

PRESS CONTACTS:

Press@TheWallis.org

Libby Huebner, 562.799.6055

Laura Stegman, 310.470.6321

**WALLIS ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
CELEBRATES FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
AND KICKS OFF 2018/2019 SEASON
WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT JUST CONCLUDED 2017/2018 SEASON
WAS THE HIGHLY REGARDED BEVERLY HILLS VENUE'S
MOST SUCCESSFUL TO DATE**

**2017/2018 Season Included Record-Breaking Engagement,
Extensions and Added Performances, Critically Acclaimed Productions,
Sold-Out Annual Benefit Benefitting Education/Outreach and More**

(Beverly Hills, CA November 8) The **Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts** celebrates its fifth anniversary and kicks off its 2018/2019 season with an announcement that its 2017/2018 Season, which concluded August 31, was the highly regarded Beverly Hills venue's most successful to date.

"The Wallis has seen healthy incremental growth in programming and patron attendance since our inaugural 2013/2014 Season," says Michael A. Nemeroff, Chairman of the Board. "Over the last three seasons under the leadership of Rachel Fine, Executive Director/CEO, and Artistic Director, Paul Crewes, ticket revenues and audience attendance have increased on average 19%. In our 2017/2018 Season alone, total gross-ticket revenues were up 9%."

"Our 2017/2018 Season was a tremendous artistic and fiscal success," adds Fine. "We attracted new audiences with Paul Crewes' exceptionally diverse, dynamic and outstanding programming, forged meaningful and important new artistic and community partnerships and expanded The Wallis' vital arts learning programs to further our reach into the community, all of which significantly increased The Wallis' general profile and fiscal position. Additionally, our sold-out, star-studded "A Tale of Two Sisters" annual benefit, honoring Debbie Allen and Phylicia Rashad in support of The Wallis' education programs, exceeded all expectations. In addition, The Wallis served as the esteemed venue for several high profile events including the Emmy Award Performers Nominee Reception, the SAG-AFTRA Foundation's Patron of the Artists Awards and the Los Angeles debut of *Vanity Fair's* New Establishment Summit, providing a unique platform for us to reach a truly global audience and enhance our reputation as one of Southern California's most prominent arts venues. We are deeply grateful to our patrons and donors for supporting our mission. We also recognize The Wallis' hardworking board and staff for helping foster our early growth and success."

Among Crewes' 2017/2018 Season's most noteworthy successes were the record-breaking, multi-week engagement of Hershey Felder: *BEETHOV*; extensions and added performances for *Beethoven*, *Blues in the Night*, *Jackie Unveiled*, *Turn Me Loose*, Patti LuPone, Chita Rivera, For The Record's *Love Actually* and *Tarantino*, and LA Opera/Crossing in Concert; and an acclaimed presentation of *Long Day's Journey Into*

Night, the Bristol Old Vic production starring Academy Award-winner Jeremy Irons and Oscar nominee Lesley Manville.

"With *Long Day's Journey Into Night* as the centerpiece of our season, we showcased an incredible range of critically acclaimed dance, music, theater and family programming," says Crewes, "as we partnered with local superstar Sheldon Epps for *Blues in the Night*, and presented co-productions with our friends at For the Record and LA Opera as well as many other local, national and international arts organizations. In addition, The Wallis continues to be equally committed to making the arts accessible to all with a range of free and education programs, which continue to attract large and enthusiastic audiences as well as students of all ages and backgrounds."

Another 2017/2018 Season highlight was the launch of The Wallis' Center Stage panels in partnership and advocacy with *Los Angeles Magazine*, which presented two sold-out events, "Women & the Arts in L.A.," and "Mapping the Ecology of Dance in L.A.," both featuring topical discussions with leaders in LA's arts community.

During the 2017-18 season The Wallis continued to expand access to the arts and increase support for young artists through GRoW @ The Wallis, the umbrella for a robust mix of education and outreach activities and programs. The Wallis presented 15 student matinees; provided master classes, offered classroom support and coaching in select school partners; provided free Wallis performance tickets for constituents of a variety of nonprofit groups; invested in young artists by providing creative opportunities not otherwise available in the greater Los Angeles area; collaborated with CRE Outreach to present *Moving On*, an original theater piece by military veterans; and partnered with a range of other nonprofits in a variety of programs. "We are proud to share our spaces to tell the stories elevate the voices of those often left out of such arts experiences," said Wallis Director of Education, Mark Slavkin.

The Wallis' 2018/2019 season of groundbreaking produced and presented works in dance, music and theater from locally, nationally and internationally renowned artists and companies, which began September 21, 2018, marks the third year of programming under the leadership of Fine and Crewes and the sixth for the institution.

About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:

Since opening its doors in October 2013, The Wallis has produced or presented more than 250 dance, theatre, opera, classical music, cinema and family programs to an ever-expanding audience. Located in the heart of Beverly Hills, California, The Wallis brings audiences world-class theater, dance and music, performed by many of the world's most talented and sought-after artists. Featuring eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its notability as the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis offers original and revered works from across the U.S. and around the globe. The mission of The Wallis is to create, present and celebrate unique performing arts events and educational programs that reflect the rich cultural diversity of our community. Nominated for 46 Ovation Awards, seven L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards and the recipient of six architectural awards since opening in 2013. The Wallis is a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot venue that celebrates the classic and the modern and was designed by Zoltan E. Pali, FAIA, of Studio Pali Fekete architects. The building features the restored, original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places) that serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and houses the 150-seat Lovelace Studio

Theater, GRoW at The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education (a gift of Gregory Annenberg Weingarten and Family and the Annenberg Foundation) and the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the art Bram Goldsmith Theater. Together, these structures embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. For more information about The Wallis, please visit: TheWallis.org.

TICKET INFORMATION:

Visit TheWallis.org, call 310.746.4000, or stop by in person at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services Office located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: TheWallis.org.

For downloadable photos, please visit TheWallis.org/Press.

[Like The Wallis on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter and Instagram.](#)