



For Immediate Release
May 17, 2012
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WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES READING OF DUSTIN LANCE BLACK'S NEW PLAY **8** ON JUNE 4th

WOOLLY JOINS NATIONWIDE PRODUCTIONS OF LANDMARK MARRIAGE EQUALITY PLAY BY ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING SCREENWRITER OF *MILK* AND *J. EDGAR*

(Washington, DC) – Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, with license from the **American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER)** and **Broadway Impact**, is proud to announce a one-night-only reading of **8**, a play chronicling the historic trial in the federal constitutional challenge to California's Proposition 8, written by Academy Award-winning screenwriter and AFER Founding Board Member **Dustin Lance Black**. Coinciding with Capital Pride 2012, the reading will take place on **Monday, June 4th at 7pm**, with **all tickets \$5**. Tickets may be purchased online at www.woollymammoth.net, over the phone at 202-393-3939, or in person at the Box Office located at 641 D Street, NW.

The reading of **8** at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company will be directed by **Alan Paul**, Associate Director of Shakespeare Theatre Company and will feature Woolly Company Members **Jessica Frances Dukes, Rick Foucheux, Jennifer Mendenhall, Eric Sutton**, and **Emily Townley** with other prominent actors from the DC theatre community.

Following the reading, Woolly will host a town-hall style discussion with the Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force **Rea Carey**, Maryland State Senator **Richard S. Madaleno Jr.**, Human Rights Campaign's Legal Director **Brian Moulton**, and **Matt Nosanchuk** from the US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. The discussion will be livestreamed on #NewPlay TV (www.livestream.com/newplay).

In addition, Woolly and local organizations will collaborate to host **T8KE ACTION**—an LGBTQ Activism Fair. The fair will be held in Woolly's lower lobby beginning at 6pm on June 4th, and will be free and open to the public until 10pm. Visitors can learn about ways to get involved with important issues affecting the LGBTQ community here in DC. Participating organizations include the **ACLU**, the **Community Education Group**, **Human Rights Campaign**, **Metro Teen AIDS**, **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**, **SMYAL**, **PFLAG DC** and the **DC Center for the LGBT Community**.

ABOUT **8**:

8 is an unprecedented account of the Federal District Court trial in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* (now *Perry v. Brown*), the case filed by AFER to overturn Proposition 8, which stripped gay and lesbian Californians of the freedom to marry. **Black**, who penned the Academy Award-winning feature film *Milk* and the film *J. Edgar*, based **8** on the actual words of the trial transcripts, first-hand observations of the courtroom drama and interviews with the plaintiffs and their families.

8 had its much-heralded Broadway World Premiere on September 19, 2011, at the sold-out Eugene O'Neill Theatre in New York City. The production brought in over \$1 million to support AFER's efforts to achieve full federal marriage equality. **8** had its West Coast premiere reading at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre on Saturday, March 3, 2012, in Los Angeles. The West Coast premiere reading of **8** featured an all-star cast led by Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Martin Sheen, and Theodore B. Olson. The benefit reading was directed by AFER Founding Board Member Rob Reiner, and raised more than \$2 million for the fight to secure full federal marriage equality.

Throughout 2012, AFER and Broadway Impact are licensing **8** for free to colleges and community theatres nationwide in order to spur action, dialogue and understanding. Most productions will be followed by a talkback where cast and audience members can discuss the issues presented in the *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* trial.

For information about **8** visit: www.8theplay.com, follow @8theplay on Twitter, or like their Facebook page at [facebook.com/8theplay](https://www.facebook.com/8theplay).

To follow the Woolly Mammoth Production of **8** on social media:

[Facebook.com/woollymammothtc](https://www.facebook.com/woollymammothtc)

[Twitter.com/woollymammothtc](https://twitter.com/woollymammothtc) (**#Woolly8**)

[Woollymammothblog.com](http://woollymammothblog.com)

Radio Woolly podcasts: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/radio-woolly/id359206232>

ABOUT THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR EQUAL RIGHTS:

The American Foundation for Equal Rights is the sole sponsor of *Perry v. Brown*, the federal constitutional challenge to California's Proposition 8. After bringing together Theodore B. Olson and David Boies to lead its legal team, AFER successfully advanced the Perry case through Federal District Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Foundation is committed to achieving full federal marriage equality for all Americans. www.fer.org

ABOUT BROADWAY IMPACT

Broadway Impact is a grassroots organization of the theatre community and its fans mobilized in support of marriage equality. In direct response to the passage of California's Proposition 8 in November 2008, Tony Award-nominees Rory O'Malley (*The Book of Mormon*) and Gavin Creel (*HAIR*) and Production Coordinator Jenny Kanelos founded Broadway Impact to engage the theatre community in the fight for marriage equality. Recent initiatives include: contributing to phone bank efforts to win marriage equality in New York State; creating an awareness program that led to a 3,000 piece letter writing campaign; facilitating the attendance of 1,400 supporters to the National Equality March in Washington, DC; and producing a rally for over 5,000 attendees in Midtown Manhattan. Broadway Impact is now committed to bringing **8**, a play about Proposition 8 written by Academy Award-winner Dustin Lance Black, to university and community theatres across the country in order to inspire dialogue, understanding and action concerning marriage equality. Broadway Impact was the recipient of the 2009 Human Rights Campaign Community Award and proudly operates under the entity of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. www.broadwayimpact.com

ABOUT WOOLLY

Now in its 32nd Season, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company continues to hold its place at the leading edge of American theatre. Acknowledged as "the hottest theatre company in town" (*The Washington Post*), "known for its productions of innovative new plays" (*The New York Times*), Woolly Mammoth is a

national leader in the development of new plays, and one of the best known and most influential mid-sized theatres in America.

Woolly's 32nd Season features five works that relate to the question, "Does our civilization have an expiration date?" They include Samuel D. Hunter's *A Bright New Boise* (Oct 10-Nov 13), The Second City's *Spoiler Alert: Everybody Dies* (Dec 6-Jan 8), Jason Grote's *Civilization (all you can eat)* (Feb 13-Mar 11), Joey Arias and Basil Twist's *Arias with a Twist* (Apr 4-May 6), and Anne Washburn's ***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*** (May 28-July 1).

www.woollymammoth.net

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