

19/20 SEASON

Wallis Annenberg
Center for the
Performing Arts

Press Release

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**Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts & Hayloft Productions
A Staged Reading of**

CHOICE

by Playwright Winnie Holzman (*Wicked*, "My So-Called Life")

Starring Allison Janney, Tony Shalhoub, Bess Armstrong

Paul Dooley, Madeline Wise and Raviv Ullman

Saturday, February 29, 2020, 7:30 PM

(Beverly Hills, CA, January 30, 2019) A staged reading of ***CHOICE*** written and directed by Tony Award nominee and Drama Desk Award-winner Winnie Holzman (*Wicked*, "My So-Called Life"), starring Allison Janney (*I, Tonya*, "Mom"), Tony Shalhoub ("The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," "Monk"), Bess Armstrong (*The Four Seasons*, *High Road to China*), Paul Dooley (*Sixteen Candles*, "Curb Your Enthusiasm"), Madeline Wise (HBO's "Crashing") and Raviv Ullman ("Phil of the Future," "Rita Rocks") will be performed at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, February 29, 2020, at 7:30 pm in The Wallis' Bram Goldsmith Theater, in collaboration with Hayloft Productions. ***CHOICE***, which explores a woman's right to choose in decidedly unexpected ways, is the timely and topical story of what happens when a respected journalist finds herself at the epicenter of a controversial social phenomenon. As she re-examines her past and discovers a new way of looking at the future, her family, her closest friendship and her entire belief system will never be the same. It is Holzman's first work for the stage since her collaboration with Stephen Schwartz for the smash hit musical *Wicked*, for which she wrote the book. An earlier version of *Choice* was performed in 2015 by Boston's Huntington Theatre Company. A portion of the proceeds from the staged reading will benefit the Center for Reproductive Rights.

“CHOICE is a passion project, and it’s unlike anything I’ve ever written,” says playwright Winnie Holzman, “I’m truly thrilled to have this opportunity to present a play that means so much to me at The Wallis.”

“As a part of our commitment to develop and produce new work, we are very excited and honored to provide a platform for Winnie’s important and timely story,” stated The Wallis’ Artistic Director Paul Crewes.

Tickets, \$25 & \$35, are on sale now (prices subject to change). The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at [9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills](#). To purchase tickets and for more information, please call 310-746-4000 or visit [TheWallis.org/Choice](#).

About the Artists:

Winnie Holzman (Playwright/Director) is the writer (with composer/lyricist Stephen Schwartz) of the hit musical *Wicked*. She got her start writing for the groundbreaking TV drama “thirtysomething,” and went on to create another memorable series – “My So-Called Life” starring Claire Danes. She later executive produced (again with her mentors Marshall Herskovitz and Edward Zwick) the series “Once and Again” and (with her daughter, Savannah Dooley) the ABC Family Series “Huge.” Most recently, she collaborated with Cameron Crowe and J.J. Abrams on the Showtime series “Roadies.” She’s collaborated with her husband Paul Dooley on two plays -- *Post-its: Notes on a Marriage*, and *Assisted Living*. Sometimes recognized as the chocolate-obsessed woman in the beloved movie *Jerry Maguire* and as Larry David’s wife’s therapist on “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” Holzman is a graduate of Princeton University, and holds an MFA from the NYU Musical Theatre Program.

About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:

Since opening its doors in October 2013, The Wallis has produced or presented more than 275 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. The Wallis’ programming has been nominated for 57 Ovation Awards, seven L.A. Drama Critic’s Circle Awards, and the venue is 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](#).
For downloadable photos, please visit: [TheWallis.org/Press](#).
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EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT:

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts & Hayloft Productions

A Staged Reading of

CHOICE

Written & Directed by Winnie Holzman

CAST:

"Zippy" Allison Janney

Erica Bess Armstrong

Mark / The Other Mark Tony Shalhoub

Clark Paul Dooley

Zoe/ Leah or Lena Madeline Wise

Hunter Raviv Ullman

WHEN:

Saturday, February 29, 7:30 pm

RUN TIME:

Running time is approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes, including a 15 minute intermission

WHERE:

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Bram Goldsmith Theater

9390 N. Santa Monica Boulevard

Beverly Hills, CA 90210

TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:

\$25 and \$35 (prices subject to change)

TheWallis.org/Choice

310.746.4000

Box Office – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services

9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA, 90210

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