

# ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Director Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For additional press materials, visit the online press room:  
<https://www.arenastage.org/Ann>

### ARENA STAGE ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR HOLLAND TAYLOR'S *ANN* FEATURING TWO-TIME TONY NOMINEE JAYNE ATKINSON JULY 11 – AUGUST 11, 2019

\*\*\*Single tickets go on sale April 16, 2019\*\*\*

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announces the full company of *Ann*, Emmy Award-winning actress **Holland Taylor's** (*The Practice*, *Two and a Half Men*) intimate, hilarious production based on the colorful and complex life of former Texas Governor Ann Richards. "Frank, funny and warm" (*New York Times*), *Ann* is a captivating tribute to Richards' life as an activist, politician, and feminist champion. This one-woman play takes a revealing look at the impassioned woman who enriched the lives of her followers, friends and family. Directed by **Kristen van Ginhoven**, *Ann* is a co-production with Dallas Theater Center and runs **July 11 – August 11, 2019 in the Kreeger Theater and October 15 – November 10 in Dallas.**

As previously announced, **Jayne Atkinson** (*House of Cards*, *Criminal Minds*) reprises her role as Ann Richards, who changed the face of Texas politics. Some of Atkinson's previous Broadway credits include *Blithe Spirit*, *Enchanted April* and *Our Town*.

"*Ann* is a whip-smart play, perfect for the times we're living in. Governor Ann Richards was so far ahead of her time, she was a rocket," shares Artistic Director **Molly Smith**. We, at Arena, are excited about this co-production and bringing Jayne Atkinson's fantastic portrayal of Governor Richards along with Kristen van Ginhoven's wonderful direction to Washington D.C. There really is no better place for a play about a strong woman politician. We're tossing rocks at that glass ceiling! And reminding our audiences of those who went before."

"As a new citizen of this country, and as the Artistic Director of WAM Theatre, I cannot imagine a better way to contribute to the civic dialogue leading up to the 2020 election," says **van Ginhoven**. "All of us at WAM are thrilled that our work at the intersection of arts and activism will have a life outside of the Berkshires where it will reach even larger audiences. And personally, I am delighted to be able to continue work on this play with Jayne at these two acclaimed regional theaters."

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In addition to van Ginhoven, the creative team includes Set Designer **Juliana von Haubrich**, Costume Designer **Jess Goldstein**, Lighting Designer **Andi Lyons**, and Sound Designer **M.L. Dogg** and Wig Designer **Paul Huntley**.

**Holland Taylor** (*Playwright*) wrote and starred on Broadway in *Ann*, her one-woman show about the late Texas Governor Ann Richards (Tony Award nomination for Best Actress, Drama Desk and Drama League nominations and the Outer Circle Critics Award for Best Solo Performance). The filmed version of *Ann* is available on Broadway HD. New York credits include Bess in *Breakfast with Les and Bess*; *Butley*, opposite Alan Bates; *The Cocktail Hour* and the historic flop, *Moose Murders*. Recent credits include *The Front Page* (Broadway) and *Ripcord* (Manhattan Theatre Club). Los Angeles credits include *Kindertransport* and *The Unexpected Man*. She has given narrations for the Los Angeles Philharmonic and has narrated the *Harry Potter Suite* (Chicago Symphony Orchestra). Her film credits include *Romancing the Stone*, *Jewel of the Nile*, *To Die For*, *Next Stop Wonderland*, *One Fine Day*, *George of the Jungle*, *The Truman Show*, *Happy Accidents*, *Spy Kids (2 & 3)*, *Keeping the Faith*, *Legally Blonde* and *Baby Mama*. Television credits include seven Emmy nominations and winning Best Supporting Actress in a Drama for the sexy, brilliant Judge Roberta Kittleson on *The Practice*. TV starring roles include *The Powers That Be*; *Bosom Buddies*, with Tom Hanks; and *Two and a Half Men*. Current projects include *Mr. Mercedes* and *Gloria* with Julianne Moore.

**Kristen van Ginhoven** (*Director*) is the artistic director of WAM Theatre. WAM's vision is to create opportunity for women and girls through a mission of theater as philanthropy. WAM has donated over \$56,500 to organizations taking action in girls' education, women's leadership, teen pregnancy prevention, sexual trafficking awareness, midwife training and more. Kristen is a member of the 2013 Lincoln Center Director's Lab and the prestigious Michael Langham Workshop for Classical Direction at the Stratford Festival of Canada. WAM credits include *Ann* (co-production with Dorset Theatre Festival), *In Darfur* (New England premiere) and *Emilie* (New England premiere). Elsewhere, Kristen's selected directing credits include *Disgraced*, *I and You* (Chester Theatre), *The Whale* (Adirondack Theatre Festival), *10 Minute Play Festival* (Barrington Stage Company) and *Petticoats of Steel* (Capital Repertory Theatre). She has an MA from Emerson College, where she received the Presidential Fellowship. [www.wamtheatre.com](http://www.wamtheatre.com)

### **Cast Biography**

**Jayne Atkinson** (*Ann Richards*) has enjoyed a long and varied career as an actress, director and producer. A graduate of Northwestern University and Yale Drama School, she has appeared in regional theater, Off-Broadway and Broadway. Jayne made her Broadway debut in a revival production of Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*. Other Broadway credits include *The Rainmaker* (Tony nomination), *Our Town* with Paul Newman, *Enchanted April* (Tony nomination, Drama Desk nomination, Outer Critics Circle Award) and *Blithe Spirit* with the wonderful Angela Lansbury. She has also appeared Off-Broadway in several productions, including *The Art of Success* (Drama Desk nomination), *The Skriker* (Drama Desk nomination), *How I Learned to Drive* and *Vagina Monologues*. Her feature film credits include *Free Willy (1 & 2)*, *The Village* and *Syriana*. On television she was best known for her role as Secretary of State Catherine Durant on the popular Netflix Series *House of Cards*. Other favorites are Karen Hayes in the award-winning series *24* and Erin Strauss on *Criminal Minds*, and most recently she can be seen opposite Tea Leoni as Vice President Teresa Hurst on *Madam Secretary*. Jayne's most recent regional production was *ANN* by Holland Taylor at the Dorset Theatre in collaboration with WAM Theatre, directed by Wam's artistic director Kristen van Ginhoven. She also performed *ANN* at Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, MA. Directing and producing credits include benefit productions of *Motherhood Out Loud* and *Can You Hear Me, Baby?* for WAM Theatre and the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers. She also runs Jadana Productions, which specializes in entertainment development. She is married to actor Michel Gill. Together they have one son.

For full company biographies, please visit <https://www.arenastage.org/Ann>

**Post-Show Conversations**

Connect with our shows beyond the performance at a post-show conversation with artists and staff- July 25<sup>th</sup> following the 8:00 p.m. performance and August 6 following the 7:30 p.m. performance.

**PRODUCTION INFORMATION**

***Ann***

**Written by Holland Taylor**

**Directed by Kristen van Ginhoven**

**In association with Dallas Theater Center**

**In the Kreeger Theater | July 11 – August 11, 2019**

**ABOUT:** Punchline-packed speeches reveal the feisty and unadulterated life of legendary Texas governor, Ann Richards. Written by Emmy Award-winning actress and writer, Holland Taylor (*The Practice, Two and a Half Men*), *Ann* is a comical and inspiring production based on the colorful and complex woman whose sense of humor was bigger than the state from which she represented. Jayne Atkinson (*House of Cards, Criminal Minds*) reprises her well-received performance in this intimate no-holds-barred comedy chronicling Richards' legacy and how she was determined to make her mark on the world. "Frank, funny and warm" (*New York Times*), *Ann* is a captivating tribute to Richards life as an activist, politician, and feminist champion.

**CAST:**

Ann Richards: Jayne Atkinson

**CREATIVE TEAM:**

Playwright: Holland Taylor

Director: Kristen van Ginhoven

Set Designer: Juliana von Haubrich

Costume Designer: Jess Goldstein

Lighting Designer: Andi Lyons

Sound Designer: M.L. Dogg

Wig Designer: Paul Huntley

**PLAN YOUR VISIT**

**TICKETS:** Tickets for *Ann* go on sale April 16 and are \$41-95, subject to change and based on availability, plus applicable fees. For information on savings programs such as pay-your-age tickets, student discounts, Southwest Nights and hero's discounts, visit <https://www.arenastage.org/tickets/savings-programs/>.

**Tickets may be purchased online at [arenastage.org](http://arenastage.org), by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth Street, SW, D.C.**

Sales Office/Subscriptions: 202-488-3300

Group Sales Hotline for 10+ Tickets: 202-488-4380

TTY for deaf patrons: 202-484-0247

Info for patrons with disabilities: 202-488-3300

**PERFORMANCE DATES:**

Sunday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday August 11

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**Open-captioned performance:** July 19 at 8:00 p.m. and August 7 at 7:30 p.m.

**Closed Captioning:** GalaPro begins Friday, July 19

**Audio-described performance:** August 10 at 2:00 p.m.

**Full Calendar:** <https://www.arenastage.org/tickets/calendar/>

**ARENA STAGE CAFÉ:** Prix fixe meals are available at Richard's Place, Arena Stage's casual dining café, and include a choice of soup or salad, main entrée and dessert. Pre-ordered meals are only \$22 (\$25 if purchased that day). To pre-order and see the menu, call 202-488-3300 or visit <https://www.arenastage.org/plan-your-visit/richards-place-cafe/prix-fixe/>. The café opens two hours before the show, and reservations are recommended. To pre-order refreshments, visit <https://www.arenastage.org/plan-your-visit/richards-place-cafe/concessions/>.

**METRO:** Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is only one block from the Waterfront-SEU Metro station (Green Line). When exiting the station, walk west on M Street toward Sixth Street, and the main entrance to the Mead Center is on the right.

**PARKING:** Parking is available in Arena Stage's on-site garage. Subscribers may purchase parking in advance for \$17. Single ticket buyers may purchase parking in advance for \$20 or on the day of the performance for \$24 on a first-come, first-served basis. Limited handicapped parking is available by reservation. Advanced parking must be reserved by calling 202-488-3300. The entrance to the Mead Center garage is on Maine Avenue between Sixth and Seventh streets, and the garage closes one hour after the day's last performance ends. Patrons can also park at the Public Parking Garage at 1101 Fourth Street, one block from the Mead Center, for \$15.

**VALET PARKING:** Arena Stage offers valet service at no additional cost to patrons with accessibility needs who call 202-488-3300 in advance to request valet parking. On days when valet parking is being used for accessibility, it is also available to general patrons one hour prior to show time for \$25, based on availability. To use valet parking, pull up to the main entrance on Sixth Street.

For complete 2019/20 Season details, visit: <https://www.arenastage.org/tickets/subscriptions/>.

*Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. Arena Stage produces plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays and impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000.*

[arenastage.org](https://www.arenastage.org)

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