WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Patricia Blaufuss, Public Relations Manager (203) 227-5137 x197 | (203) 571-1287 | pblaufuss@westportplayhouse.org FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 19, 2024

Judy Collins, The Bacon Brothers, "All Things Equal: The Life & Trials of Ruth Bader Ginsberg," and More Added to Westport Country Playhouse Schedule of Events

Priority ticket access to star-studded talent roster is available now through the theater's newly launched membership program, the Encore Club.

Westport Country Playhouse will present upcoming events by a wide range of artists, including "An Evening with Judy Collins" on April 12, "All Things Equal: The Life & Trials of Ruth Bader Ginsberg" from May 3 - 5, and "The Bacon Brothers – Freestanding Tour" on July 25. Tickets for these events will go on sale to the public on Friday, January 26, at noon. More special events will be announced soon.

For advance access to these events, prior to public sale, the Playhouse has launched The Encore Club an annual membership program that provides early notice, before public announcement, about newly scheduled programs. The Encore Club perks include the option to purchase up to six tickets to events before public sale; discounted tickets to Mainstage theatrical productions and Script in Hand playreadings with the option to purchase discounted seats for friends; invitations to exclusive events; and ticket exchanges for any production or event in the season. Calendar-year membership in The Encore Club is \$150. To enroll, visit <u>https://www.westportplayhouse.org/the-encore-club/</u> or call the box office at 203-227-4177.

Other previously announced, single night events are currently on sale, including "Voices for Volunteers of Fairfield County" on January 24, "The Playhouse Sings: A Night for Swifties" on February 2; "An Evening with Audra McDonald" on February 10; "In Conversation with Tony Kushner" on June 6; "Isaac Mizrahi – Live in Concert" on June 15; and "An Evening with Fran Lebowitz" on September 5.

Frequent events showcasing high-profile talents are part of the Playhouse's plan to transform into a yearround performing arts center with programming for a broader audience while continuing to produce theater.

The Playhouse's long-standing tradition of theatrical productions will resume in fall 2024 through spring 2025, under the guidance of Mark Shanahan, incoming artistic director. Three fully-produced theater productions are scheduled for three weeks each, October 22 – November 9, 2024, February 18 – March 8, 2025, and March 25 – April 12, 2025. Two smaller, one-week productions will run in December 2024 and January 2025. Titles will be announced.

The Playhouse's Script in Hand playreading series, also curated by Shanahan, is scheduled for eight Mondays at 7 p.m. in 2024: February 5, March 11, April 15, May 13, June 10, September 9, October 7, and December 2. "Lombardi," about legendary football coach Vince Lombardi, written by Eric Simonson and directed by Shanahan, kicks off the series on February 5, with other titles to be announced.

-more-WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE 25 POWERS COURT WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE T (203) 227-5137 | BOX OFFICE T (203) 227-4177 westportplayhouse.org Subscriptions for the 2024-25 theater season will be available soon; subscriptions and single tickets for the 2024 Script in Hand series are now on sale. Membership in the Encore Club is open to patrons of both series for additional benefits.

The Playhouse's 2024 Family Festivities presentations will begin with "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!," produced by TheaterWorksUSA, on Saturday, April 27, recommended for pre-K to second grade.

The Playhouse's new format of producing theater balanced with presenting events was implemented last summer with the "Reimagined: Save Your Playhouse" fundraising campaign, bringing to the historic theater a new vision and signaling a recovery from significant, post-pandemic financial challenges.

A complete schedule of Playhouse events is available at westportplayhouse.org. Westport Country Playhouse is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. All play titles, artists, dates, and times are subject to change.

Event and series sponsors include Joyce Hergenhan, Roz and Bud Siegel, Barbara Streicker, and the White Barn program of the Lucille Lortel Foundation. Piano provided by Steinway & Sons Greenwich. Media Sponsorship for the 2024 season is generously provided by Moffly Media and WSHU Public Radio.

For Westport Country Playhouse information and tickets, visit westportplayhouse.org or call the box office at (203) 227-4177, toll-free at 1-888-927-7529. Stay connected to the Playhouse on Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse), Instagram (wcplayhouse), and YouTube (WestportPlayhouse). Westport Country Playhouse is located at 25 Powers Court, off Route 1, Westport.

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