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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE CHICAGO PREMIERE OF *OTHER DESERT CITIES*, JON ROBIN BAITZ'S BROADWAY SMASH, STARTS JANUARY 12; TONY AWARD WINNER DEANNA DUNAGAN AND *MAD MEN*'S CHELCIE ROSS LEAD ALL-CHICAGO CAST

*****MEET-THE-ARTISTS EVENTS INCLUDE THEATER THURSDAY (JAN. 17), ARTIST ENCOUNTER (JAN. 20) AND "COCKTAILS AND CACTI" (JAN. 31), AN EVENT HOSTED BY GOODMAN THEATRE'S SCENEMAKERS*****

(Chicago, IL) Right-wing parents and left-leaning offspring take center stage in Jon Robin Baitz's political potboiler, *Other Desert Cities*—a Pulitzer Prize finalist and Tony Award-nominated "best new play on Broadway" (*New York Times*), "funny, maddening and moving" (*USA Today*). For the Chicago premiere, newly appointed Goodman Artistic Associate Henry Wishcamper tapped an all-Chicago cast, including: **Tracy Michelle Arnold** (*Private Lives* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater) as daughter Brooke Wyeth; Tony Award-winner **Deanna Dunagan** (*August: Osage County* at Steppenwolf Theatre Company and Broadway, *Bounce*) as matriarch Polly Wyeth; **John Hoogenakker** (*The Iceman Cometh, The Good Negro* at Goodman Theatre) as Trip Wyeth; **Linda Kimbrough** (Goodman Theatre's *The Play About the Baby*) as Silda Grauman; and **Chelcie Ross** (AMC's *Mad Men*) as patriarch Lyman Wyeth. *Other Desert Cities* runs January 12 – February 17; Opening Night is January 22. Tickets ($25 - $86; subject to change) can be purchased at GoodmanTheatre.org, by phone at 312.443.3800 or at the box office (170 North Dearborn). Northern Trust is the Major Corporate Sponsor and Mayer Brown LLP is the Corporate Sponsor Partner.

"As soon as Robbie [Baitz] suggested that the Goodman be among the first theaters in the country to produce *Other Desert Cities* following its New York run, I jumped at the chance," said Goodman Artistic Director Robert Falls, who directed Baitz's play *Three Hotels* at Williamstown Theatre Festival in 2011. "I knew immediately that Henry Wishcamper (Horton Foote's *Talking Pictures* and the Marx Brothers musical *Animal Crackers*) would bring exactly the right mix of humor and drama to this production, and put together a powerhouse cast to bring these characters to life."

The creative team for *Other Desert Cities* includes **Thomas Lynch** (Set Designer), **David Lander** (Lighting Designer), **Richard Woodbury** (Sound Designer), **Kaye Voyce** (Costume Designer) and **Joseph Pindelski** (Dramaturg). **Joseph Drummond** is the production stage manager.

Bio information about the artists and images for *Other Desert Cities* can be found in the Press Room.

SPECIAL AUDIENCE EVENTS FOR *OTHER DESERT CITIES* *(all events at Goodman Theatre)*

Theater Thursday – A pre-show discussion with director Henry Wishcamper including light hors d'oeuvres and wine
January 17, 6pm reception, 7:30pm performance | $39 includes both reception and performance
Enter promo code THURSDAY to purchase tickets online or call 312.443.3800 and mention "Theater Thursday"
For more information, visit GoodmanTheatre.org/TheaterThursday

Artist Encounter – A conversation with director Henry Wishcamper
January 20, 5-6pm discussion | $5; free for Subscribers, students with ID and Goodman Donors
Call 312.443.3800

Cocktails and Cacti – An exclusive opportunity to meet director Henry Wishcamper and mingle with the cast
Presented by the Goodman Theatre Scenemakers, a diverse group of young professionals aged 21-45 who support the Goodman's mission through fundraising, audience development and advocacy.
January 31, 6pm reception in rehearsal space, 7:30pm performance, ~10pm post-show cast reception | $60
Use promo code CACTI to purchase tickets online or call 312.443.3800 and mention "Cocktails and Cacti"
For more information, visit GoodmamTheatre.org/Cacti

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Jon Robin Baitz's "Funny, Maddening and Moving" (*USA Today*) *Other Desert Cities* makes its Chicago Premiere
Henry Wishcamper Directs Tony Award Winner Deanna Dunagan, *Mad Men's* Chelcie Ross and an All-Chicago cast
January 12 – February 17, 2013 at Goodman Theatre

ABOUT *OTHER DESERT CITIES*

It's Christmas Eve, 2004, at the Palm Springs mansion of Lyman (Chelcie Ross) and Polly Wyeth (Deanna Dunagan)—a notably conservative California couple. Home for the holidays are their son Trip (John Hoogenakker), a laid-back Hollywood producer; daughter Brooke (Tracy Michelle Arnold), a liberal writer with a history of depression who has brought along the manuscript of her soon-to-be-published book; and Polly's sister Silda (Linda Kimbrough), a liberal former screenwriter recently released from rehab. As the family discovers that the book's contents threaten to expose a long-buried family secret, a full-on battle between Brooke and her parents erupts.

Other Desert Cities won the Outer Critics Circle Award, and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award. Its 2011 Broadway debut earned unanimous critical praise: a "boldly conventional yet altogether gripping work" (*Newsday*); "a full-bodied, emotionally alive play" (*The Hollywood Reporter*); "nothing short of dazzling" (*New York Magazine*); "great from start to finish" (*Associated Press*); and as having "the appeal of a Broadway hit from another age" (*The New York Times*).

Jon Robin Baitz's plays include *The Film Society*, *The Substance of Fire*, *The End of the Day*, *Three Hotels*, *A Fair Country* (Pulitzer Prize finalist 1996), *Mizlansky/Zilinsky*, *Ten Unknowns* and *The Paris Letter*, as well as a version of *Hedda Gabler* that appeared on Broadway in 2001. He is the creator of *Brothers & Sisters*, a television series that ran for five seasons on ABC until 2011. Other television work includes PBS's version of *Three Hotels*, for which he won the Humanitas Prize, and episodes of *The West Wing* and *Alias*. He is the author of two screenplays: the film script for *The Substance of Fire* (1996) and *People I Know* (2002). Baitz is a founding member of Naked Angels theater company, and on the faculties of the MFA programs at The New School for Drama and Stony Brook Southampton.

OTHER DESERT CITIES BY JON ROBIN BAITZ DIRECTED BY HENRY WISHCAMPER

In the Albert
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1/12 8:00pm
1/13 2:00pm 7:30pm	1/14	1/15	1/16 7:30pm	1/17 7:30pm	1/18 8:00pm	1/19 8:00pm
1/20 2:00pm 7:30pm	1/21	1/22	1/23 7:30pm	1/24 2:00pm 7:30pm	1/25 8:00pm	1/26 8:00pm
1/27 2:00pm 7:30pm	1/28	1/29	1/30 7:30pm	1/31 2:00pm 7:30pm	2/1 8:00pm	2/2 2:00pm 8:00pm
2/3 2:00pm 7:30pm	2/4	2/5 7:30pm	2/6 7:30pm	2/7 2:00pm 7:30pm	2/8 8:00pm	2/9 2:00pm 8:00pm
2/10 2:00pm	2/11	2/12 7:30pm	2/13 7:30pm	2/14 7:30pm	2/15 8:00pm	2/16 2:00pm 8:00pm
2/17 2:00pm 7:30pm						

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About Goodman Theatre

The Goodman's 2012/2013 Season features 11 productions on its two stages—six in the 856-seat Albert Theatre and three in the 400-seat flexible Owen Theatre, plus a Latino Theatre Festival that includes two additional productions. Still to come in the 2012/2013 Season is ***Teddy Ferrara*** by Christopher Shinn, directed by Evan Cabnet (February 2 – March 3, 2013 in the Owen); a **Latino Theatre Festival** in the Owen, including Cuba's Teatro Buendía's production of ***Pedro Páramo*** by Raquel Carrió, co-directed by Flora Lautén and Henry Godinez and produced in association with the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (March 22 – March 31), ***The Happiest Song Plays Last*** by Quiara Alegría Hudes, directed by Edward Torres (April 13 – May 12, 2013) and Albany Park Theater Project's production of ***Home/Land***, written collectively by the Albany Park Theater Project teen ensemble and directed collectively by the Albany Park Theater Project artistic staff (June 20 – June 30, 2013); ***By the Way, Meet Vera Stark*** by Lynn Nottage, directed Chuck Smith (April 27 – June 2, 2013 in the Albert); and ***The Jungle Book***, a new musical based on the Disney animated film and the stories of Rudyard Kipling, adapted and directed by Mary Zimmerman (June 21 - July 28, 2013 in the Albert).

Goodman Theatre, "the leading regional theater in the nation's most important theater city" (*Time*), is a major cultural, educational and economic pillar in Chicago, generating nearly $250 million in economic impact over the past decade in its state-of-the-art two-theater complex on North Dearborn Street. Founded in 1925 and currently under the leadership of Artistic Director Robert Falls, "Chicago's most essential director" (*Chicago Tribune*), and Executive Director Roche Schulfer, Chicago's oldest and largest not-for-profit resident theater has welcomed nearly two million patrons to productions and events—including 10 festivals celebrating playwrights such as David Mamet, August Wilson and Horton Foote, as well as the biennial Latino Theatre Festival—and served legions of students through its Education and Community Engagement programs (including the FREE Student Subscription Series and other interactive programs). The Goodman has earned more than 90 awards for hundreds of productions, including the Pulitzer Prize for *Ruined* by Lynn Nottage—one of 25 new work Goodman commissions in the last decade. American Airlines is the Exclusive Airline of Goodman Theatre. Ruth Ann M. Gillis is Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Sherry John is President of Women's Board and Lauren Blair is President of the Scenemakers Board, the Goodman's young professionals auxiliary group.

Visit the Goodman virtually: watch artist interviews, view production photos, catch the latest news and more at GoodmanTheatre.org. Like us on Facebook.com/GoodmanTheatre; follow us at Twitter.com/GoodmanTheatre; and peek behind the scenes at YouTube.com/TheGoodmanTheatre.

— 30 —