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## **TONY & DRAMA DESK AWARD-NOMINEE JOHANNA DAY JOINS EMMY AWARD-WINNER ED ASNER IN THE SOAP MYTH**

*A Tribute to International Holocaust Remembrance Day Comes to Parker Playhouse on January 24*

*"Thought-provoking and genuinely moving.  
A pointed investigation of the politics of history"*  
-The New York Times

*"Theater-of-witness at its best!"*  
-The Jewish Voice

*"'The Soap Myth' is extraordinary"*  
-The Villager

**FORT LAUDERDALE** –Producers of the upcoming east coast concert reading tour of **Jeff Cohen's** acclaimed play **The Soap Myth** announced that Tony & Drama Desk Award-nominee **Johanna Day** (Sweat) will play the dual roles of holocaust scholar Esther Feinman and holocaust denier Brenda Goodsen. Ms. Day will replace Emmy & Tony-nominee Kate Burton, who is no longer able to participate in the tour due to scheduling conflict which could not be resolved.

A tribute to International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the play comes to Parker Playhouse on Wednesday, January 24 at 8 p.m.

A two-time Tony nominee for her work in the Pulitzer Prize-winning plays *Sweat* and *Proof*, Ms. Day joins the previously announced cast that includes seven-time Emmy Award winner **Ed Asner**, **Ned Eisenberg** and **Blair Baker**. The concert readings will be directed by **Pam Berlin**.

**Mr. Asner**, who is beloved for the character of Lou Grant and the 2009 feature film *UP*, will perform the role of Holocaust survivor Milton Saltzman. **The Soap Myth** takes place more than a half century after the end of WWII when a young journalist sets out to write an article about a cantankerous Holocaust survivor and his crusade regarding the Nazi atrocity of soap. The play dramatically explores how a person survives and questions who has the right to write history - those who have lived it and remember, those who study and protect it, or those who would seek to distort and desecrate its very existence.

**The Soap Myth** was originally produced Off-Broadway at the Roundabout Theater in 2012 by the National Jewish Theater Foundation. A film of that production was broadcast nationally on PBS and is in the permanent collection of Britain's Digital Theatre.

Tickets to the performance at Parker Playhouse are \$33-\$63 and go on sale Thursday, November 30. Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of Parker Playhouse. Buy tickets online at

All dates, times, programs, artists and ticket prices are subject to change without notice.

[ParkerPlayhouse.com](http://ParkerPlayhouse.com) and [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com); by phone at 954.462.0222; in person at the Parker Playhouse box office Tuesday through Saturday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and at the Broward Center's AutoNation Box Office.

The Parker Playhouse, located in Holiday Park at 707 N.E. Eighth Street in Fort Lauderdale, is an affiliated venue of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, which provides programming and management of the facility. The Broward Center 2017-2018 season is presented by the Broward Performing Arts Foundation.

For more information visit [ParkerPlayhouse.com](http://ParkerPlayhouse.com), like us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/TheParkerPlayhouse](https://www.facebook.com/TheParkerPlayhouse) and join the conversation on Twitter with [#ParkerPlayhouse](https://twitter.com/ParkerPlayhouse).

*Sun Sentinel* is a proud sponsor of the Parker Playhouse.

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## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**ED ASNER** (*Milton Saltzman*). Versatile, committed, eloquent and talented are all adjectives that describe actor/activist and 7-Time Emmy Award-winning actor Ed Asner starred as Carl Fredricksen in Pixar's 2009 box-office-hit *UP!* Asner also most recently starred opposite Joseph Fiennes and Tom Cavanagh in the Disney feature *The Games Maker* and Joe's *War* with Armand Assante, *Boonville Redemption* opposite Diana Ladd and the animated feature *The Nutcracker Sweet*. Ed continues to do his one-man show *A Man and His Prostate* written by Ed Weinberger, and is set to shoot is the documentary *Titanic* with Frances Fisher written by Ryan Katzenbach and based on the book *Titanic: Sinking the Myths*, and will next be shooting the film *Waiting in the Wings: The Musical* written by Arie Gonzales & Jeffrey A Johns, a short in Dallas, Texas called *Closer* written by Seraphine Nova & Mark Glass, a feature *The Instigator* written by Tom Porter & Maggie Grant in Georgia, and late spring will be going to Ottawa shoot guest star on the TV series *Michael Tuesdays and Thursdays*. Asner is best known for his comedic and dramatic talent as the gruff but soft-hearted journalist Lou Grant, the role he originated on the landmark TV news room comedy *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, and continued in the newspaper-set drama *Lou Grant*, which earned him five Emmys and three Golden Globe Awards. Asner received two more Emmy and Golden Globe Awards for the mini-series *Rich Man, Poor Man* and *Roots*. Asner's most recent credits include a recurring role on the CBS series *The Good Wife* starring Julianna Margulies, the NBC telefilm *Buddy The Elf*, the Hallmark telefilm *All of My Heart* starring Lacey Chabert, the CBS series *Criminal Minds* starring Joe Mantegna, *Hawaii 5-0* starring Alex O'Loughlin and Scott Caan, *Mom* starring Allison Janney, *The Crazy Ones* with the late Robin Williams, as well as *Chasing Life* with Marion Ross for ABC Family and the TBS primetime series *Men At Work*. He and starred opposite Markie Post in the Lifetime telefilm *Christmas On The Bayou*. Asner returned to Broadway in the Fall of 2013 starring in the comedy drama *Grace* opposite Paul Rudd, Michael Shannon and Kate Arrington, written by Craig Wright and directed by Dexter Bullard. He's also been touring the country as Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the critically acclaimed one man show *FDR* for over 5 years. One of the most honored actors in the history of television; Edward Asner has been the recipient of seven *Emmy Awards* and 16 nominations, as well as five *Golden Globe Awards* and served as National President of the Screen Actors Guild for two terms. He was inducted into the *TV Academy Hall of Fame* in 1996. Asner received the *Ralph Morgan Award* from the Screen Actors Guild in 2000, presented periodically for distinguished service to the Guild's Hollywood membership. In March 2002, he was again honored by The Guild as the 38th recipient of the prestigious *Life Achievement Award* for career achievement and humanitarian accomplishment, presented annually to an actor who fosters the highest ideals of the profession. Asner has more than 100 TV credits, which include starring in the series *Off the Rack*, *The Bronx Zoo* and *Thunder Alley*. Numerous guest appearances include roles in *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *ER*, *Arli\$\$*, *The Practice* and a recurring role on *Studio 60 On The Sunset Strip*. Besides commercials and numerous books on tape, he

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has lent his voice to popular cartoon shows such as *The Simpsons*, *Spiderman* and *Boondocks*. Asner's dozens of motion pictures include *They Call Me Mister Tibbs!*, *Fort Apache the Bronx*, *JFK*, and the European production of *Giovanni XXIII* - the highest rated television mini-series in the history of Italian TV as well as the box office hit, *Elf* with Will Farrell and James Caan. Asner has done several Hallmark movies and was nominated for another Emmy for *The Christmas Card* in addition to his Emmy nominated guest appearance on *CSI/NY*.

**JOHANNA DAY** was born in Winchester Virginia and grew up in Rappahannock County, Virginia. She is the daughter and ninth child of Eileen Mitchell Day and Walter Day. She graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Johanna won the Helen Hayes Award as Leading Actress in a Resident Play for her starring role in the 2006 Arena Stage production of *The Rainmaker*. Other Arena Stage productions include *Quality of Life and Good People*. In 2008, she was a nominee for the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Actress in a Play for her role of Ann in the Second Stage Theatre production of Edward Albee's *Peter and Jerry* and in 2017 Ms. Day was nominated for a Tony Award for her performance in *Sweat* written by Lynn Nottage and directed by Kate Whorinsky. In 2000, she was also nominated for a Tony Award for her performance in *Proof* written by David Auburn and directed by Daniel Sullivan. In 2014, she won an Obie Award for Best Actress in a Play for her role in *Appropriate* at Signature Theatre under the direction of Liesl Tommy. On Broadway, Johanna has also appeared as Mrs. Kirby in the 2014 Revival of *You Can't Take It With You* opposite James Earl Jones and her good friend Elizabeth Ashley, directed by Scott Ellis and as Barbara Fordham in the 2007 production of *August: Osage County* directed by Anna Shapiro. In 2013 Johanna costarred with Reg Rogers in the World Premiere of Carly Mensch's play *Oblivion* at the Westport Country Playhouse and appeared with Tracy Letts and Parker Posey in the 2012 World Premiere of Will Eno's play *The Realistic Joneses* at Yale Repertory Theatre. Prior to joining the cast of *Sweat*, Johanna created the role of Zippy in Winnie Holzman's *Choice*, directed by Sheryl Kaller. A frequent Guest Lead on episodic television, Johanna currently recurs on the series – *Madam Secretary* on CBS. Other television credits include: *The Knick*, created by Steven Soderbergh for Showtime Television, *Escape from Dannemora*, *The Blacklist*, *The Affair*, *The Americans* and *Masters of Sex*.

**NED EISENBERG's** Broadway credits include *Six Degrees of Separation* (with Allison Janney and John Benjamin Hickey), *Rocky*, *Golden Boy*, *Awake and Sing* (Drama Desk Award, Outstanding Ensemble) and *The Green Bird*. Off-Broadway credits include his Lortel nominated performance as Iago in *Othello*, Fagin in *Oliver Twist* and the title role in Shakespeare's *King John*. Regional credits include Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*, Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls* and Menachim Begin in *Camp David*. Ned's feature films include *Asher*, *Experimentor*, *Won't Back Down*, *Limitless*, *Flags of Our Fathers* and the Oscar winning *Million Dollar Baby*. He is known to TV audiences for such shows as "The Night Of," "Bull," "Person of Interest," and the "Law & Order" franchise.

**BLAIR BAKER's** Broadway credits include David Mamet's *Oleanna* (understudy to Julia Stiles) and *The Humans* (understudy to Cassie Beck and Sarah Steele). Off-Broadway: Roundabout Theatre Company, The Public Theater, The Barrow Street Theater, and The Beckett Theater/Theater Row. Regional: The Mark Taper Forum, Marin Theater Company, Arizona Theatre Company, Bristol Riverside Theatre, and Kansas City Rep. She is the co-artistic director of Missing Bolts Productions.

**JEFF COHEN** (Playwright). As a playwright, Jeff Cohen is known for original work and adaptations including "The Soap Myth," "Men Of Clay" – a memoir about his father Stan "Squeaky" Cohen and tennis in 1970s Baltimore (Best New Play, Baltimore City Paper), "The Man Who Ate Michael Rockefeller" - adapted from the Christopher Stokes short story (Critics Pick, *The New York Times* and *Time Out New York*), "Whoa-Jack! – his racially charged adaptation of "Woyzeck" starring Golden Globe nominee Michael Ealy (AUDELCO Award), and "The Seagull/The Hamptons," his highly acclaimed

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American adaptation of "The Seagull" whose various productions have featured Tammy Grimes, D.B. Sweeney, Marin Hinkle, Lizbeth Mackay, Neil Huff and the New York stage debut of Laura Linney (Ten Best of the Year – *The Boston Globe*). He has recently finished two new plays: "Righteous" about a "righteous gentile" who warned the world about the Final Solution in August, 1942 and "Squeaky," a sequel to "Men of Clay" about end-of-life events with his father Stan "Squeaky" Cohen. Mr. Cohen was founder and artistic director of three small but significant Off Broadway theaters – the RAPP Arts Center, the Worth Street Theater Company/Tribeca Playhouse, and Dog Run Rep. Directing highlights include Christopher Shinn's "Four" (*New York Times* Critics Pick, Lortel Award, Drama Desk nominee), Tristine Skyler's "The Moonlight Room" (Critics Pick and Annual Ten Best list – *New York Times*, two Lortel nominations, Outer Critics nominee) and Marlene Meyer's "The Mystery of Attraction" (Obie Award). Mr. Cohen is best known for his signature theatrical event responding to the Attacks of 9/11: "THE TRIBECA PLAYHOUSE STAGE DOOR CANTEN" – a 10-week USO style variety show to 'entertain the troops' (the rescue and recovery workers at Ground Zero) that featured such stars as Kristin Chenoweth, Sandy Duncan, Phylicia Rashad, Colin Quinn, Mario Cantone, and received a special 2002 Drama Desk Award.

**PAM BERLIN** (*Direction*). New York directing credits include ENDPAPERS at the Variety Arts Theatre, STEEL MAGNOLIAS, which ran for three years Off-Broadway at the Lucille Lortel Theatre, *To Gillian On Her 37<sup>th</sup> Birthday* (Ensemble Studio Theatre and Circle in the Square downtown), *The Cemetery Club* (Broadway), *Crossing Delancey* (Jewish Rep), *Joined At The Head* and *Pretty Fire* (Manhattan Theatre Club), *The Family of Mann* and *The Red Address* (Second Stage), *Three In The Back*, *Two In The Head* (MCC), *Black Ink* and *Elm Circle* (Playwrights Horizons), *Snowing At Delphi* and *Club Soda* (WPA), *Family Ties* and numerous one-acts in the Marathon at the Ensemble Studio Theatre. Regionally, she has directed *Red*, *A Moon for The Misbegotten*, *Clybourne Park*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Copenhagen*, *Tea*, *The Loudest Man On Earth*, *Dancing At Lughnasa*, *The Playboy of The Western World*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Plough And The Stars*, *Talley's Folly*, *True West*, *On The Verge*, *Translations*, and *Joe Egg*, among others, at such theatres as the Kennedy Center, Seattle Rep, Long Wharf, Huntington, Pittsburgh Public, Pasadena Playhouse, Theatreworks Palo Alto, Virginia Stage Co. and Portland Stage. Opera credits include *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Lucia Di Lammermoor*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Cold Sassy Tree*, *Of Mice And Men*, *Bernstein's Mass* and the world premiere of *Pocahontas*. She has participated in the Sundance Playwrights Institute, Chautauqua, Theatreworks Palo Alto, Cape Cod Theatre Project and the New York Theatre Workshop Dartmouth Summer Residency. She taught directing in the MFA program at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, acting in the MFA program at Brooklyn College, and frequently directs at Juilliard and the NYU Graduate Acting Program. Pamela served as the President of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers from 2000 to 2006.

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#### ABOUT PARKER PLAYHOUSE

The neo-classical Playhouse Parker is one of Fort Lauderdale's first venues. Built by Dr. Louis Parker, the playhouse opened its doors on February 6, 1967 and is managed now by the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. This 1,168-seat, fully equipped theater plays an important role in the community by fueling economic development, while also bringing the community together with performances, activities and educational programming.

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