



LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE'S ANNUAL GALA TO TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 24, CO-CHAired BY LYNELLE LYNCH AND RANDY CAMP

*EVENT TO FEATURE ELECTRIFYING PERFORMANCE BY TONY AWARD WINNER IDINA MENZEL,
AND CELEBRATE THE PLAYHOUSE'S 40TH SEASON ON THE UC SAN DIEGO CAMPUS*

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse's annual Gala will take place on **Sunday, March 24**, co-chaired by longtime Playhouse supporters and Trustees **Lynelle Lynch** and **Randy Camp**. Proceeds from the Gala support the Playhouse's innovative New Play Development and Learning & Engagement programs.

This stunning event will celebrate the La Jolla Playhouse's 40th season on the UC San Diego campus. The Gala will begin with a cocktail reception at 5:00pm outdoors in the Joan & Irwin Jacobs Theatre District. Guests will then move inside the Mandell Weiss Theatre for an intimate dinner on the Weiss stage, crafted by **Urban Kitchen Catering**.

The Gala will continue with a captivating performance by Broadway legend **Idina Menzel**, Tony Award-winning star of *Wicked*, *Rent*, as well as the Playhouse's upcoming world-premiere musical **Redwood**, running February 13 – March 31.

Throughout the evening, guests will be treated to testimonial videos from beloved Playhouse artists sharing their favorite memories, as well as their passion for creating the new and the next at La Jolla Playhouse. The Gala will also feature special WOW moments highlighting the Playhouse's Without Walls series of boundary-breaking work – all exemplifying the Playhouse's mission and tireless commitment to new work over the last four decades.

In addition to Co-Chairs Lynelle Lynch and Randy Camp, the **Gala Committee** includes Jan Arnold, Denise Bevers, Randall Clark, Annie Ellis, Kay Gurtin, Dwight Hare, Debby Jacobs, Michael Kossman, Veronica Leff and Lise Wilson. Corporate support for the Gala is provided by Bank of America Private Bank, CIBC Private Wealth Management, Pathfinder Partners, PNC Bank, Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek, Show Imaging and UC San Diego.

For more information about tickets and sponsorship opportunities for the Playhouse Gala, please contact gala@ljp.org.

-- more --

Idina Menzel is a powerhouse multi-hyphenate: a singer, an actress in film and TV, a songwriter, a Broadway star, and a philanthropist. She rose to fame for her role as Maureen in the popular Broadway musical *Rent*, and her career took off when she won a Tony Award for her role as Elphaba in the smash musical *Wicked*. Her voice can be heard as Elsa in Disney's Oscar® winning *Frozen*, the second highest grossing animated film of all time. The film's song "Let It Go", voiced by Menzel, became an instant international phenomenon, winning the Oscar® for Best Original Song – where Menzel performed it at the ceremony – and the Grammy® Award for Best Song Written for Visual Media. She reprised her role as Elsa in Disney's *Frozen 2*, which broke records to become the highest grossing animated movie of all time. She joined Adam Sandler in the Safdie Brothers' Film Independent Spirit Award-winning A24 film *Uncut Gems*. Menzel can currently be seen in the Disney+ documentary *Idina Menzel, Which Way to the Stage?*, Disney's *Enchanted* sequel, *Enchanted 2: Disenchanted*, alongside Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey, and Susan Sarandon; as well as Amazon Studios' *Cinderella*, for which she wrote and sang the song "Dream Girl." Menzel's prolific recording career includes multiple cast albums and the solo albums: *Still I Can't Be Still*, *Here, I Stand*, *idina.*, and her latest album, *Christmas: A Season of Love*. Her first Christmas album, *Holiday Wishes*, debuted at #1 on Billboard's Holiday Albums chart. Menzel received the Breakthrough Artist of the Year Award at Billboard's annual Women in Music event in 2014 and performed the National Anthem at Super Bowl XLIX. Additional screen credits include Lifetime's remake of *Beaches*, Disney's *Enchanted*, Maureen in Chris Columbus' film version of *Rent*, as well as the recurring role of Shelby Corcoran on Fox's *Glee*. Menzel was previously seen on stage in *If/Then*, for which she earned her third Tony Award nomination, Broadway's *Aida* and the Encores! production of *Hair*. Menzel also premiered *Wicked* in the West End, receiving the Theatregoers Choice Award. She and her sister Cara Mentzel recently released a children's picture book, "Loud Mouse," which centers on self-acceptance and being true to yourself. Menzel co-founded the A BroaderWay Foundation in 2010, dedicated to offering girls from underserved communities an outlet for self-expression and creativity through arts-centered programs.

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. Led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz, the Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 120 world premieres, commissioning 70 new works, and sending 36 productions to Broadway, garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

###