



NEWS RELEASE

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CLEVELAND PLAY HOUSE ANNOUNCES CASTING OF DUSTIN LANCE BLACK'S "8"

Government, Arts, and Community Leaders Take the Stage in One-Night-Only Reading of Marriage Equality Play

CLEVELAND, OH (June 10, 2013) – **Cleveland Play House**, with license from the American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER) and Broadway Impact, will produce a one-night-only staged 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.

"8" is an unprecedented account of the Federal District Court trial in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* (now *Hollingsworth v. Perry*), the case filed by AFER to overturn Proposition 8, which stripped gay and lesbian Californians of the fundamental freedom to marry. The Supreme Court will hand down a decision on the constitutionality of this case in this month.

The reading will be held in the Allen Theatre at PlayhouseSquare, Sunday, June 30, 2013 at 5:00 pm. Tickets are on sale now, at two levels: \$25 public ticket (includes reading and post-show discussion), and a limited number of \$100 premium tickets (includes priority seating for the reading, post-discussion and a private reception with cast and special guests). All net proceeds will be shared equally between the American Foundation for Equal Rights and the Cleveland chapter of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Call 216-241-6000 or visit clevelandplayhouse.com to purchase tickets.

The 21-person cast of the Cleveland Play House production will feature community leaders including Senator **Nina Turner**, Cleveland City Councilman **Joe Cimperman**, Cash Mob creator **Andrew Samtoy**, and **Christopher "Kory" Beale** of Cleveland's New 102 (102.1FM), along with many prominent local actors. Contributing personal video messages will be Senator **Sherrod Brown**, **Chad Griffin** - President, Human Rights Campaign, and **Rory O'Malley**, Lakewood native, Tony Award nominee and co-founder of Broadway Impact.

Complete "8" Cast (In Alphabetical Order):

Catherine Albers
Heather Anderson Boll
Christopher "Kory" Beale, of Cleveland's New 102
Councilman Joe Cimperman
Celeste Consentino
Jeffrey Grover
Joel Hammer
David Hansen
Charles Kartali
Dan Kilbane
Sarah Kinsey
Peter Lawson Jones
Michael Mauldin
Cameron McKendry
Chris Richards
Andrew Samtoy
Scott Spence
Miles Sternfeld
Senator Nina Turner
Beth Wood
Jimmie Woody

Post-Performance Discussion

Moderator: **Dan Moulthrop** - CEO, The City Club of Cleveland

Panelists: **Tim Downing** - National Board of Directors, Human Rights Campaign and **Aliya Rahman:**
Field Director, Equality Ohio. *(Third panelist TBA)*

To purchase tickets, call 216-241-6000 or visit clevelandplayhouse.com. For information on how your local theater can produce "8," visit: www.8theplay.com

Follow "8" on Twitter: [@8theplay](https://twitter.com/8theplay) or on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/8theplay).

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ABOUT THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

The American Foundation for Equal Rights is the sole sponsor of Hollingsworth v. Perry, 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 case is now before the U.S. Supreme Court. The Foundation is committed to achieving full federal marriage equality for all Americans.

www.AFER.org

ABOUT BROADWAY IMPACT

Broadway Impact is the only grassroots organization of the theatre community and its fans mobilized in support of marriage equality. Tony Award-nominees Rory O'Malley (The Book of Mormon) and Gavin Creel (HAIR) and Production Coordinator Jenny Kanelos founded the organization in direct response to the passage of California's Proposition 8 in November 2008. Currently, Broadway Impact, in partnership with AFER, licenses and coordinates readings of Dustin Lance Black's "8" at regional, community and university theaters around the world. Broadway Impact was the recipient of the 2009 Human Rights Campaign Community Award and proudly operates under the fiscal sponsorship of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

www.broadwayimpact.com

ABOUT CLEVELAND PLAY HOUSE

*Founded in 1915, **Cleveland Play House** is America's first professional regional theatre. Throughout its rich history, Cleveland Play House has remained dedicated to its mission to inspire, stimulate and entertain diverse audiences in Northeast Ohio by producing plays and theatre education programs of the highest professional standards. It has produced more than 100 world and/or American premieres, and over its long history more than 12 million people have attended over 1,300 CPH productions. Today, Cleveland Play House looks toward its centennial while performing in three state-of-the art venues at PlayhouseSquare in downtown Cleveland.*

www.clevelandplayhouse.com

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