## LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES SECOND EXTENSION FOR WORLD-PREMIERE MUSICAL *DIANA*

La Jolla, CA – Due to popular demand, La Jolla Playhouse announces a second **week-long extension** for its world premiere musical *Diana*, from the Tony Award-winning *Memphis* creative team of **Joe DiPietro** (librettist/lyricist), **David Bryan** (composer/lyricist) and Playhouse Artistic Director **Christopher Ashley** (director), along with Tony Award nominee **Kelly Devine** (choreographer) and **Ian Eisendrath** (music supervisor).

Diana will now run **February 19 – April 14, 2019** in the Playhouse's Mandell Weiss Theatre. Tickets for the extension week go on sale Thursday, February 21 and are available online at **LaJollaPlayhouse.org** or by calling **(858) 550-1010**.

"Performances have only just begun, but the enthusiasm around *Diana* has been overwhelming. The additional week allows us to offer even more patrons the opportunity to experience this brand new musical about one of the most fascinating women of our time," said **Playhouse Artistic Director Christopher Ashley**.

## About Diana

In 1981, an assistant kindergarten teacher married the Prince of Wales and, overnight, became the most famous woman in the world. But behind the fairytale, there was a troubled marriage and a young woman struggling to find her voice. Facing an entrenched monarchy and unprecedented media scrutiny, Princess Diana surprises everyone – including herself – as she grows into a global phenomenon and manages to change the world. Playhouse Artistic Director Christopher Ashley and the writers behind the Tony Award-winning musical *Memphis* create this highly-anticipated musical, featuring an epic and sweeping contemporary score.

As previously announced, Jeanna de Waal (Broadway's Kinky Boots, American Idiot) will portray the role of "Diana." Joining her will be Erin Davie (Playhouse/Broadway's Side Show) as "Camilla Parker Bowles," Roe Hartrampf (Off-Broadway's Bad Guys) as "Prince Charles" and Tony Award winner Judy Kaye (Broadway's The Phantom of the Opera) as "Queen Elizabeth," along with ensemble members Holly Ann Butler, Taylor Coleman, Eric Coles, Bruce Dow, Evan Duff, Madison Noelle Hall, Shaye Hopkins, Nicole Javier, Justin Keats, Gareth Keegan, Nathan Lucrezio, Tomas Matos, Allyn Moriyon, Lauren Livia Muehl, Jamen Nanthakumar, Enrico Nassi, Katheryne Penny, Lindsay Roberts, Tara Shoemaker and Bethany Ann Tesark.

The creative team features Tony Award winner **David Zinn** (Broadway's *SpongeBob SquarePants*, Playhouse's *A Dram of Drummhicit*, *Peer Gynt*), Scenic Designer; Tony Award winner **William Ivey Long** (Broadway's *Cinderella*, *Grey Gardens*; Playhouse's *Herringbone*), Costume Designer; Tony Award winner **Natasha Katz** (Broadway's *An American in Paris*, *Frozen*), Lighting Designer; Tony Award nominee **Gareth Owen** (Playhouse/Broadway's *Come From Away*), Sound Designer; **John Clancy**, Orchestrations; **Telsey + Company – Rachel Hoffman**, **CSA**, Casting; **Gabriel Greene**, Dramaturg; and **Martha Donaldson**, Stage Manager.

La Jolla Playhouse is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Currently led by 2017 Tony Award-winning Artistic Director Christopher Ashley and Managing Director Debby Buchholz, the Playhouse was founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer. Renowned for its development of new plays and musicals, the Playhouse has mounted 98 world premieres, commissioned 52 new works, and sent 32 productions to Broadway – among them the currently-running hit musical *Come From Away* – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, plus the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

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