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## **Hollywood Star Returns to the Stage at Arizona Theatre Company** *Mimi Kennedy Will Lead Award-Winning Production Pru Payne*

**PHOENIX** – [Arizona Theatre Company](http://ArizonaTheatreCompany.com) is excited to announce that Mimi Kennedy, best known for her roles on the television series *Mom* and *Dharma & Greg*, will be returning to the stage for the first time in over a decade as the title character in ATC's world premiere of *Pru Payne* by Steven Drukman this spring. Audiences will follow the witty intellectual Prudence "Pru" Payne as her memory begins to fade and she questions preconceived notions about her identity and discovers unexpected love.

"I always want to participate in stories that affirm life in some way," Kennedy said, "and I am thrilled to play an intellectual. This role is a perfect match for me after seven decades in the industry searching for her. It is a gift on every level."

Kennedy has been a recognizable onscreen presence in both TV and Film since the 1970s. Her most notable film roles include Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris*, the political satire *In the Loop* opposite James Gandolfini, and the cult comedy favorite *The Five Year Engagement* with Emily Blunt and Jason Segel. Television viewers will also recognize Kennedy from recent roles on The CW's *In The Dark*, Netflix's *Grace & Frankie*, and ABC's *The Goldbergs*. Her professional acting career began on the stage opposite comedy legend Sid Caesar in Neil Simon's *Last of The Red Hot Lovers*; followed soon after by her Broadway debut as a cast member of the original Broadway production of *Grease*.

"I have wanted to return to theater for more than a decade," Kennedy said. "This layered role of a brilliant woman losing her memory and finding emotional connections is profoundly moving to me. I sobbed after reading this script and knew that I must do it. I am happy to be at Arizona Theatre Company, and especially in Phoenix and Tucson where I have good memories with old friends."

*Pru Payne* is the second show under the leadership of ATC's new Kasser Family Artistic Director Matt August. "We are thrilled that Mimi Kennedy is going to leave her indelible imprint on this character, which has been so brilliantly written by Steven Drukman. With new-play maestro Sean Daniels guiding the process, Pru is sure to be a celebrated addition to America's rich tradition of iconic leading ladies."

*Pru Payne* is the 2022 winner of the Edgerton Foundation New Play Award and was written by Pulitzer Prize nominee Steven Drukman. It is a remarkable, funny, and emotional journey about the evolution of love and identity in the face of memory loss that will be directed by Sean Daniels.

The show will run March 4 through March 25 in Tucson at the Temple of Music and Art (330 S. Scott Ave.) and March 30 through April 16 in Phoenix at the Herberger Theater Center (222 E. Monroe St.). Tickets are on sale now; prices begin at \$25. Tickets can be purchased at [atc.org](http://atc.org) or 1-833-ATC-SEAT.

### **About Arizona Theatre Company**

Arizona Theatre Company's (ATC) performances bring people together to experience essential stories, from reimagined classics to contemporary plays, original works, and innovative musicals fostering continued conversation beyond the theatre walls. Founded in 1966 and celebrating its 55th season, ATC is led by Executive Director Geri Wright and Kasser Family Artistic Director Matt August. ATC operates in two major cities and is the preeminent professional theatre in Arizona, recognized as the official State theatre.

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