

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
August, 2011

VENUE: 533 Sutter Street, @ Powell
Contact: Susi Damilano
susi@sfplayhouse.org

West Coast Premiere of **HONEY BROWN EYES**

By Stefanie Zdravec

Directed by Susi Damilano

September 20st to November 5th

PRESS OPENING: September 24th

San Francisco, CA (August, 2011) - **The SF Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) are thrilled to announce casting for the first show of their ninth season, the West Coast Premiere of ***Honey Brown Eyes*** by Stefanie Zdravec.

Inspired by actual events, *Honey Brown Eyes* contrasts the everydayness of domestic settings with the ravages of the Bosnian War. Set in two kitchens, the play follows two soldiers that were once in a rock band together caught on opposite sides of the war - one who has to face the consequences of his own brutality, and another who comes to terms with his own cowardice. Unlikely partnerships emerge in this play of horror, humanity and stunning relevance.

Winner of the 2009 Helen Hayes Award for Best New Play or Musical, *Honey Brown Eyes* was published in the February 2009 issue of American Theatre Magazine. It was a finalist for the 2007 Smith Prize, a semi-finalist for the 2008 Princess Grace Award, and nominated for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize.

Susi Damilano, co-founder and Producing Director of the SF Playhouse will direct a stunning cast including: **Cooper Carson, Chad Deverman***, **Nic Grelli, Wanda McCaddon***, **Daniel Mitchel, Madeleine Pauker, Jennifer Stuckert*** and **Rachel Share-Sapolsky**,

Stefanie Zdravec is a writer and actor living in Brooklyn, NY. Her plays have been produced and developed at The Kennedy Center, The Women's Project, Theater J, The Barrow Group, Bay Street Theater, Vital Theater, The Phoenix Theater, Theater of the First Amendment

THE SF PLAYHOUSE

Honey Brown Eyes

Continued:

and The Working Theater. *Honey Brown Eyes* (Working Theater, Theater J) won the 2009 Helen Hayes award; *Save Me* won the The Phoenix Theater's National Playwriting Award and The Carol Weinberg Award. She received a Dakin Fellowship and a Williams scholarship to the Sewanee Writer's Conference and is published in two Playsource anthologies. Stefanie received NYCWAM's 2011 Women's Collaboration Award for *The Electric Baby*. She is a 2010-2011 Playwrights Realm Writer Fellow and Dramatists Guild Fellow. She is also a member of the 2010-2012 Women's Project Lab and a writer in Residence with Theater 167.

Susi Damilano (Director and Producing Director) is co-founder of The SF Playhouse, Her directing credits include the world premiere of *Wirehead*, *Den of Thieves* and the West Coast Premieres of *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Coronado*, *The Mystery Plays* and *Roulette* and the World Premiere of Daniel Heath's *Seven Days* in the 2010 Sandbox Series. She is a three-time recipient of the Bay Area Critic Circle Award for Best Female Performance in *Bug*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, and *Reckless*. At the SF Playhouse she has performed leading roles in *Harper Regan*, *Coraline*, *Slasher*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Landscape of the Body*, *First Person Shooter*, *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train*, *The Crucible*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, *Our Town*, and *The Smell of the Kill*.

Founded by **Bill English and Susi Damilano** in 2003, **The SF Playhouse** is San Francisco's fastest growing and most awarded Theater Company and hailed as a "small delicacy" by *SF Weekly*, "eclectic" by the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, and "local theater's best kept secret" by *San Francisco Magazine*. Located in Union Square, The SF Playhouse offers intimate, professional theatre with top notch actors and world class design. It has received multiple awards for overall productions, acting and design including the SF Weekly Best Theatre Award, Bay Guardian's Best Off-Broadway Theatre Award. The *San Francisco Chronicle* raved, "**One of the most meteoric rises [of the decade] has been that of SF Playhouse, Bill English and Susi Damilano's 7-year-old-start-up that has been attracting more top-notch actors, directors, and scripts every year.**" The SF Playhouse has become the intimate theatre alternative to the traditional Union Square theatre fare, providing a creative home and inspiring environment

THE SF PLAYHOUSE

Honey Brown Eyes

Continued:

where actors, directors, writers, designers, and theatre lovers converge to create works that celebrate the human spirit.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: Bosnia, 1992. Two kitchens. Two soldiers. Once members of a rock band together. Now on opposite sides of a war. Can a bond formed through music survive a world spinning out of control? Unlikely partnerships emerge in this play of horror, humanity and stunning relevance.

DATES: Previews: **September 20-23 8pm**
Open: **September 24, 2011 8pm**
Close: **November 5, 2011**

SHOWS: Tues/Wed/Thurs. 7 p.m., Friday & Saturday 8 p.m., plus Saturdays 3 p.m.

WHERE: **The SF Playhouse**
533 Sutter Street (one block off Union Square, b/n Powell & Mason)

TICKETS: For tickets (\$20-\$50) or more information, the public may contact The SF Playhouse box office at **415-677-9596**, or **www.sfplayhouse.org**.