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Press photos and kits: act-sf.org/press

“Haunting and haunted!”—The New York Times

“You can’t take your eyes off it!”—The Guardian

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER TO PRESENT
PULITZER PRIZE–WINNING PLAYWRIGHT ANNIE BAKER’S NEW PLAY,
JOHN

Acclaimed stage actress and TV legend Georgia Engel reprises her off-Broadway triumph in A.C.T. debut

A.C.T.’s Strand Theater
February 22–April 23, 2017

SAN FRANCISCO (January 3, 2017)—American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) continues its 2016–17 season with Pulitzer Prize–winning playwright Annie Baker’s new play, John (February 22–April 23, 2017). A haunting drama that took off-Broadway by storm, John is the latest hit from American theater’s hottest new voice—Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Baker (The Flick). Twentysomethings Jenny and Elias arrive at an old bed-and-breakfast in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania—he wants to tour the historic battlefield, she wants to be left alone. But in the creaking Civil War house, amid the shelves of smiling dolls and the ghostly landlady, every crack between the couple starts to surface. Echoing with tension, humor, and unease like a modern-day Chekhov, playwright Annie Baker creates a twenty-first-century nerve-jangler that had critics raving. “John is so good, on so many levels, that it casts a unique and brilliant light” (The New Yorker). Press nights for John will be held on Thursday, March 9 and Friday, March 10, 2017. Single tickets (ranging from $20–$105) are available at the A.C.T. Box Office at 415.749.2228 or online at www.act-sf.org. Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.

Says A.C.T. Artistic Director Carey Perloff: “Annie Baker is one of the most mysterious and seductive writers in the American theater today. I have long wanted to produce her work, yet The Geary was never the right space
for a writer that creates work of great intimacy. So, it is with great pleasure that we present her newest outing
John at The Strand! With her signature wicked wit and complex characterizations, Baker takes us on a journey
inside four very complicated and surprising individuals, two generations both wrestling with the big questions of
life, stranded in a bed and breakfast so filled with tchotchkes they can hardly move. Annie will be in residence
with us during rehearsals, and we so look forward to welcoming her and Ken Rus Schmoll to the Bay Area, with
their spectacular cast, to recreate this magical haunting story."

Reprising a role she performed to great acclaim at New York’s Signature Theatre, TV legend Georgia Engel (The
Mary Tyler Moore Show, Everybody Loves Raymond) makes her A.C.T. debut in the role of “Mertis,” the cheerful
yet all too present landlady. Joining her are Ann McDonough (“Genevieve”), Joe Paulik (“Elias”) and Stacey Yen
(“Jenny”).

Under the direction of Ken Rus Schmoll, the creative team for John includes Robert Hand (Lighting Designer),
Jessie Amoroso (Costume Designer), Marsha Ginsberg (Set Designer), Brendan Aanes (Sound Designer), and
Jacquelyn Scott (Props Master).

In connection with John, A.C.T. will offer numerous InterACT events—many of which are presented free of
charge—that will give patrons opportunities to get closer to the action while having an entire night out at the
theater. Visit act-sf.org/interact to learn more about subscribing to these events throughout the season:

- **Bike to the Theater Night:**
  *Wednesday, February 22, 7 p.m.*
  Providing a greener alternative to theater transportation, A.C.T. and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition
  offer free valet bike parking, as well as a special discount on tickets, for these select performances.

- **Prologue:**
  *Tuesday, March 7, 5:30 p.m.*
  Before the curtain goes up, get a sneak peek at the artistic process at this fascinating preshow discussion
  with the director and artistic staff.

- **Theater on the Couch:**
  *Friday, March 10, following the 7:30 p.m. performance*
  Led by Dr. Mason Turner, chief of psychiatry at San Francisco’s Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, this
  exciting postshow discussion series addresses audience questions and explores the minds, motives, and
  behavior of the characters.

- **Audience Exchanges:**
  *Tuesday, March 14, 7 p.m. | Wednesday, March 29, 1 p.m. | Sunday, April 16, 1 p.m.*
  After the show, stick around for a lively Q&A session with the actors and artists who create the work
  onstage.

- **OUT with A.C.T.:**
  *Wednesday, March 15, following the 7:30 p.m. performance*
  The best LGBT night in town! Mingle with the cast and enjoy free drinks and treats at this popular after-
  party.

- **Wente Vineyards Wine Series:**
  *Tuesday, March 28, 7 p.m.*
  Before the show, raise a glass at this wine-tasting event featuring the Bay Area’s hottest local winery.
• **PlayTime**  
*Saturday, April 15, doors open at 12:30 p.m.*  
Before this matinee performance, get hands-on with the artists who make it happen at this interactive theater workshop.

A.C.T.’s production of *John* is made possible by producers **Abby and Gene Schnair**; and associate producers **Drs. Michael and Jane Marmor** and **Anne and Michelle Shonk**.

A.C.T. would also like to acknowledge its 2016–17 company sponsors **Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund; Frannie Fleishhacker; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; Jeri Lynn and Jeffrey W. Johnson; Fred M. Levin and Nancy Livingston, The Shenson Foundation; Burt and Deedee McMurtry; Barbara Ravizza and John S. Osterweis; Arthur Rock and Toni Rembe; and Mary and Steven Swig**, season partner **PG&E**, lead education partner **Wells Fargo**, 50th Anniversary Season Airline Sponsor **United Airlines**, and Official Hotel Sponsor **Hotel G**.


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FACT SHEET FOR JOHN

WHAT:
A haunting drama that took off-Broadway by storm, John is the latest hit from American theater’s hottest new voice. Jenny and Elias show up at an old bed-and-breakfast in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania—he wants to tour the historic battlegrounds, she wants to be left alone. But in the creaking house they find something unsettling. Is it the spirits of the Civil War dead? The smiling dolls that line the rooms? Their curious landlady, Mertis, who switches their bedroom because “the Jackson Room can be a little temperamental”? Or is it just that their relationship is on the skids and one of them is cheating? A delicious nerve-jangler hailed as “A true masterpiece!” (Slate), this is a visceral ghost story with a millennial twist that will haunt the intimate Strand Theater.

WHO:
Written by: Annie Baker
Directed by Ken Rus Schmoll

CAST:
Georgia Engel ("Mertis"), Ann McDonough ("Genevieve"), Joe Paulik ("Elias") and Stacey Yen ("Jenny")

CREATIVE TEAM:
Robert Hand (Lighting Designer), Jessie Amoroso (Costume Designer), Marsha Ginsberg (Set Designer), Brendan Aanes (Sound Designer), and Jacquelyn Scott (Props Master).

WHERE:
A.C.T.’s Strand Theater (1127 Market St., San Francisco)

WHEN:
February 22–April 23, 2017
Press Nights: Thursday, March 9 and Friday, March 10, 2017

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:
Tuesdays–Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays and Saturdays at 1 p.m.
Sundays at 1 p.m. (7 p.m. performance on 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 4/16)

InterACT Events
Bike to the Theater Night: February 22 (7 p.m.)
Prologue: March 7 (5:30 p.m.)
Theater on the Couch: March 10 (7:30 p.m.)
Audience Exchanges: March 14 (7 p.m.), March 29 (1 p.m.), April 16 (1 p.m.)
OUT with A.C.T.: March 15 (7:30 p.m.)
Wine Series: March 28 (7 p.m.)

TICKETS:
$20–$105
Ticket prices are subject to change without notice

PHOTOS:
http://act-sf.org/home/about/press_room.html

TIX & INFO:
415.749.2228 | act-sf.org

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