

**TheWallis**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts  
Presents a Digital Engagement of  
*WIESENTHAL*,  
Critically Acclaimed One-Man Show  
Written and Performed by Tom Dugan and  
Directed for Stage by Jenny Sullivan**

**Provocative Production Is Based on the Life of Simon Wiesenthal,  
the “Jewish James Bond” who Devoted His Life to Bringing  
Nazi War Criminals to Justice after WWII**

**Digital Performances October 20-27, 2020**

**Tickets Now Available**

(Beverly Hills, CA, October 6, 2020) The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents a digital engagement of *WIESENTHAL*, the critically acclaimed Off-Broadway production based on the life of Simon Wiesenthal written by and starring Tom Dugan, available digitally from October 20 through 27, 2020. Directed for stage by Jenny Sullivan, the riveting one-man show, filled with hope, humanity and humor, tells the true story of Wiesenthal, often called the “Jewish James Bond,” a Holocaust survivor who devoted his life to bringing more than 1,100 Nazi war criminals to justice after WW II. The digital presentation is a live performance that was recorded during the run of the show’s New York premiere Off-Broadway at the Acorn Theatre that launched in 2014. Originally broadcast in New York City on the Off-Broadway showcase “Theater Close-Up” in November 2015, *Wiesenthal* is a production of THIRTEEN Productions LLC for WNET, and was directed for television by David Horn and produced by Mitch Owing. The Wallis previously presented the live production of *Wiesenthal* in 2015.

Dugan explains his connection to the material, "My father was a WWII veteran who was awarded The Bronze Battle Star and The Purple Heart. He helped liberate the Buchenwald Concentration Camp in 1945. Although I'm an Irish Catholic, I married a Jewish woman, and now we are raising two beautiful Jewish boys, so Simon Wiesenthal's message of tolerance has a deep resonance for me. Wiesenthal was not only

a Jewish hero, he fought for the rights of all Holocaust victims, including Soviet, Polish, Gypsy, and homosexual victims as well."

"The Wallis first presented *Wiesenthal* early in the play's genesis," says The Wallis' Artistic Director Paul Crewes, "so it's particularly exciting to join forces with Tom Dugan, once again, to digitally offer his compelling and significant production. Whether audiences are seeing this play for the first time or revisiting it, they will be drawn into this captivating performance and Tom's masterful story telling."

Nominated for both New York's Drama Desk Award, and Outer Critics Circle Award, *Wiesenthal* is an uplifting and highly entertaining one-man show that unfolds like a gripping spy thriller, telling the story of famed Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal and how, after cheating death at the hands of Hitler's S.S., spent his life bringing to justice the most notorious war criminals in human history. Among numerous critical accolades, *The New York Times* states *Wiesenthal* is "powerful and insightful," the *New York Post* proclaims, "*Wiesenthal* succeeds with skill and unexpected humor" and *The Huffington Post* calls the play "heartfelt and deeply moving." *Backstage* hails Tom Dugan's performance as "masterful."

The *Wiesenthal* creative team comprises scenic designer Beowulf Boritt, costume designer Alex Jaeger, lighting designer Joel E. Silver and sound designer Shane Rettig.

Tickets are currently on sale for \$50 per household and can be purchased at [www.TheWallis.org/Wiesenthal](http://www.TheWallis.org/Wiesenthal).

#### **About Simon Wiesenthal**

Simon Wiesenthal was born in 1908, in what is now Ukraine. He received his architectural engineering degree in 1932 and was married in 1936 to Cyla Mueller. During World War II, Wiesenthal was imprisoned in five different Nazi concentration camps and by 1942, eighty-nine members of his and his wife's relatives had perished from being sent to these death camps. After Wiesenthal survived World War II, he dedicated his life to Holocaust memory and education and founded the Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna. He worked tirelessly to investigate and locate Nazi criminals for prosecution, including Adolph Eichmann and Franz Stangl, earning him the nickname "Nazi Hunter." Simon Wiesenthal died in 2005 in Vienna, Austria, at the age of 96. Los Angeles' The Simon Wiesenthal Center is named in his honor.

#### **About the Artists**

**Tom Dugan** (Playwright/Actor) was honored with nominations for the New York Drama Desk Award, NY Outer Critics Circle Award, Los Angeles Ovation Award, United Solo Award and winning the LA Drama Critics Circle Award for *Wiesenthal*. Dugan has produced a number of critically acclaimed one-person plays including *The Ghosts of Mary Lincoln*, *Lee at Appomattox*, *Oscar to Oscar*, *Frederick Douglass*, *In the Shadow of Slavery* and the upcoming *Jackie* which will premiere in 2017. On the Los Angeles stage Dugan has appeared at The Colony Theatre, The California Theatre of The Arts, The Ensemble Theatre, Theatre 40, The International City Theatre, and The Rubicon Theatre.

**Jenny Sullivan** (Director) was director of the Geffen Playhouse production of Nora and Delia Ephron's *Love, Loss and What I Wore* and the long-running Los Angeles Canon Theatre production of *The Vagina Monologues*; Her world premiere of Jane Anderson's *The Baby Dance* began at Pasadena Playhouse then moved to Williamstown Theatre Festival, Long Wharf Theatre (CT Critics' Directing Award) and the Lucille Lortel Theatre Off-Broadway. She has directed productions throughout the U.S. and spent six seasons at Williamstown Theatre Festival: (*A Macaroni Requiem*), *Defying Gravity*, *Hotel Oubliette*, *Dirt* and *The Ferry Back*. Film credits: *Access All Areas* and *The Next Best Thing* (in which she had the good fortune to direct her father Barry). Jenny is most proud of the world premiere of her play *J for J* with Jeff Kober and the late great John Ritter.

#### **About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:**

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a dynamic cultural hub and community resource where local, national and international artists share their artistry with ever-expanding audiences. The campus, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, CA, is committed to robust and distinctive presentations and education programs curated with both creativity and social impact in mind. Distinguished by its eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its location in the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis has produced and presented more than 275 dance, theater, opera, classical music, cinema and family programs since its doors opened

in October 2013. Hailed as “au courant” (*LaLa Magazine*), The Wallis was lauded by *Culture Vulture*, which proclaims, “If you love expecting the unexpected in the performing arts, you have to love The Wallis.” Its programming has been nominated for 57 Ovation Awards and seven L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards. The campus itself, a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot facility, celebrating the classic and the modern, has garnered six architectural awards. Designed by acclaimed architect Zoltan E. Pali (SPF:architects), the restored building features the original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places), which serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and includes the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater; the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater; an inviting open-air plaza for family, community and other performances; and GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education, where learning opportunities for all ages and backgrounds abound. Together, these elements embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is led by Chairman of the Board Michael Nemeroff, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer Rachel Fine and Artistic Director Paul Crewes.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: [TheWallis.org](http://TheWallis.org).  
For downloadable photos, please visit: [TheWallis.org/Press](http://TheWallis.org/Press).  
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**EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

**WHAT:**

The Wallis Presents

**WIESENTHAL**

Written by and Starring Tom Dugan

Directed for the Stage by Jenny Sullivan

**CAST:**

**Simon Wiesenthal** Tom Dugan

**CREDITS:**

**Scenic Designer** Beowulf Boritt

**Costume Designer** Alex Jaeger

**Lighting Designer** Joel E. Silver

**Sound Designer** Shane Rettig

**DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT DATES:**

Tuesday, October 20 – Tuesday, October 28

Ticketholders can stream digital program for a 24-hour period beginning at 10 am on date selected

**TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:**

**\$50 per household**

[www.TheWallis.org/Wiesenthal](http://www.TheWallis.org/Wiesenthal)

310.746.4000 (Tue. – Fri. 9:30 am – 2:30 pm)

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