeare Theatre Company (DC), Arena Stage, The Kennedy Center, Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Los Angeles: Geffen Playhouse, Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, A Noise Within, Antaeus Theatre Company, Circle X Theatre, Echo Theater Company, Rogue Machine Theatre, IAMA Theatre. Los Angeles Stage Alliance Ovation Award, Stage Raw, and LA Drama Critics Circle Award Winner. Jeff can be seen at L.A. Theatre Works where he regularly performs live sound effects. jeffthomasgardner.net

Darryl Archibald (Vocal Arranger): *Some Like It Hot* (Broadway – Shubert Theater); *Yemandja*, the new Angélique Kidjo musical (music supervisor for world tour); Bob Fosse’s *Dancin’* (Pre-Broadway engagement – The Old Globe); *Encore!* on Disney+ (*Ragtime* episode); *The Color Purple* (Broadway tour and Paper Mill Playhouse); *Motown: The Musical* (Broadway – Nederlander Theater); *Wicked* (substitute conductor at Pantages Theater); *Memphis* (Broadway tour); Disney’s *The Lion King* (vocal coach/assistant conductor for Broadway tour); *Ragtime*, *Little Shop of Horrors* with M.J. Rodriguez, (Pasadena Playhouse); *Dear World* with Tyne Daly (Valley Performing Arts Center); *Two by Two* with Jason Alexander (Reprise); *Passion* (Boston Court); Jonathan Dove’s *Innocence* (Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity). Full bio at darrylarchibald.com.

Jeffrey Bernstein (Vocal Director): Jeffrey is founding artistic director of the Pasadena Chorale, the Los Angeles Daiku, and the Los Angeles Vocal Artists. Between 1997 and 2008, he was director of choral music at Occidental College. Jeffrey has led 14 choir tours on four continents and traveled extensively as a guest conductor, directing choirs and orchestras in Europe, Japan, and across the United States. An acclaimed composer, Jeffrey is the songwriter for “Let’s Go Luna” on PBS Kids and the composer of dozens of concert and theatrical works. Jeffrey holds music degrees from Harvard, Yale, and UCLA and was associate musical director for the national tour of *Cats*. Previous productions with Pasadena Playhouse include *King Charles III* and *Good Boys*. jeffreybernsteinmusic.com

Miranda Johnson-Haddad (Dramaturg): Miranda (she/her), holds a BA from Princeton in Comparative Literature and a Ph.D. in Renaissance Studies from Yale. She is the Resident Dramaturg at A Noise Within Theatre in Pasadena, and she is a frequent consultant and speaker at Boston Court Performing Arts Center, Los Angeles Opera, and many other Southern California venues. She has taught Drama, Shakespeare, and Renaissance Literature at Howard University, UCLA, Vassar College, and Yale University. Dr. Johnson-Haddad is the author of numerous articles and theater reviews, and she has been affiliated with the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.; Shakespeare Quarterly and Shakespeare Bulletin; and the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C.

Ryan Bernard Tymensky, CSA (RBT Casting): Ryan has had the pleasure of casting over ten shows at the Playhouse in the last six years, showcasing a diverse range of productions such as *Sunday in the Park With George*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Head Over Heels*, *Sanctuary City*, *Ragtime*, and many more. In addition to theater, Ryan has also made significant casting contributions to the film and television industry. Their portfolio includes notable TV and film projects such as the *Wicked* movies, *This Is Us*, *Atypical*, *Beauty and the Beast: A 30th Celebration*, and *Just Like That...*, and *Dear Evan Hansen*. Ryan puts inclusion and diversity at the heart of everything they do. Their mission is to celebrate and actively advocate for performers who reflect the full spectrum of human diversity to help expand a multiplicity of

narratives; narratives that reflect the real world we live in and challenge conventional boundaries that currently exist in the entertainment industry. rbtcasting.com. [@ryantymensky](https://twitter.com/ryantymensky)