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A “veritable dream team” of actors takes the stage in the NYC premiere of Michael Tucker’s *FERN HILL* at 59E59 Theaters

New York, New York August 5, 2019—**59E59 Theaters** (Val Day, Artistic Director; Brian Beirne, Managing Director) is thrilled to present the NYC premiere of *FERN HILL*, written by **Michael Tucker** and directed by **Nadia Tass**. Produced by **Mary J. Davis** and **MBL Productions, Inc.**, *FERN HILL* begins performances on **Tuesday, September 10** for a limited engagement through **Sunday, October 20**. **Press Opening is Thursday, September 19 at 7 PM**. The performance schedule is **Tuesday – Friday at 7 PM; Saturday at 2 PM & 7 PM; and Sunday at 2 PM**. Performances are at **59E59 Theaters** (59 East 59th Street, between Park and Madison). Single tickets are **\$25 - \$70** (\$49 for 59E59 Members). To purchase tickets, call the **59E59 Box Office** at **646-892-7999** or visit www.59e59.org. The running time is 120 minutes, including intermission.

Three couples in their golden years, thick as thieves, are gathered at Sunny and Jer’s farmhouse to celebrate milestone birthdays that span three decades. The foundation of their long friendship is honesty and support—as well as a commitment to the enjoyment of food, wine, and laughter. They’re so close that Sunny suggests that they all move in together—to live and work and assist one another as they grow older.

Their companionship is put to the test, however, when a marital betrayal is discovered. The bonds of loyalty and truth are explored in this mature comedy.

FERN HILL was developed at the 2017 Eugene O’Neill Theater Center’s National Playwright’s Conference and received its world premiere at the New Jersey Repertory Company. The play’s frank look at sex and aging had critics hailing the play as “remarkable,” citing the spellbinding chemistry among the “veritable dream team” (BroadwayWorld) of actors as part of its enchantment.

The cast features a noteworthy company of Broadway and NYC stage veterans, including **Mark Linn-Baker, Mark Blum, Jill Eikenberry, John Glover, Jodi Long,** and **Ellen Parker**. **Philip Hoffman** and **Pilar Witherspoon** are the understudies.



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The design team includes **Jessica Parks** (scenic design); **Kate McGee** (lighting design); **Patricia Doherty** (costume design); **Kenneth Goodwin** (sound design); and **Addison Heeren** (prop master). The Production Stage Manager is **Stephanie Clark**.

Michael Tucker (playwright) is an actor, author and playwright. His first play, *The M Spot*, debuted at The New Jersey Repertory Company as did *Fern Hill* last summer. His short plays, *Pittsburgh* and *Zazú* have been presented as part of The West End Festival of the Arts. He has written three memoirs and a novel, *After Annie*. He has acted over the last fifty years in theater, TV and film, most notably in the TV Series, *L.A. Law*.

Nadia Tass (director), recipient of a Screen Leader Award for Outstanding Leadership, Achievement and Services to the Screen Industry, is one of Australia's most iconoclastic directors of both stage and screen. She is well-known internationally for directing films, including the Australian classics *Malcolm and the Big Steal*, *Amy*, and *Matching Jack*. She has garnered 69 awards for her body of work. Nadia has directed films and high-end television for the BBC and in the US for Universal Studios, Disney, Warner Bros, CBS, including the ratings hit *The Miracle Worker* for ABC, and three *American Girl* movies. She was honored by the American Cinematheque in Los Angeles with a retrospective of her work. Nadia's experience as theater director is extensive and diverse, ranging from improvisation, classic and contemporary plays, and musicals. In 2018 she directed *Sex and Other Disturbances* for Portland Stage (Maine) and *Sorting Out Rachel* for Ensemble Theatre (Sydney). Amongst her extensive work in theater, she has directed the Australian premieres of the American plays *Disgraced* by Ayad Akhtar and *The Other Place* by Sharr White for Melbourne Theatre Company; Annie Baker plays *The Flick*, *The Aliens*, and an adaptation of Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* for Red Stitch Theatre. She also directed commercial musicals *Promises, Promises* and *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, which toured Australia, New Zealand, and Asia. ###