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## 2<sup>nd</sup> annual benefit for Pasadena Playhouse

# The PLAYHOUSE PARTY

## Raises Over \$675,000

**PASADENA, CA (April 18, 2024) – The PLAYHOUSE PARTY**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual benefit for Pasadena Playhouse, the official State Theater of California and recipient of the 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award, created by Pasadena Playhouse Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman and the PLAYHOUSE PARTY Committee, was held on Saturday, April 13, 2024. Co-chaired by Elizabeth Hall, Y-Vonne Hutchinson, Anita Lawler and Leigh Olivar, the event was created to strengthen the community through connection and celebration. The event was an enormous success, raising over \$675,000 for Pasadena Playhouse.

With El Molino Avenue cordoned off for the occasion, the festivities in Pasadena Playhouse’s courtyard spilled into the street. More than 300 guests adorned in shimmering cocktail attire attended the one-of-a-kind evening, which featured surprise pop up performances from Rio Navaro, an accordionist from Pasadena Playhouse Conservatory of Music who appeared in the Pasadena Playhouse Holiday Spectacular and community partner McKinley Middle School Drum Core.

The evening was presented in three acts, starting with cocktails and a silent auction, followed by dinner and a special performance by Jasmine Amy Rogers and the new Playhouse Players, and culminating with a “Late Nite at the House Party” hosted by comedian Kate Berlant, who also served as DJ for this one-of-a-kind event, with Bar Chelou supplying cocktails, mocktails, wine, food, and dessert.

Speakers and performers at the event included Board of Trustee President Erin Baker, Event co-chair and Board Member Y-Vonne Hutchinson, Playhouse staff members Omar Avedanke (Director, Creative & Content) and Bonnie McHeffey (Company Manager), Jenny Slattery (Associate Producer), Danny Feldman (Producing Artistic Director), Rich Caparella of KUSC, and *Jelly’s Last Jam* cast member Jasmine Amy Rogers, who offered a sneak peek from the upcoming Playhouse production of *Jelly’s Last Jam* with a dazzling rendition of “Play the Music for Me.”

There was also a silent auction featuring curated experiences and artisanal items donated by the community. Dinner was provided by Heirloom LA, with additional food and beverages provided by Heirloom LA and Bar Chelou. Additional donations were provided from over 40 other businesses and individuals.

Supporters for the event included the following:

## PRODUCERS

Jerry & Terri Kohl

## HOSTS

Ellen & Harvey Knell

Leigh & Harry Olivar

## ICONS

Erin & Jeremy Baker

Stephanie & Leo Dencik and Stephen & Chantal Bennett

## INNOVATORS

Anonymous

## ADVOCATES

Barajas Tavera Family

Greta & Peter Mandell

Sheila Grether-Marion & Mark Marion

Ken & Tracy McCormick

Sarah & Eric Miller

Beth Price

Bingo & Gino Roncelli

Ann & Steven Sunshine

East West Bank

## INFLUENCERS

Cristina Hernandez & Jeffrey Bernstein

Anita & Vince Lawler

Susan Shieldkret

U.S. Bank

## **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.