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Announcement of a New Theatrical Event on Broadway

THE GREAT SOCIETY

Part II of THE LBJ PLAYS

By Pulitzer and Tony Award winner **ROBERT SCHENKKAN**

Directed by **BILL RAUCH**

With

Emmy Award winner **Brian Cox** as **Lyndon B. Johnson**

Tony Award nominee **Marc Kudisch** as **Richard J. Daley**

Grantham Coleman making his Broadway debut as **Martin Luther King Jr.**

And Tony Award nominee **Richard Thomas** as **Hubert Humphrey**

Previews begin September 6, 2019

12-Week Limited Engagement

At the Vivian Beaumont Theater on Broadway

(New York, NY) – Tony Award & Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **Robert Schenkkan** will return to Broadway with the second of his two exhilarating dramas celebrating Lyndon B. Johnson’s legacy: **THE GREAT SOCIETY**. This new play is the companion piece to Schenkkan’s Tony Award winning *All The Way*, depicting the tumultuous times that led to the conclusion of the Johnson presidency in 1968.

Director **Bill Rauch** (*All The Way*) reunites with Schenkkan after directing the premiere of **THE GREAT SOCIETY** at Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 2014 and Seattle Rep in 2015.

Presented at the Vivian Beaumont Theater at Lincoln Center, this striking theatrical event features a brilliant cast portraying over fifty characters in two-dozen locations. The cast will include **Brian Cox** as **LBJ**, **Marc Kudisch** as **Richard J. Daley**, **Grantham Coleman** as **Martin Luther King Jr.**, and **Richard Thomas** as **Hubert Humphrey**. The actors playing the roles of **Richard Nixon**, **Senator Robert F. Kennedy**, **Coretta Scott King**, **Lady Bird Johnson**, **J. Edgar Hoover**, **Governor George Wallace** and **Robert McNamara** among many others, will be announced soon.

Performances will begin Friday, September 6, 2019 at the Vivian Beaumont Theater (150 West 65th St). This is a 12-week limited engagement.

Capturing Johnson’s passionate and aggressive attempts to build a great society for all, **THE GREAT SOCIETY** follows his epic triumph in a landslide election to the agonizing decision not to run for re-election just three

years later. It was an era that would define history forever: the rise of the Civil Rights Movement, the deaths of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, the destruction of Vietnam, and the creation of some of the greatest social programs America has ever known—and one man was at the center of it all: LBJ.

The design team includes **David Korins** (sets), **Linda Cho** (costumes), **David Weiner** (lights), **Paul James Prendergast** (composer/sound) and **Victoria Sagady** (projections).

TICKET INFORMATION:

Beginning Monday, July 22, tickets are available to Lincoln Center Theater members. On July 25, tickets will be available to the General Public by calling 800-447-7400 or online at GreatSocietyBroadway.com. Ticket prices range from \$107-157.

BIOS:

BRIAN COX (Lyndon B. Johnson) is the lead of the hit HBO show “Succession.” He recently starred as “Winston Churchill” in the 2017 feature film *Churchill*. He also plays “Rory” in the film *The Etruscan Smile*, and “Captain O’Hagan” in *Super Troopers 2*. He starred alongside Adam Sandler and Peter Dinklage in *Pixels*, and in *The Campaign* with Zach Galifianakis and Will Ferrell. He also starred in *Edwin Boyd* and *Coriolanus*. He has starred in *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, *Red*, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *Escapist*, Wes Craven’s *Red Eye*, *Troy*, *The Bourne Supremacy*, Spike Lee’s *The 25th Hour*, Spike Jonze’s *Adaptation*, and Gore Verbinski’s *The Ring*. Other film credits include *The Boxer*, *Kiss the Girls*, *L.I.E.*, and *Rushmore*. His work as Daphne’s father on “Frasier” has garnered him a nomination for a 2001-2002 Emmy Award. In 2001, he won the Emmy for his portrayal of Nazi war criminal “Hermann Goering” in TNT’s “Nuremberg” for which he was also a Golden Globe and SAG nominee. Brian has collaborated with award-winning playwright Conor McPherson in several productions, including *The Weir*, and *Dublin Carol*, in which Brian starred as grim alcoholic undertaker “John Plunkett.”

MARC KUDISCH (Richard J. Daley) was last seen on Broadway in *Finding Neverland*. He has been nominated for the Tony Award three times, first for *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Drama Desk and Outer Critics nominations as well), then for *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Outer Critics nomination as well) and for *9 To 5* (Drama Desk Award Nomination as well). His other Broadway credits include *Hand to God*, *The Apple Tree*, *Assassins* (Drama Desk nomination) *Bells Are Ringing*, the Public Theatre’s production of *The Wild Party*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *High Society*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Off-Broadway credits include *Fucking A* (Signature Theatre), *Anatomy Theatre* (Prototype Festival), *The Wayside Motor Inn* (Signature Theatre), *Hand To God* (MCC), *The Holiday Guys*, *The Blue Flower* (Second Stage) *The Minister’s Wife* (Lincoln Center Theater), *The Glorious Ones* (Lincoln Center Theater), *See What I Wanna See* (Drama Desk nomination; Public Theatre) and *The Pirates Of Penzance* (New York City Opera). Marc created the evening *Baritones Unbound* which he’s previously performed in Boston and in Chicago. Other regional credits include *Wonderful Town* (L.A. Opera), *Tartuffe* (Westport Playhouse), Terrence McNally’s *Golden Age* (Helen Hayes Award nom.; Kennedy Center), *Sycamore Trees* (Helen Hayes Award) and in the American premiere of *The Witches of Eastwick* – both at The Signature Theatre Company. His television and film credits include *The Tick*, *Mindhunter*, *Billions*, *House of Cards*, *Unforgettable*, *Power*, *Person of Interest*, *Blue Bloods*, *Best Man In The Dark*, *Smash*, *Break-In* and *Bye Bye Birdie*.

GRANTHAM COLEMAN (Martin Luther King Jr.) just completed a hugely successful run of The Public Theater’s *Much Ado About Nothing*, which Kenny Leon directed for Shakespeare in the Park. He most recently performed in the Los Angeles Disney Hall production of William Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* alongside the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra immediately following a hugely successful run of Center Theatre Group’s production of the Pulitzer Prize winning drama, *Sweat*. Previously, Grantham shot the role of famed Black Panther, Bobby Seale, in Benedict Andrew’s upcoming film *Against All Enemies* in which he stars opposite Kirsten Stewart, Anthony Mackie, and Zazie Beetz. He received amazing reviews as Shakespeare’s Danish prince

in the Old Globe's production of *Hamlet*. Several other notable appearances include the Bad Robot produced, Hulu mini-series *11/22/63* alongside James Franco, which is based on Stephen King's novel and *Buzzer* at The Public Theatre in New York City. Grantham received outstanding praise for his role of Tarell in Alvin McCraney's play *Choir Boy* at the Geffen, just as he did in the original version at The Manhattan Theatre Club in New York. Grantham's other credits include performing the lead role in Charles Fuller's production of *One Night* at the Rattlestick Playwrights Theater and in the SoHo Rep Theatre's *We Are Proud To Present...* His television credits include a guest starring roles in the NBC critically acclaimed comedy "The Carmichael Show," the CBS series "NCIS," "Doubt," the NBC series "The Night Shift," in addition to his work opposite Keri Russell and Matthew Rhys in the hit FX television show "The Americans."

RICHARD THOMAS (Hubert Humphrey) last appeared on Broadway in the revival of *The Little Foxes*, for which he received a Tony Award nomination. He has been seen in acclaimed performances on stage including *You Can't Take It With You*, *Race, Democracy*, *Incident at Vichy* (Drama Desk Award nomination), *The Stendhal Syndrome* (Lucille Lortel Award nomination, Outer Critics Circle Award nomination), *A Naked Girl on the Appian Way*, *An Enemy of the People*, *Tiny Alice*, *The Front Page*, *The Fifth Of July*, innumerable Shakespeare productions, and his professional debut at eight years old in *Sunrise at Campobello*. He was last seen on national tour in the award-winning productions of *The Humans* (Elliot Norton Award) and *Twelve Angry Men* and will next star as "Atticus Finch" in the record-breaking production of *To Kill A Mockingbird* across the country. Thomas is an Emmy Award-winning actor beloved for his performance in the iconic series "The Waltons." He is best known to contemporary television audiences for his work in the critically renowned series "The Americans" as well as his appearances on "Billions" and the limited series "Tell Me Your Secrets." His feature film performances include Curtis Hanson's *Wonder Boys*, Tim Blake Nelson's *Anesthesia*, and Ang Lee's *Taking Woodstock*. Thomas is also a published author who resides in New York City.

ROBERT SCHENKKAN (Playwright). Pulitzer Prize, Tony, and WGA Award winner, three-time Emmy nominated writer. Author of eighteen plays: *The Investigation; A Search for the Truth in Ten Acts, Building the Wall, All the Way* (Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics, Steinberg, and Edward Kennedy Awards), *The Great Society, Hanussen, Shadowplay, By the Waters of Babylon, Handler, A Single Shard, Devil and Daniel Webster, Lewis and Clark Reach the Euphrates, Final Passages, The Marriage of Miss Hollywood and King Neptune, Heaven on Earth, Tachinoki, The Dream Thief, and The Kentucky Cycle* (Pulitzer Prize, Tony and Drama Desk nominations). Film: *Hacksaw Ridge* and *The Quiet American*. TV: "All the Way," *The Pacific* (three Emmy nominations, Writers Guild Award), "The Andromeda Strain," "Crazy Horse," "Spartacus." Robert is a New Dramatists alum, a member of NTC, EST, the Dramatists Guild council, and a board member of The Lilly Awards and The Orchard Project. He is currently working with John Doyle on a new musical, *The Twelve*; and a feature film, *The Last Airman*, for Jake Gyllenhaal, and another, *Union*, for Joseph Gordon Levitt, both at Amazon Pictures.

BILL RAUCH (Director). Director Bill Rauch's work has been seen across the nation including on Broadway in the Tony Award-winning production *All the Way*. Mr. Rauch has been the Artistic Director of Oregon Shakespeare Festival since 2007, where he has directed multiple world premieres including *Mother Road* by Octavio Solis, *Roe* by Lisa Loomer, Alexa Junge's *Fingersmith*, *Off the Rails* by Randy Reinholz, Robert Schenkkan's *All the Way, The Great Society, and By the Waters of Babylon*, and Bill Cain's *Equivocation*, as well as 20 other classical and new plays. Among his initiatives at OSF, Mr. Rauch committed to commissioning up to 37 new plays to dramatize moments of change in American history. "American Revolutions: the U.S. History Cycle" is now in its seventh year of production, and commissions that have gone on to productions on Broadway and at other regional theatres include *Sweat* by Lynn Nottage, *Indecent* by Paula Vogel, *Roe* by Lisa Loomer, *American Night* by Culture Clash, and *Party People* by Universes. Mr. Rauch is also cofounder of Cornerstone Theater Company, where he directed more than 40 productions in rural and urban communities nationwide and served as artistic director from 1986 to 2006. He has directed a number of world premieres, including *Night is a Room* at New York's Signature Theatre, *Body of an American* at Portland Center Stage, *The Clean House* at Yale Repertory Theatre;

Living Out and *For Here or To Go?* at the Mark Taper Forum; and *My Wandering Boy* and *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler* at South Coast Repertory. He also directed the New York premiere of *The Clean House* at Lincoln Center Theater. Work elsewhere includes productions at South Coast Repertory, Guthrie Theater, Arena Stage, Seattle Repertory, Long Wharf Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, Great Lakes Theater Festival and En Garde Arts. His production of *The Pirates of Penzance* (OSF, 2011) played during Portland Opera's 14/15 season. Bill is the recipient of a 2015 Ford Fellowship, and the Independent Reviews of New England Award and Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations for Best Direction of *All the Way*; in 2012 he received the Fichandler Award, TCG's Visionary Leadership Award in 2010, and the Margo Jones Medal in 2009. Other honors include a Falstaff Award (2013), United States Artists Prudential Fellow (2008), Los Angeles Weekly, DramaLogue, Garland, Connecticut Critics' Circle, Helen Hayes and Ovation Awards, and he is the only artist to have won the inaugural "Leadership for a Changing World" award. He was a Claire Trevor Professor at the University of California Irvine, and has also taught at the University of Southern California and U.C.L.A. In the summer of 2019, Bill will become the inaugural artistic director of the Ronald O. Perelman Performing Arts Center, being built at the World Trade Center in New York City.

The Great Society producing team is headed by Jeffrey Richards, Louise Gund, Rebecca Gold, Stephanie P. McClelland, Jayne Baron Sherman, Jacob Soroken Porter and Lincoln Center Theater.

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