

**PRESS RELEASE – 9 January 2019**

**JUST ANNOUNCED: FULL CAST TO JOIN  
KATHARINE McPHEE & JACK McBRAYER  
FOR THE UK PREMIERE OF**

# WAITRESS

Full casting information for the West End premiere of **Sara Bareilles' *Waitress*** has been released today, featuring **Shaun Prendergast** as Old Joe. As previously announced, US star **Katharine McPhee** (*Smash*) will reprise the role of Jenna having played her on Broadway in 2018 and will appear alongside Emmy-nominated film and TV actor **Jack McBrayer**, who is best known for playing Kenneth in the multi-award winning US comedy series *30 Rock* and will be making his West End debut in the role of Ogie.

Rehearsals are now underway ahead of performances beginning on **8 February** and an official opening night on **7 March** at London's **Adelphi Theatre**. Currently playing its third hit year on Broadway, *Waitress* will bring with it an all-female lead creative team – a West End musical first.

The full company includes Kelly Agbowu, Laura Baldwin, Piers Bate, Nicole Raquel Dennis, Michael Hamway, Peter Hannah, David Hunter, Stephen Leask, Jack McBrayer, Chris McGuigan, Katharine McPhee, Olivia Moore, Nathaniel Morrison, Sarah O'Connor, Leanne Pinder, Shaun Prendergast, Charlotte Riby and Marisha Wallace.

*Meet Jenna, a waitress and expert pie-maker who dreams of a way out of her small town and rocky marriage. Pouring her heart into her pies, she crafts desserts that mirror her topsy-turvy life such as "The Key (Lime) to Happiness Pie" and "Betrayed By My Eggs Pie." When a baking contest in a nearby county – and a satisfying run-in with someone new – show Jenna a chance at a fresh start, she must find the courage to seize it. Change is on the menu, as long as Jenna can write her own perfectly personal recipe for happiness.*

**Shaun Prendergast** (Old Joe) has had many notable roles across film, television, theatre and radio. He is well known to television audiences for roles such as DS Holt in *EastEnders*, Robert Bain in *Waterloo Road* and Greg Doland in *Emmerdale* as well as frequent guest appearances in *The Glee Club*, *The Bill*, *Holby City*, *Doctors*, *Coronation Street* and *Heartbeat*. He also appeared in Kay Mellor's *A Place of Safety* which won a New York Critic's Choice Award. Shaun's stage career began as a founder member of Kenneth Branagh's Renaissance Theatre Company in which he appeared as Don John in *Much Ado About Nothing* (directed by Judi Dench at the Phoenix Theatre), Fabian in *Twelfth Night* (directed by Kenneth Branagh at Riverside Studios) *As You Like It* (UK tour and Phoenix Theatre) and *Hamlet* (directed by Derek Jacobi). He also starred as Ray in the world premiere of *A Going Concern* (Hampstead Theatre) and as Macduff in Tom Morris' production of *Macbeth* (BAC).

Recent stage work includes playing MC in Terry Johnson's revival of *Oh! What a Lovely War* (Theatre Royal Stratford East), Mr Boo in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* (Park Theatre), *Geordie the Musical* (Customs House) and *Cinderella* (Theatre Royal Windsor). Shaun is also a writer for stage, screen and radio whose work has been translated into six languages. Awards include a Sony Award, a Time Out Award, Five NSDF Awards and a Writer's Guild Award.

**Jack McBrayer** (Ogie) was Emmy-nominated for his portrayal of Kenneth Parcell on the multi-award winning and critically acclaimed series *30 Rock* for NBC. He is also known for his work on *The Jack and Triumph Show* for Universal/Adult Swim, Adult Swim's first half hour comedy straight to series pickup, which Jack executive produced and starred opposite Robert Smigel. He can be seen in *Cooties* opposite Elijah Wood and Rainn Wilson for Lionsgate which premiered at Sundance. Jack also starred in *Forgetting Sarah Marshall* opposite Jason Segel, directed by Nicholas Stoller and produced by Judd Apatow for Universal. His other credits include *Talladega Nights: The Ballad Of Ricky Bobby*, directed and written by Adam McKay and produced by Judd Apatow for Columbia Pictures; *The Campaign* opposite Will Ferrell and Zach Galifianakis, directed by Jay Roach for Warner Bros; opposite Bill Hader in *The To Do List* for CBS Films; and *They Came Together* opposite Paul Rudd and directed by David Wain for Lionsgate.

Jack can also be seen appearing on ABC's *The Middle*, Comedy Central's *Drunk History* opposite Derek Waters and USA's *Playing House* opposite Lennon Parham and Jessica St. Clair. He can be heard voicing the lead role of Fix-It Felix in *Wreck-It Ralph*, directed Rich Moore and produced by John Lasseter for Disney. His other animated film voice credits include *Despicable Me* for Universal, *The Simpsons* on Fox and *Archer* on FX.

Since finding international fame as a captivating singer on **American Idol - Season 5**, **Katharine McPhee** (Jenna) has become a successful recording artist, landing numerous songs and albums on Billboard's pop, jazz, holiday and adult-contemporary charts in her native US. Her latest album of timeless American standards "*I Fall In Love Too Easily*" was released by BMG in 2017. As an acclaimed actress, she was the breakout star of the 2013 NBC-TV musical series **Smash**, Executive Produced by Steven Spielberg with music and lyrics by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman (*Hairspray*). She recently starred in the hit CBS dramatic series *Scorpion*.

**Laura Baldwin** (Dawn) trained at Bird College. Her recent stage work has included the roles of Janey in *Eugenius!*, Story Sandra in *Big Fish* and Sam in *The Little Beasts* (all at The Other Palace). Laura has also played Wendy in *Peter Pan* (The Gordon Craig Theatre), Teen Fiona/Red Riding Hood in *Shrek* (UK Tour), Veronica/Ensemble in *Betty Blue Eyes* (UK Tour) and Alice in *Alice in Wonderland* (The Lichfield Garrick).

**Peter Hannah** (Earl) graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in 2013 and has gone on to play roles such as The Devil in *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* (National Theatre of Scotland, Spoleto Festival, and McKittrick, New York – Drama Desk Award winner 2017 for unique Theatrical Experience), Captain Ridley in *Cockpit* (Royal Lyceum Theatre), Mac in the *Greater Game* (Southwark Playhouse) and Thomas Highgate in *The 306* (National Theatre of Scotland). Peter's other theatre roles include *Shakespeare in Love* (Noel Coward Theatre), *Four Play* (Theatre503), *A Clockwork Orange* (Nottingham Playhouse), *One Arm* (Southwark Playhouse) and *Mock Tudor* (Pleasance Courtyard). Film and television Credits include Alex in *Above The Clouds* (Third Light Films), Lucas in *Mr Turner* (Thin Man Films), Newton in *Mary Gloster* (Short Film) and Police Constable Stanmore in *Doctor Who* (BBC).

**David Hunter** (Dr. Pomatter) trained at The Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA). He is currently playing the lead role of Charlie Price in *Kinky Boots* (Adelphi Theatre) and

previous West End credits include *Once* (Phoenix Theatre), *One Man, Two Guvnors* (Adelphi Theatre, National Theatre and UK Tour), *Seussical* (Arts Theatre) and *The Who's Tommy* (Prince Edward Theatre). Other theatre credits include *The Hired Man* (Leicester Curve and Colchester Mercury), *Pub* (The Royal Exchange) *Spinach* (The Royal Exchange) and *The Mayor Of Zalamea* (Liverpool Everyman). In 2012 David reached the semi-finals of ITV's *Superstar*, competing to play the role of 'Jesus' in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Screen credits include the film *Nativity 3* and he has recently filmed an episode of *Holby City* for BBC1. As the frontman of pop/rock band 'Reemer', David has recorded with the producers responsible for The Rolling Stones and The Who, before earning support slots for artists such as The Feeling, Scouting for Girls and finally McFly on their UK Arena Tour. In April 2018 David released his first Solo EP, *Silver Linings*, featuring five original songs.

**Marisha Wallace** (Becky) recently made her West End debut playing Effie White in *Dreamgirls* (Savoy Theatre) after playing the role at the Tony-winning regional theatre Dallas Theater Center. Since landing in London she has performed in numerous concerts at The Royal Albert Hall, the London Palladium, and she's a part of Broadway and West End Divas. She recently performed the role of Celie in *The Color Purple* in Concert at Cadogan Hall and had two sold out nights at Zedel. Marisha's Broadway credits include the original Broadway productions of *Something Rotten* and Disney's *Aladdin*, and she also appeared in the first US national tour of *The Book of Mormon*. Other stage credits include *Sistas!*, *Aladdin* (Toronto), *Oklahoma!*, for which she won the Drammy for Best Actress, *One Night With Janis Joplin*, *Rent* and *Hair*. Screen credits include *Aladdin* (the forthcoming live action film), Disney's *Frozen Fever*, The Tony Awards, Good Morning America, The View and Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.