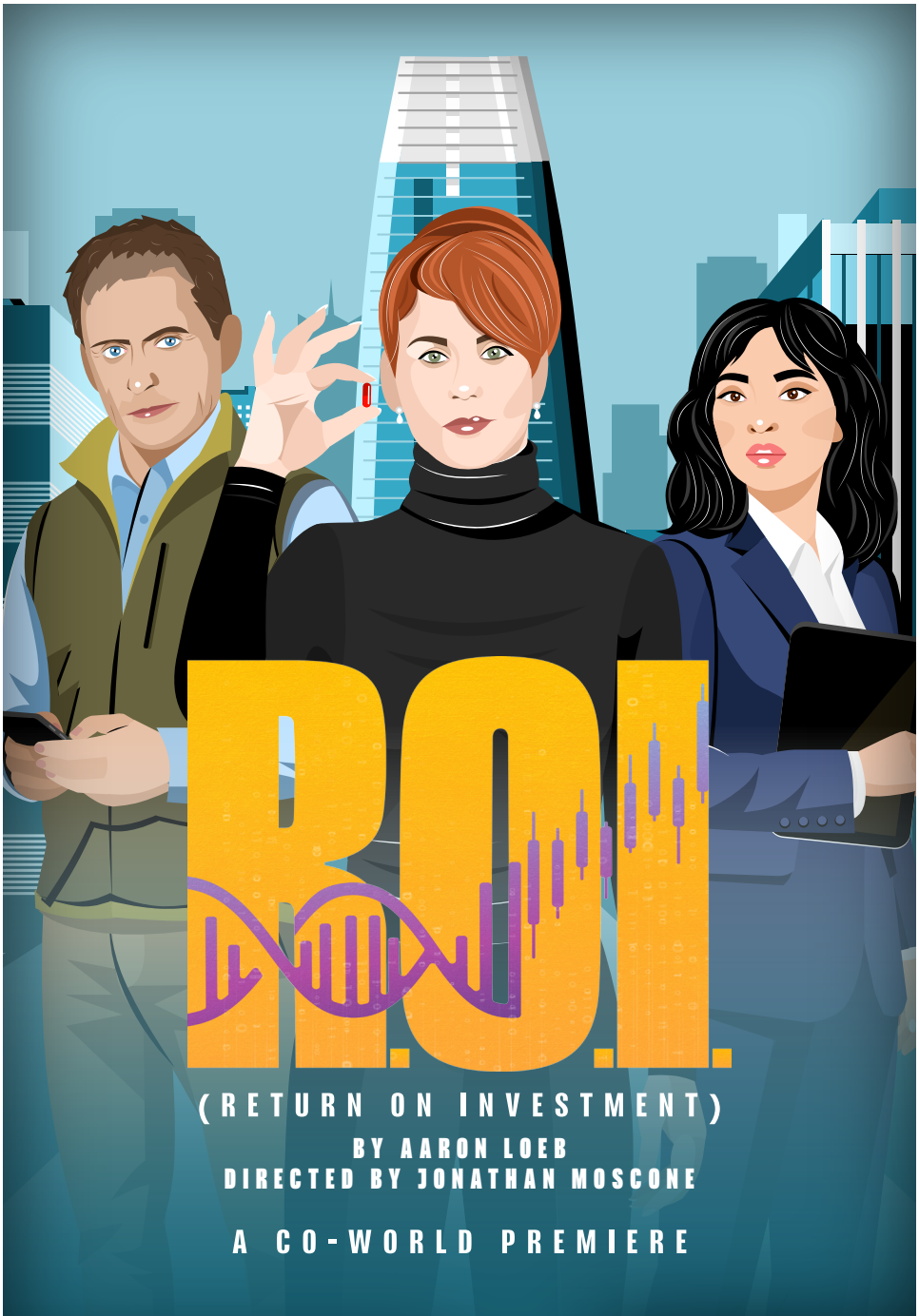

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In Memoriam

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather belongs to the Ohlone people of past, present, and future, whose homelands extend from Big Sur to the San Francisco Bay Area. We recognize that every member of the Bay Area community has, and continues to benefit from, the use and occupation of this land. We recognize that the Ohlone people are alive and flourishing members of the Bay Area communities today. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and learn on their land. Visit **sfplayhouse.org/edi** for more information.

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SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

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Scenic Designer
Guy Joslin

Properties Designer
Tiiu Eva Rebane

WELCOME



There are moments in history when civilization changes so rapidly that our moral imagination struggles to keep up. We are living through one of those moments now.

Artificial intelligence is transforming our world at warp speed. Every day we get news of discoveries that promise longer lives, greater knowledge, and unlimited prosperity. Yet along with those promises comes an troubling question. If we create technologies capable of shaping human thought itself, who decides how that power gets used?

No playwright I know has a more finely-honed instinct for finding the human drama inside society's most urgent questions than San Francisco Playhouse resident playwright Aaron Loeb. Aaron doesn't just write about ideas, he writes about people whose lives are changed by ideas. His characters inevitably find themselves in the vise between ambition and conscience, where every choice brings huge consequences, not just for themselves but for all of us.

In ***R.O.I. (Return on Investment)***, Aaron introduces us to a young venture capitalist who has a knack for recognizing genius. She encounters a scientist whose technology has the potential to change the future, and she risks everything to nurture it. The possibilities are extraordinary: power, wealth, prestige, and the satisfaction of having changed the world. Until the promise of progress starts to raise troubling questions.

What makes ***R.O.I.*** so compelling is that Aaron refuses to offer easy heroes or villains. Danger rarely announces itself. More often, it appears wrapped in optimism, the seductive promise of progress. History reminds us that the greatest harms often come not from malicious intent, but from the desire to create something amazing, regardless of the cost.

At the empathy gym, we focus our lens on a world increasingly run by mathematical certainty. Our theater remains one of the few places where strangers come together to wrestle with the unknown. Here, no machine can determine what deserves our attention. No formula can predict our emotional response. We encounter one another directly, sharing the same breath and the same questions.

Perhaps that is why live performance feels more essential than ever. It reminds us that while artificial intelligence may transform civilization, it cannot replace wisdom, courage or compassion. As Aaron so beautifully reminds us, the future will ultimately be determined not by the brilliance of our inventions, but by the character of the humans who choose how they are used.

Bill English
Artistic Director

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to share stories that uplift spirits, deepen self-awareness, and nurture compassionate community. Our theater is an Empathy Gym where we come to practice our powers of compassion. Here, safe in the dark, we can risk sharing in the lives of the characters. We feel what they feel, fear what they fear, and love what they love, and as we walk through our doors we take with us greater powers of understanding to make our community a better place, one play at a time.

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE
BILL ENGLISH, Artistic Director, **SUSI DAMILANO**, Producing Director, and
CLAY FOUNDATION - WEST, **WILLIAM McALLISTER**, and
SHARON & SAMUEL MUIR, Executive Producers,
present the co-world premiere of

R.O.I.
(RETURN ON INVESTMENT)

By AARON LOEB

Directed by JONATHAN MOSCONE°

Scenic Designer
BILL ENGLISH

Costume Designer
Y. SHARON PENG

Lighting Designer
CHARLIE MEJIA

Sound Designer
JAMES ARD^

Properties Designer
JUSTIN HAMMER

Projections Designer
SARAH PHYKITT^

CAST

Willa McGovern ..... LAUREN ENGLISH*
Paul Montrose ..... ANTHONY FUSCO*
May Lee ..... SHARON SHAO*
Woman ..... BONNIE AKIMOTO*

UNDERSTUDIES

Willa McGovern ..... MICHELLE DREXLER
May Lee ..... KAREN LAW
Woman ..... SAKURA NAKAHARA
Paul Montrose ..... DANIEL SILVERMAN

Understudies never substitute for the listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.

ADDITIONAL CREATIVE TEAM

Casting Director ..... JEFFREY LO
Dramaturg ..... WYNNE CHAN
Associate Scenic Designer ..... KIKI HOOD
Assistant Sound Designer ..... DAYNNA ROSALES

STAGE MANAGEMENT

Stage Manager ..... JENNA STEIN-CORMAN*
Assistant Stage Manager ..... ARIEL ANDERSON

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director of Production ..... ANGELA KNUTSON
Production Coordinator ..... SARAH MARIE SELIG
Production Associate ..... JOEL MOORE
Production Associate, Properties Coordinator ..... JUSTIN HAMMER
Technical Director ..... TISH LEUNG
Assistant Technical Director ..... ARIAN GRIMSRUD
Shop Carpenters ..... JOSHUA GRAVES
KEVIN O'SHAUGHNESSY
Scenic Charge ..... CAYLA RAY-PERRY
Lead Scenic Painter ..... KENZIE BRADLEY
Costume Director ..... LEX NOSEWORTHY
Assistant Costume Director ..... ARIEL TYREE
Wardrobe Supervisor ..... TIFFANY CARTAGENA

Master Electrician ..... LIZ KRETER-KILLIAN
Assistant Master Electrician ..... DEL MEDOFF
Light Board Programer ..... CHRISTINE WILLIAMSON
Sound Supervisor ..... JAMES ARD
Carpenters ..... NICHOLAS FRIEND
KRISTA WRIGHT
Electricians ..... SHY BANIANI
CORNELIUS GREEN
COLIN JOHNSON
MARGARET LINN
CODY POEHNELT
BRENT WIRTH

* Member of Actors' Equity Association. This theater operates under an agreement with Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

° The director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

^ Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

VENUE: Creativity Theater, 221 4th Street, San Francisco CA 94103

Original Commission and North American premiere by San Francisco Playhouse
Bill English, Artistic Director | Susi Damilano, Producing Director - San Francisco, California

The performance lasts approximately ninety minutes with no intermission.

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Performance Dates: August 6 to September 5, 2026. Playbill content current as of July 22, 2026.

Please visit sfplayhouse.org/playbill for the most current version of our digital playbill or scan this QR code.



BONNIE AKIMOTO*

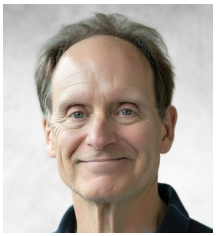


MICHELLE DREXLER



Kingmond Young

LAUREN ENGLISH*



ANTHONY FUSCO*



KAREN LAW



SAKURA NAKAHARA



Tracy Martin

DANIEL SILVERMAN



Marissa Moorhead

SHARON SHAO*

BIOGRAPHIES

CAST

BONNIE AKIMOTO*

Woman

Bonnie is very happy to be back on the boards after a long break. Her last performances were as Madame Ho in ***Madame Ho*** (Eugenie Chan Productions), and Professor Fowler and Mom in ***Beneath the Tall Tree*** (TheatreFIRST). Before retiring from theater, Bonnie performed at Aurora Theatre Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, California Shakespeare Theater, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, San Jose Stage Company, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and other theaters, across the country and in Russia. She currently and happily works with Marin County Office of Education as administrative agent for the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, working to increase student success throughout the State.

MICHELLE DREXLER

U/S: Willa McGovern

Michelle is ecstatic to return to San Francisco Playhouse after performing here in ***Camelot***, ***Into the Woods***, ***Company*** and ***Sunday in the Park with George***. Other regional collaborations include ***A WhyNot Christmas Carol*** (American Conservatory Theater), ***Indecent***, ***Cabaret***, and ***Our Town*** (Center REP), ***Macbeth*** (Marin Shakespeare Company), ***Imaginary Comforts*** and projects with The Ground Floor (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), ***Emma*** and ***Rags*** (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley), ***The Lion in Winter*** and ***Silent Sky*** (Jewel Theatre Company), ***Hedda Gabler*** and ***Avant GardARAMA!*** (Cutting Ball Theater), ***Harry Thaw Hates Everybody*** (Shotgun Players), and work with Kingsmen Shakespeare Company, Great River Shakespeare Festival, and American Repertory Theater. Her original comedy creations include ***A Very Drexler Cabaret*** and the web series, ***The Simpleton's Guide to Success***, both created with her twin sister, Lily. Michelle earned a BFA in acting from Emerson College. **michelledrexler.com** | **@ladydrexy**

LAUREN ENGLISH*

Willa McGovern

Lauren most recently performed in ***Gloria*** directed by Eric Ting at American Conservatory Theater. Selected local credits include ***Cry It Out*** (Just Theatre), ***Nassim***, ***The Baltimore Waltz*** and ***Why We Have a Body*** (Magic Theatre), ***Henry IV***, ***Henry V***, and ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (California Shakespeare Theater), ***Talley's Folley*** (Aurora Theatre Company), and ***Lasso of Truth*** (Marin Theatre Company). She has worked extensively with San Francisco Playhouse where she is a founding company member and artistic associate. Favorite stage credits here include ***reasons to be pretty***, ***Seminar***, ***Grounded***, ***The Glory of***

Living, and ***Our Town***. In New York, she worked with The Actors Company Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, The Public Theater, Ensemble Studio Theater, Lark Theatre and Playwrights Realm. Lauren earned an MFA from the Graduate Acting Program at New York University. "For Zelda." **laurenenglish.net**

ANTHONY FUSCO*

Paul Montrose

Anthony is delighted to be back at San Francisco Playhouse where he's previously played Pastor Paul in ***The Christians*** and Ed Devery in ***Born Yesterday***. Most recently seen in ***The Cherry Orchard*** at Marin Theatre, Anthony has been a mainstay of the Bay Area theatre for 25 years including over forty productions for American Conservatory Theater, where he was a core company member, and fourteen as an associate artist with California Shakespeare Theater (many directed by Jonathan Moscone), as well as productions for TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Magic Theatre, and A Traveling Jewish Theatre. In New York, he was in ***The Real Thing*** and ***Man and Superman*** on Broadway, and in shows Off- (and *Off*-Off) Broadway. Anthony has also enjoyed working at many of America's major regional theatre companies. He trained at Juilliard and The Barrow Group, and was honored as a 2023 Lunt-Fontanne Fellow by the Ten Chimneys Foundation. Anthony and his wife Martha live in San Rafael.

KAREN LAW

U/S: May Lee

Karen (she, her) is a Bay Area actor, choreographer, and violinist. Regional credits include ***Chinglish*** (San Francisco Playhouse), ***West Side Story*** (Opera San José), ***Hidden Strawberries*** (Stanford Live), and ***The Employee Dharma Handbook*** (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley). Other credits include work with Contemporary Asian Theater Scene, Hillbarn Theatre & Conservatory (San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle award nomination), Los Altos Stage, Palo Alto Players, Plethos Productions, Silicon Valley Shakespeare, South Bay Musical Theatre, Sunnyvale Players. Film work includes The Fiddler (Mill Valley Film Festival) and A Vibe Thing, and dance work includes Cassand Ballet, Decadance, Swingtime, and the Viennese Ball Opening Ceremony. **@entrechatneuf**

SAKURA NAKAHARA

U/S: Woman

Sakura (she, her) is thrilled to join the San Francisco Playhouse production of ***R.O.I. (Return on Investment)***. A San Francisco Bay Area-based actor, teaching artist, and publicist, her recent and notable performances include Aya in the world premiere of ***Apertures of Love in Times of War*** (PlayGround Festival of New Works), Emmy Lou in ***The Confession of Lily Dare*** (New Conservatory Theatre Center), Sugar in ***Tiny Beautiful Things*** (Plethos Productions), Frances in ***Melancholy Play*** (Theater Lunatico), and Eurydice, Lucina, and others in ***Metamorphoses*** (The Pear Theatre). Sakura also performs as a voice actor, notably portraying the role of Parker in the Student BAFTA-nominated virtual reality mystery game, *Penrose Station*.

SHARON SHAO*

May Lee

Sharon (she, they) is thrilled to be returning to San Francisco Playhouse this season. Previous credits here include ***Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy, Really***, ***Waitress***, ***Chinglish***, and ***The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin***, which received three San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle award nominations and one award. Regional credits include ***The Far Country*** (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), ***Little Women*** (TheatreWorks Silicon), and ***The Winter's Tale*** and ***The Good Person of Szechwan*** (California Shakespeare Theatre). She is a proud company member of Oakland Theatre Project, Shotgun Players, and 8th Best Legs Productions, and has developed, produced, and performed in several productions through these collaborations, including the original cabaret ***Sex, Camp, Rock 'n Roll*** at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Sharon earned a BA in theatre arts and psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and loves helping artists of all ages to find their true voice. **sharonshao.biz**

DANIEL SILVERMAN

U/S: Paul Montrose

Daniel (he, him) makes his San Francisco Playhouse debut. Recent stage credits include ***At the End of Our Streets the Stars*** (3Girls Theatre), ***Emerging Voices 2026*** (Sandcastle Theater), ***The Book of Will*** (Pacifica Spindrift Players), ***Henry IV, Part 1*** (Bard Theatre), and ***As You Like It***

(Curtain Theatre). Other regional credits include work with Ross Valley Players and Half Moon Bay Shakespeare Company. **danielsilvermanactor.com**

CREATIVE TEAM

AARON LOEB

Playwright

Aaron is a London-based playwright, originally from Berkeley. ***R.O.I. (Return on Investment)***, commissioned by San Francisco Playhouse in 2018, received the first part of its rolling world-premiere at the Hampstead Theatre in London earlier this season. His plays ***Ideation*** (Glickman New Play Award winner) and ***Abraham Lincoln's Big, Gay Dance Party*** (named Outstanding Production at the New York Fringe), both premiered at the Playhouse and ran Off-Broadway. ***Ideation*** has been performed across the United States as well as in New Zealand and Estonia and is currently under development as a motion picture. His Edgerton New Play Award-winning ***The Trials of Sam Houston*** ran at Dallas Theater Center. His other works include ***First Person Shooter*** (also a Playhouse world premiere), ***The Proud***, ***Brown***, ***Panopticon***, and ***Blastosphere!*** (with Geetha Reddy). He is the resident playwright of San Francisco Playhouse, a game developer, and was, for a time, a venture capitalist.

JONATHAN MOSCONE°

Director

Jonathan is thrilled to be making his San Francisco Playhouse debut. Most recently he directed ***Pictures from Home*** for Marin Theatre. From 2000–2015, he served as artistic director of California Shakespeare Theater, and from 2017–2022, as chief producer for Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. From 2020–2023, he was a council member then executive director of the California Arts Council. He currently serves on the Film Commission for the City of San Francisco and as president of the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association. He lives in the City with his husband, Darryl, their cat, Turtle, and dog, Lucy. Next, he will direct ***Deep Blue Sound*** for the Actors' Reading Collective.

JAMES ARD^

Sound Designer

James is a noisemaker specializing in new works, live experiences, and immersive stage productions. His recent designs at San Francisco Playhouse include ***Hairspray***, ***M. Butterfly***, ***My Fair Lady***, ***Exotic Deadly, Or, The MSG Play***, ***Waitress***, ***Evita***, ***The Glass Menagerie***, ***Guys and Dolls***, ***A Chorus Line***, ***Chinglish***, and ***Indecent***. Other recent work includes collaborations with Under the Radar at The Public Theater, American Conservatory Theater, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Summerhall at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Sibiu International Theatre Festival, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Guthrie Theater, American Repertory Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Portland Center Stage, Center REP, Ensemble Theatre Company, Cutting Ball Theater, Joe Goode Performance Group, Stanford University, Atlantic Theater Company, and the University of California, Berkeley. James is a resident artist with Golden Thread Productions and Crowded Fire Theater.

BILL ENGLISH

Scenic Designer

A co-founder and the artistic director of San Francisco Playhouse, Bill has served as director, actor, scenic designer, and sound designer - or various combinations thereof - winning San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle nominations or awards in each of those categories.

JUSTIN HAMMER

Properties Designer

Justin (he, him) absolutely should not have been trusted to write his own biography because he will use all space allowed to be silly. Ordinarily this would be seen as a bad thing, waste of ink, and embarrassment, but because beautiful men have said this is a redeeming quality, he won't stop doing so unless threatened with legal action. Beyond the jokes, he made the props for this show (his first time solo!), and wrote plays such as ***This is Your Brain on Moral OCD*** (showcased at MMMAKASE at More Más Marami Arts), ***The Yellow Zoom-Paper [working title]*** alongside Carl Erez (Barnstorm Theater Company), and an in-progress unofficial musical using the works of Carly Rae Jepsen. ("STILL not finished, shame on him!") He is also a part of the production and finance teams here at the Playhouse and subsequently wears lots of hats to fit "his big, dumb head."

Y. SHARON PENG

Costume Designer

Sharon is a member of IATSE Local 706. Recent design work for the stage include

Come Back to the 5&Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley), ***Flower Drum Song*** (East West Players), ***What the Constitution Means to Me*** (Perseverance Theatre), and ***Chriskirkpatrickmas*** (Seven Dials Playhouse, UK). Recent television and film credits include make-up artist for ***Stranger Things*** (Season 4), costume supervisor for ***Ride***, and costume designer for ***Anime Crimes Division*** (Season 2). Sharon trained in bespoke wig construction with artists of the English National Opera in London and the San Francisco Opera. **ysharonpeng.net**

SARAH PHYKITT^

Projections Designer

Sarah is thrilled to be working with San Francisco Playhouse again where her credits include ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time***, ***Indecent***, ***As You Like It***, ***Nollywood Dreams***, and ***Evita***. Other designs include ***I Am My Own Wife*** and ***Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*** (Oakland Theater Project), ***Wait Until Dark*** and ***Fly By Night*** (Hillbarn Theatre & Conservatory), and ***Golden Girls Live! The Christmas Episodes*** (Curran Theatre). Additional credits include ***West Side Story***, ***Memphis***, ***Into the Woods***, ***Kinky Boots***, ***Rent***, and ***The Prom*** (Berkeley Playhouse), ***Torch Song*** (Marin Theatre Company), ***The Red Shades*** (Z Space), ***Cabaret*** and ***Hamlet*** (Oakland Theater Project), ***The Day the Sky Turned Orange*** (SFBATCO), and ***The House on Mango Street*** (Teatro Visión).

JENNA STEIN-CORMAN*

Stage Manager

Jenna (they, she) is a stage manager, director, educator, and visual artist who grew up in the world of Bay Area theatre. They moved back home after earning their BA from Sarah Lawrence College in 2020, and have worked with PlayGround, San Francisco Mime Troupe, Berkeley Playhouse, and the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts (SOTA), to name a few. This is their first production with San Francisco Playhouse. **@prettyandthorny**

ARIEL ANDERSON

Assistant Stage Manager

Ariel (he, him) is excited to be working with San Franciso Playhouse for the first time. Favorite credits include ***Cats*** and ***Jesus Christ Superstar*** (Berkeley Playhouse) and ***Camelot*** (Contra Costa Civic Theater). He has also stage managed the DancEsteem Spring Performances since 2024, and earned degrees in music and theatre and performance studies from the University of California, Berkeley. "Thank you to SFBATCO for additional stage management training."

FOUNDERS

SUSI DAMILANO

Founder & Producing Director

Susi (she, her) is co-founder and producing director of San Francisco Playhouse, with over two decades of professional collaboration with Bill English. She is a six-time recipient of the Excellence in Theatre Award for Principal Actress in a Play from the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle and she has directed over a dozen award-winning Playhouse productions. When absolutely necessary, Susi will admit to being a CPA, and in another life she played the role of "VP of Human Resources." For real.

BILL ENGLISH

Founder & Artistic Director

Bill is the co-founder and artistic director of the San Francisco Playhouse. In twenty-three years, he - with Susi Damilano - has guided its growth from a bare-bones storefront to the second-largest nonprofit theatre company in San Francisco. Milestone accomplishments include bringing Pulitzer Prize-winner Stephen Adly Guirgis to the Bay Area by directing three of his plays, commissioning multiple playwrights including Theresa Rebeck, Aaron Loeb, Lauren Gunderson, Lauren Yee, and Christopher Chen, and developing world premieres from workshops to Sandbox Series to mainstage to Off-Broadway (including the Off-Broadway transfers of ***Ideation*** and ***Bauer***), and presenting the very first production of ***Grounded*** by George Brant which later played at the Public Theater. He coined the phrase “the empathy gym” and it drives everything at the Playhouse.

PRODUCTION AFFILIATIONS

ACTORS’ EQUITY ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1913, Actors’ Equity Association is the US labor union that represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by

negotiating wages and working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. **actorsequity.org**

STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY

The Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) is the theatrical union that unites, empowers, and protects professional stage directors and choreographers throughout the United States. Its mission is to foster a national community of professional stage directors and choreographers by protecting the rights, health, and livelihoods of all our members by negotiating and enforcing employment agreements across a range of jurisdictions, facilitating the exchange of ideas, information, and opportunities, and educating current and future generations about the critical role of directors and choreographers in leading the field. **sdcweb.org**

UNITED SCENIC ARTISTS

United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829, IATSE, is a labor union and professional association of designers, artists, craftspeople, and department coordinators, organized to protect craft standards, working conditions and wages for the entertainment and decorative arts industries. The members of Local USA 829 work in film, theatre, opera, ballet, television, industrial shows, commercials, and exhibitions. **usa829.org**

Biography content is provided by the artists profiled.
Opinions expressed therein do not necessarily reflect the views of San Francisco Playhouse.

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.

° Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

^ Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

SUPPORT A RISING STAR IN OUR GALAXY!



image by donny gilliland

The **Rising Star Theatre Attendance Program** nurtures a new generation of theatergoers by providing Bay Area students – most with no formal drama program at their schools – a chance to explore our season. Each donation of $150 gives one local high school student:

- a four-play subscription
- pre- and post-show lessons
- talk-backs with the cast and creative artists
- a chance to reflect on the experience in a letter to YOU, their sponsor

Please call 415.866.8907 or email **development@sfplayhouse.org** for more information.

RISING STARS

Rising Stars are the future movers and shakers of the American theatre. They are high school students who are also actors, directors, writers, and designers. They are dreamers and doers, and their journey is made possible by heroes like you. For only $150 you can sponsor four tickets for local Rising Star students to see four plays at San Francisco Playhouse. Visit us online today and join the heroes below!

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Wendy Allphin
Cynnie Anderson & Jerry Rampelberg
Nancy K Austin & Bill Cawley
Eve Barringer
Suzanne Beim
Sandra Blair & Carol Cohen
Elizabeth Borst
Lori Cabansag
Victoria Chen
Rajeev Chopra
Lily L. Chow
Paula Clark
Mike Crosby & Dr. Marsha Brown
Edward Cullen & Ann O'Connor
Sheila Dalton
Mark Evanoff
Paul Feasby
Ralph Fenn
Lynn Fonfa & Margie Cohen
Gary & Paula Fracchia
Diana Gay-Catania & David Catania
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Christine & Eric Gornitsky
Ernest Grossman
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Nancy Howe
Daniel & Debra Hunter
Dov & Madelyn Isaacs
Gary Jaffe
Rosemary Jenckes
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San Francisco Playhouse, the City's "Empathy Gym" as described by Artistic Director and Co-Founder Bill English, is celebrating over 150 productions of award-winning theatre. Every season for 22 years, it has offered a selection of original works mixed with reimagined classic plays and musicals, "making the edgy accessible and the accessible edgy." Commissions and world premières are a regular feature at the Playhouse and include works by esteemed playwrights George Brant, Christopher Chen, Ruben Grijalva, Lauren Gunderson, Claude Jackson Jr., Theresa Rebeck, Michael Gene Sullivan, Steve Yockey, and Aaron Loeb, resident playwright. Three of these transferred directly to New York productions. Gunderson's ***Bauer*** and Loeb's ***Ideation*** opened Off-Broadway at 59E59 Theaters, and Loeb's ***Abraham Lincoln's Big, Gay Dance Party*** won the best of New York International Fringe Festival. This steadfast focus on new works has been honored by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Theatre Wing, and Playhouse commissions have garnered regional acclaim. Grijalva's ***Shoot Me When***, presented online during the pandemic, won the Will Glickman Award and Rebeck's ***Seared*** opened the 2016-2017 season and was nominated for ten San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle awards. Works developed by the Playhouse have also gone on to national recognition. Chen's ***You Mean to Do Me Harm*** won the Lanford Wilson Award from the Dramatists Guild of America in 2016. Yockey's ***Pluto***, a Playhouse commission, was named a National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere. Brant's ***Grounded***, a Playhouse premiere, was produced at the Public Theater starring Anne Hathaway and directed by Julie Taymor in 2015 and has been adapted by Tony-winner Jeanine Tesori for the Metropolitan Opera. Rebeck's ***Seared*** was produced Off-Broadway at MCC Theater in 2019 starring Tony-nominee Raúl Esparza. The Playhouse has also supported emerging voices in its experimental Sandbox Series, running from 2009 to 2020, and including original works and world premieres by Steven Dietz, Dipika Guha, Chelsea Marcantel, Rogelio Martinez, Walt McGough, Carey Perloff, Geetha Reddy, Lynn Rosen, and Lauren Yee. **sfplayhouse.org**

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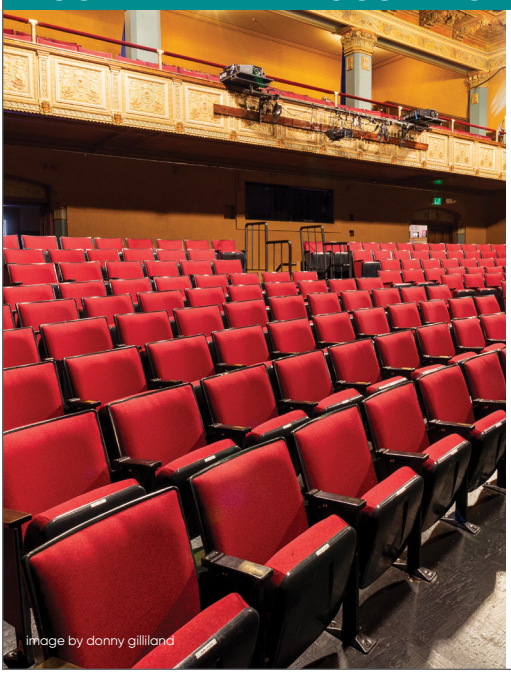
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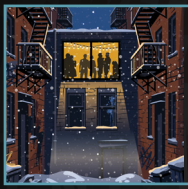

RENT

BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY JONATHAN LARSON

DECEMBER 11, 2026 – FEBRUARY 6, 2027

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LIZARD BOY

BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY JUSTIN HUERTAS

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FEBRUARY 25 – APRIL 3, 2027

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