CONTACT: Denise Schneider/Jamie Hiskes **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

312.443.5151 or [Press@GoodmanTheatre.org](mailto:Press@GoodmanTheatre.org)  **September 4, 2025**

IMAGES: [Goodman Theatre Press Room](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/7fraz257o10pkug7gn0rm/AEJ9DRPEIrcBJNBGD7KHeuE?rlkey=yxtuw8q0xj0o2c18nstily338&st=9r6ii4st&dl=0)

**EIGHT PERFORMANCES OF *ASHLAND AVENUE* ADDED BY POPULAR DEMAND, EXTENDING THE WORLD-PREMIERE PRODUCTION THRU OCTOBER 12**

**\*\*CHICAGO-SET DRAMA BY LEE KIRK, DIRECTED BY SUSAN V. BOOTH LAUNCHES THE GOODMAN’S 100TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON, STARTING THIS WEEKEND\*\***

**\*\*\*SPECIAL EVENTS INCLUDE A CONVERSATION WITH THE PLAYWRIGHT (SEPT. 21, AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY) AND A CHICAGO LEGACY BIZ ICE CREAM SOCIAL (SEPTEMBER 27)\*\*\***

(CHICAGO, IL) Spend an extra week at Pete’s TV and Video next month! Prompted by a high demand for tickets, **Lee Kirk**’s new Chicago-set drama *Ashland Avenue* has added eight performances, extending one week to October 12. The world-premiere production, directed by Walter Artistic Director **Susan V. Booth**, is the first of The Goodman’s Centennial 2025/2026 season and stars *The Office’s* **Jenna Fischer** alongside Chicago’s own **Francis Guinan** (*The Cherry Orchard*), with **Will Allan** (*The Cherry Orchard*), **Cordelia Dewdney** (Drury Lane’s *Steel Magnolias*) and **Chiké Johnson** (*Toni Stone*). *Ashland Avenue* starts September 6 (Opening Night is September 15) in the 856-seat Albert Theatre. Extension week performances include October 7 at 7:30pm, October 8 at 7:30pm, October 9 at 2pm and 7:30pm, October 10 at 7:30pm, October 11 at 2pm and 7:30pm and October 12 at 2pm. Tickets ($33-$148, subject to change) are available at the Box Office (170 N. Dearborn), by phone at 312.443.3800 or by purchasing online at [GoodmanTheatre.org/Ashland](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/show/ashland-avenue/).

A local business, a stubborn heart, a lively city street and the quiet moments when a family begins to change come center stage in *Ashland Avenue.* Pete’s TV and Video has served Chicagoland for 40+ years, its plucky owner famous for his legendary commercials and customer care. But it’s a new era, and Pete’s last store location is struggling while Sam—his daughter and family business heir apparent—has different dreams. This hilarious and moving new play asks what happens when we step outside of our parents’ footsteps to follow our heart?

The Goodman is grateful for the support of JPMorgan Chase & Co. (Lead Corporate Sponsor), Edgerton Foundation (New Play Award), and Abbott Fund/Winston & Strawn LLP (Corporate Sponsor Partners).

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

[**Inside ASHLAND AVENUE: A Conversation with Playwright Lee Kirk**](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/event-calendar/inside-ashland-avenue-a-conversation-with-playwright-lee-kirk/)

**September 21, 4pm-6pm**

**DePaul University’s Watts Theatre (2350 N Racine Ave)**

As part of The Goodman’s [*100 Free Acts of Theater*](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/event/100-free-acts-of-theater/) initiative, join us for an in-depth conversation with Lee Kirk, playwright of *Ashland Avenue*, as he reflects on the themes at the heart of his play and shares how he found inspiration for the piece during his time living in Chicago. Hosted by Kirk’s Alma Mater The Theatre School at DePaul University, and moderated by DePaul’s Dean of The Theatre School Dr. Martine Kei Green-Rogers, this conversation offers a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process and the personal roots of a powerful new work. Tickets are free; reservations required.

[**Chicago Legacy Business Ice Cream Social**](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/event/chicagos-legacy-business-ice-cream-social/)

**September 27, 6pm-7:15pm**

**The Goodman’s Alice Center**

The Goodman and Preservation Chicago, inspired by *Ashland Avenue*, invite you to celebrate and support Chicago Legacy Businesses at our ice cream social. You’ll hear from the owners of some of Chicago’s most beloved businesses: Old Fashioned Donuts and Clark-Devon Hardware. Savor the iconic flavors of Rainbow Cone while hearing stories of resilience from our cities’ precious, authentic (and endangered) assets. Afterwards, see the show for a discounted price! Tickets: $20 (event only); $80 (event + 7:30pm performance of *Ashland Avenue*).

**FULL COMPANY OF *ASHLAND AVENUE***

**By Lee Kirk**

**Directed by Susan V. Booth**

**Will Allan…**Young Man

**Cordelia Dewdney…**Jess

**Jenna Fischer…**Sam

**Francis Guinan…**Pete

**Chiké Johnson…**Mike

Understudies for this production include **Daniel Ajak** (Mike), **Adam Benjamin** (Young Man), **Maura Kidwell** (Sam), **Hannah Ruwe** (Jess) and **Don Tieri** (Pete).

**CREATIVE TEAM**

Line Producer…**Malkia Stampley**

Second Line Producer…**Lena Romano**

Assistant Director…**Michael Coty**

Vocal and Dialect Coach…**Stan Brown**

Fight Choreographer…**Chuck Coyl**

Set Designer…**Kevin Depinet**

Costume Designer…**Jessica Pabst**

Lighting Designer…**Jason Lynch**

Sound Designer and Composer…**Lindsay Jones**

Assistant Sound Designer…**Aaron Woodstein**

Jingle Vocalist...**Becca Kaufman**

Casting is by **Lauren Port**, CSA. **Clara Zucker** is the Dramaturg. **Nikki Blue** is the Production Stage Manager. **Jennifer Gregory** is the Stage Manager.

**ENHANCED AND ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES**

*Visit* [*GoodmanTheatre.org/Access*](https://www.goodmantheatre.org/tickets/accessibility/) *for more information about The Goodman’s accessibility efforts.*

ASL-Interpreted: September 26 at 7:30pm – An ASL interpreter signs the action/text as played.

Audio-Described: September 27 at 2pm; Touch Tour; 12:30pm – Action audibly enhanced via headset.

Spanish-Subtitled: September 27 at 7:30pm – Spanish-translated dialogue via LED sign.

Open-Captioned: September 28 at 2pm – LED sign presents dialogue in sync with the performance.

**ABOUT THE GOODMAN**

Since 1925, The Goodman has been more than a stage. A theatrical home for artists and a gathering space for community, it’s where stories come to life—bold in artistry and rich in history, deeply rooted in the city it serves.

Led by Walter Artistic Director **Susan V. Booth** and Executive Director **John Collins**, The Goodman sparks conversation, connection and change through new plays, reimagined classics and large-scale musicals. With distinctions including nearly 200 world or American premieres, two Pulitzer Prizes, 22 Tony Awards and nearly 200 Joseph Jefferson Awards, The Goodman is proud to be the first theater to produce all 10 plays of August Wilson’s “American Century Cycle.” In addition, the theater frequently serves as a production partner—with national and international companies to Chicago’s Off-Loop theaters—to help amplify theatrical voices.

But The Goodman believes a more empathetic, more connected Chicago is created one story at a time, and counts as its greatest legacy the community it’s built. Generation-spanning productions and programs offer theater for a lifetime; from *Theater for the Very Young* (plays designed for ages 0-5) to the long-running annual *A Christmas Carol*, which has introduced new generations to theater over five decades, The Goodman is committed to being an asset for all of Chicago. Education and Engagement programs led by Clifford Director of Education and Engagement **Jared Bellot** and housed in the Alice Rapoport Center use the tools of theater to spark imagination, reflection and belonging. Each year, these programs reach thousands of people (85% from underserved communities) as well as educators, artists and lifelong learners across the city.

The Goodman stands on the unceded homelands of the Council of the Three Fires—the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations—and acknowledges the many other Nations for whom this land now called Chicago has long been home, including the Myaamia, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac and Fox, Peoria, Kaskaskia, Wea, Kickapoo, and Mascouten. The Goodman is proud to partner with the Gichigamiin Indigenous Nations Museum ([Gichigamiin-Museum.org](https://gichigamiin-museum.org/)) and the Center for Native Futures ([CenterForNativeFutures.org](https://www.centerfornativefutures.org/))—organizations devoted to honoring Indigenous stories, preserving cultural memory, and deepening public understanding.

The Goodman was founded by William O. Goodman and his family to honor the memory of Kenneth Sawyer Goodman—a visionary playwright whose bold ideas helped shape Chicago’s early cultural renaissance. That spirit of creativity and generosity endures today. In 2000, through the commitment of Mr. Goodman’s descendants—Albert Ivar Goodman and his late mother, Edith-Marie Appleton—The Goodman opened the doors to its current home in the heart of the Loop.

—30—