

EMMA HOLLAND PR

CHRISTINA COLE, JENNIFER MUDGE & LLOYD OWEN JOIN

INTERNATIONAL MULTI AWARD-WINNING STAR OF TV & FILM
MATTHEW PERRY

TO COMPLETE THE CAST IN THE WORLD PREMIERE
OF HIS PLAYWRITING DEBUT

THE END OF LONGING

DIRECTED BY THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED LINDSAY POSNER

RUNNING FOR A STRICTLY LIMITED SEASON
AT THE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE FROM 2 FEBRUARY – 14 MAY 2016

Christina Cole (*The Magistrate, The Lightening Play*), **Jennifer Mudge** (*Into The Woods, Dutchman*) and **Lloyd Owen** (*Good People, The Bodyguard*) will join the internationally acclaimed actor **Matthew Perry** (*Friends, The Odd Couple*) to complete the cast in the World Premiere of his playwriting debut, ***The End of Longing***, at the Playhouse Theatre, London, from 2 February – 14 May 2016. Design is by the 2015 Evening Standard award-winner, **Anna Fleischle** (*Hangmen*), with lighting by **Lucy Carter** and composition and sound by **Isobel Waller-Bridge**.

This fast paced, and bittersweet comic new play, will be directed by the critically acclaimed and award-winning director, **Lindsay Posner** (*She Stoops To Conquer, Hayfever*) reuniting the pair, following their first West End collaboration on *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* at the Comedy Theatre in 2003.

Meet Jack, Stephanie, Joseph and Stevie: four lost souls, entering their forties and searching for meaning. After sharing one raucous night together in a downtown Los Angeles bar, their lives become irreversibly entwined in a rollercoaster journey that forces them to confront the darker sides of their relationships.

A sharply written and hilarious dark comedy, ***The End of Longing***, will make you realise that broken people don't need to stay broken.

Christina Cole's (Stevie) stage credits include *The Magistrate* at the National Theatre, *The Lightening Play* at the Almeida Theatre and *Romeo and Juliet* at Theatr Clwyd. Christina's screen credits include *SS-GB*, *The Blacklist*, *Suits*, *New Tricks*, *Lumen*, *Partners in Crime*, *Rosemary's Baby*, *The Assets*, *Second Sight*, *Silent Witness*,

Chaos, Breakout Kings, Lewis, Human Target, Midsomer Murders, Emma, Maggie Hill, Poirot: An Appointment with Death, Lost in Austen, Sold, Ladies and Gentlemen, Cane and Sea of Souls, Jupiter Ascending, Mutual Friends, Blitz, The Time Machine – Morlocks, Doghouse, Surviving Evil, Miss Pettigrew Lives For A Day, God's Wounds, The Death of Ian Stone, Casino Royale, What A Girl Wants, Gun and Light.

Jennifer Mudge (Stephanie) will be making her West End debut in *The End Of Longing*. Jennifer most recently appeared off-Broadway as the Witch in *Into The Woods* at the Roundabout Theater for which she was nominated for a Lortel Award for outstanding lead actress in a musical. Jennifer's other stage credits include *Of Good Stock* at the Manhattan Theater Club, *Rocky* at the Winter Garden Theater, Broadway, *Happy Hour* as part of the La Mama's ADA Festival, *The Philanthropist* at the Roundabout Theater, *Dutchman* at the Cherry Lane Theater for which she was nominated for the Drama Desk Award for outstanding actress in a play, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at the Geffen Playhouse, *The Big Meal* at the Playwright's Horizon's, *Don't Go Gentle* at the MCC, *Ooh-Rah* at the Atlantic Theater, *Fault Lines* at the Cherry Lane Theater, *Geometry of Fire* and *The Pavilion* at the Rattlestick Theater, *The Stendhal Syndrome* at the Primary Stages, *Reckless* at the Biltmore Theater, Broadway, *Only the End of the World* at the Theatre 3, Off- Broadway. Jennifer's screen credits include *Shades of Blue, My American, Boss, Dead Man Down, You Don't Know Jack, Sonnet for a Towncar, Drifting Elegant, Lefty Loosey, Madam Secretary, The Big C, The Good Wife, Mercy, Life Is Wild, Canterbury's Law, Law & Order* and *L&O Criminal Intent*.

Jennifer Mudge is appearing with the support of UK Equity, incorporating the Variety Artistes' Federation, pursuant to an exchange program between American Equity and UK Equity.

Lloyd Owen's (Joseph) stage credits include *Good People* at Hampstead Theatre and the Noël Coward Theatre, *Stuff Happens* at the National Theatre, which was included in the National Theatre Live: 50 Years On Stage, *The Bodyguard* at the Adelphi Theatre for which Lloyd was nominated for Best Actor in a Musical in the Whatsonstage.com Awards 2013, *Loyalty* at Hampstead Theatre, *Blood and Gifts* and *Paul* at the National Theatre, *Clouds* at the Cambridge Arts Theatre and UK Tour, *Iphigenia* and *Edward II* at the Crucible Theatre, *The York Realist* at the Royal Court/ Strand Theatre, The Lowry and Bristol Old Vic, *Julius Caesar, Macbeth, The Tempest, Philoctetes, The Parquet Floor* and *The Passport* all at the Young Vic, *The Way Of The World* at the Manchester Royal Exchange, *Morphic Resonance* and *Our Boys* at the Donmar Warehouse, *Closer* at the Lyric Theatre, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* at the Almeida Theatre and Aldwych Theatre, *East Lynne* at the Greenwich Theatre, *Grab the Dog* at the NT Studio, *Henry VI: Part III* for the Royal Shakespeare Company, *Hamlet* at the Haymarket Theatre, Leicester and *Twelfth Night* with Cheek By Jowl. Lloyd's screen credits include *Silent Witness, Death In Paradise, You Me and The Apocalypse, The Originals, Midsomer Murders, Fairly Legal, Taking The Flak, Inside The Box, Inseparable, Viva Laughlin, Calais Rules, The Innocent Project, Ghost Squad, The Monarch of the Glen, The Vice, Coupling, Dead Gorgeous, Wire in the Blood, Hearts & Bones, Gypsy Girl, Get Real, The Cinder Path, The Young Indiana Jones*

Chronicles, The Story of Frankenstein, Stay Lucky, The Chief, Forever Green, Boom, Free Ride, Apollo 18, Miss Potter, The Republic of Love, Get The Picture and Between Dreams.

Matthew Perry (Jack) is best known for playing Chandler Bing in the highly rated, critically acclaimed series, *Friends*, which ran from 1994 to 2004.

Perry is currently the star and executive producer on CBS's *The Odd Couple*, the classic comedy by Neil Simon. The series debuted as the biggest new comedy of the 2014 season, with over 13 million viewers. The second season will premiere in 2016. Previous to this Perry starred in and co-executive produced *Go On*, NBC's highly rated comedy and has twice guest starred on the award-winning series, *The Good Wife*. In 2011 Matthew was the executive producer, co-writer and star of the ABC show *Mr Sunshine*. He has received Emmy, Golden Globe and SAG Award nominations for his starring role in TNT's *The Ron Clark Story*, and in 2006 starred in Aaron Sorkin's NBC drama *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*, in a role that was written for him. He also received an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series for his role as Joe Quincy in *The West Wing*.

Other screen credits include the films *17 Again*, alongside Zac Efron, *The Whole Nine Yards*, opposite Bruce Willis, which was followed up by *The Whole Ten Yards*, *Three to Tango*, alongside Neve Campbell, Dylan McDermott and Oliver Platt, *Fools Rush In* with Salma Hayek and *A Night in the Life of Jimmy Reardon*, with the late River Phoenix.

Matthew was last in the West End, in 2003, in David Mamet's *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* - also directed by Lindsay Posner, at the Comedy Theatre.

Lindsay Posner is a critically acclaimed and award-winning director. His most recent theatre credits include *Dinner with Saddam* and *Communicating Doors* at the Menier Chocolate Factory, *She Stoops to Conquer* at the Theatre Royal Bath, *Hayfever* at the Theatre Royal Bath/Duke of York's Theatre, *Speed the Plow* at the Playhouse Theatre, *Other Desert Cities* and *The Provok'd Wife* at the Old Vic, *The Winslow Boy* at the Old Vic & Roundabout Theater, New York, *The Hypochondriac*, *A Little Hotel on the Side* for Theatre Royal Bath, *Relatively Speaking* for Theatre Royal Bath/Wyndham's Theatre/UK Tour, *Noises Off* at the Old Vic/Novello Theatre/UK Tour, *Abigail's Party* at the Menier Chocolate Factory/Wyndham's Theatre/UK Tour, *Butley* and *The Birthday Party* at the Duchess Theatre, *Uncle Vanya & An Ideal Husband* at the Vaudeville Theatre, *The Turn of The Screw*, *Tom and Viv*, *House of Games*, *Romance* and *The Hypochondriac* at the Almeida Theatre; *A View From The Bridge* at the Duke of York's Theatre (which was nominated for four Olivier Awards), *Carousel* at the Churchill Theatre/UK tour/Savoy Theatre, *Fiddler On The Roof* at Sheffield Crucible/Savoy Theatre, *Fool for Love* and *A Life In The Theatre* at the Apollo Theatre, *Oleanna* at the Garrick Theatre, *Calderon's Doctor of Honour* for Cheek by Jowl at the Donmar Warehouse, *The Caretaker* at Bristol Old Vic, *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* at the Comedy Theatre, *Power* and *Tartuffe* at the National Theatre, *Twelfth Night*, *The Rivals*, *Volpone* and *The Taming of the Shrew* all for the

RSC, *The Misanthrope* and *American Buffalo* at the Young Vic, *The Lady from the Sea* for the Lyric, Hammersmith/West Yorkshire Playhouse.

Lindsay Posner was associate director at the Royal Court Theatre from 1987 to 1992 where his production of *Death and the Maiden* won two Olivier Awards. Other Royal Court productions in that period include: *Colquhoun and McBryde*; *The Treatment*; *American Bagpipe*; *Ficky Stingers*; *No One Sees The Video*; *Built on Sand*; *Blood*; *Downfall*; and *Ambulance*.

Notes to Editors

The End of Longing is produced by **Howard Panter** and **Adam Speers**, for the Ambassador Theatre Group. Co-founded by Sir Howard Panter and Rosemary Squire OBE in 1992, the Ambassador Theatre Group Ltd (ATG) is the world's number one live-theatre company with 45 venues in Britain, the US and Australia. ATG is also one of the most prolific and internationally recognised award-winning theatre producers in the world with co-productions in the UK, New York, across North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. ATG is the market leader in theatre ticketing services through ATG Tickets, LOVETheatre and Group Line.

ATG's impressive portfolio of West End theatres includes historic buildings such as the Apollo Victoria, Donmar Warehouse, Duke of York's, Fortune, Harold Pinter, Lyceum, Phoenix, Piccadilly, Playhouse, Savoy and Trafalgar Studios 1 and 2. In New York, ATG owns The Lyric Theatre, the largest theatre on Broadway.

In August 2015, ATG acquired ACE Theatrical Group (ACE), a company which specialises in the operation, design, development and construction of world class, live performance venues throughout North America comprising The Kings Theatre in Brooklyn, New York, The Saenger Theatre in New Orleans, Louisiana, The Mahalia Jackson Theater for the Performing Arts in New Orleans, Louisiana, The Majestic Theatre in San Antonio, Texas and The Charline McCombs Empire Theatre in San Antonio, Texas.

Earlier that month, ATG became leaseholder and took over the management of the Theatre Royal, Sydney's oldest theatrical institution, one of the city's premier venues and ATG's first theatre in the Asia Pacific region.

ATG has regional UK theatres in Aylesbury, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Bromley, Edinburgh, Folkestone, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Milton Keynes, Oxford, Richmond, Southport, Stoke-on-Trent, Sunderland, Torquay, Wimbledon, Woking and York.

ATG has offices in London, New York, Sydney, Mannheim and Cologne and is poised to accelerate international expansion.

Current and recent ATG co-productions include *The Ruling Class* starring James McAvoy, *Oresteia*, *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* starring Tamsin

Greig, East is East starring Jane Horrocks, Richard III starring Martin Freeman, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels starring Robert Lindsay, Jersey Boys, Priscilla Queen of the Desert starring Jason Donovan/Duncan James, Inala, Love Me Tender, Macbeth starring James McAvoy, The Hothouse starring Simon Russell Beale and John Simm, Passion Play starring Zoë Wanamaker, Posh, Jumpy and Constellations (Royal Court at the Duke of York's), Dolly Parton's 9 to 5 The Musical, Legally Blonde the Musical, Monty Python's Spamalot, The Rocky Horror Show, Goodnight Mister Tom, The Mystery of Charles Dickens starring Simon Callow, South Pacific starring Samantha Womack and Paulo Szot, All New People starring Zach Braff, Ghost the Musical, Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker!, Being Shakespeare starring Simon Callow, The Misanthrope starring Damian Lewis and Keira Knightley, West Side Story, Elling starring John Simm and Guys and Dolls starring Ewan McGregor.

ATG is also mounting productions around the world. ATG's productions in Australia include Legally Blonde the Musical, Thriller Live, The Rocky Horror Show, Guys and Dolls and West Side Story. Recent ATG productions on Broadway include The Mountaintop starring Samuel L Jackson and Angela Bassett, Exit the King starring Geoffrey Rush and Susan Sarandon and John Doyle's award winning production of Stephen Sondheim's Sweeney Todd. ATG also co-produced Constellations on Broadway and currently co-producing multi Tony award winning The King and I with Lincoln Center Theatre.

ATG has a number of major production company initiatives/partnerships including Jerry Mitchell Productions, Theatre Royal Brighton Productions and Jamie Lloyd Productions. ATG also owns a major national family entertainment and pantomime company, First Family Entertainment (FFE).

ATG has a group partner company Sonia Friedman Productions (SFP), which is a West End and Broadway production company responsible for some of the most successful theatre productions in London and on Broadway over the past few years. Recent SFP West End and Broadway theatre productions and co-productions include the UK premiere of The Book of Mormon, Jez Butterworth's The River on Broadway, starring Hugh Jackman, The Nether, Bend it Like Beckham the Musical, Hamlet starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Electra, King Charles III, Sunny Afternoon, Shakespeare in Love, Jerusalem, Ghosts, Mojo, Chimerica, Twelfth Night & Richard III and Old Times. Sonia will also collaborate with J. K. Rowling on a new stage play to be based on the Harry Potter stories in co-production with Colin Callender.

ATG is the majority shareholder of BB Group, one of the leading producers and promoters of premium live entertainment in Europe with a particular strength in touring musicals and dance productions throughout Germany, Austria and Switzerland. BB Group productions include West Side Story, We Will Rock You, The Rocky Horror Show, Cats, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ballet Revolución and its 2015 co-productions include The Lion King and The Bodyguard. BB Group has won the tender to re-develop the "Staatenhaus" in Cologne as a 1,700 seat theatre.

LISTINGS

THE END OF LONGING
PLAYHOUSE THEATRE
2 FEBRUARY – 14 MAY 2016

Performances:

Monday - Saturday at 7.30pm

Thursday and Saturday at 2.30pm

Press performances: Saturday 6 February, Tuesday 9, Wednesday 10 February

Gala night performance: Thursday 11 February

All reviews embargoed until Friday 12 February

Ticket Prices:

Tickets from £19.50

(£10 off for all preview performances, except the
£19.50 ticket)

Day seats available at 10am, on the day of
performances, for £15 per ticket

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