

GOLDEN STATE OF MIND

Seven Playwrights Consider California

SUNDAY, APRIL 14 AT 4PM

THE SYMPOSIUM

An Open Discussion with Playwright **JON ROBIN BAITZ**
and Experts

DAVID KESSLER and **ELAINE WOO**

JON ROBIN BAITZ is the author of several plays, including *The Film Society*, *Mizlansky/Zilinsky*, *A Fair Country*, *Three Hotels*, *The Substance of Fire* and most recently, *Ten Unknowns*, which was produced, like many of his other plays, at Lincoln Center Theater and will also come to the Taper next season. Last season, his adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* was seen on Broadway, after productions in Boston, Los Angeles and the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Mr. Baitz is a 2000 Guggenheim fellow, recipient of Rockefeller and NEA awards, and an American Academy of Arts and Letters Fellowship. He was the winner of a Humanitas Award for the PBS-TV version of *Three Hotels*, which he also directed. *A Fair Country* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1996. His screenplays include *The Substance of Fire* and most recently, *People I Know*, which stars Al Pacino, Ryan O'Neal and Kim Basinger, and was produced by Robert Redford. It is due for release later this year. His latest play, *The Paris Letter*, will premiere at Boston's Huntington Theatre in 2003. He is a founding member of Naked Angels, a theatre company in New York.

DAVID KESSLER is perhaps the most well-known expert on grief, loss and trauma today. His new book is *Life Lessons: Two Experts on Death and Dying Teach Us About the Mysteries of Life and Living*, co-authored with Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, M.D. Upon its release, it immediately made Amazon.com's top 20 best-sellers list and was also chosen as one of the 10 best books of the year. It was recently the number one best-selling non-fiction book in Ireland. His first book is *The Needs of the Dying: a Guide for Bringing Hope, Comfort and Love to Life's Final Chapter*. Originally published under the title *The Rights of the Dying*, it was a finalist for "Best Book of 1997 by a New Author" and has now been published in over 11 countries. David has helped hundreds of men, women and children face death with peace, dignity and courage. His experiences with end of life care and death have taken him from Auschwitz concentration camp to Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying Destitute in Calcutta, India. He has served as a member of the Red Cross's Aviation Disaster team and was called in to help with the Aspen plane crash. He worked with the next of kin as well as the survivors on the Singapore Airlines crash. David is also a Special Reserve Police Officer for the LAPD's critical incident response team. He was at Ground Zero, where he met with the crews working

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35th Anniversary
2001/2002 Season
Celebration

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Center Theatre Group
Mark Taper Forum
Ahmanson Theatre

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