

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
May 30, 2008

VENUE: 533 Sutter Street, @ Powell
Contact: Susi Damilano
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CABARET

Book by Joe Masteroff, lyrics by Fred Ebb, and music by John Kander

Directed by Bill English

Opens (Press Night) June 28 through September 20, 2008

Previews June 25, 26 and 27

San Francisco, CA (May 2008) – **The SF Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) is pleased present *Cabaret* as its final show of the 2007-08 season. Artistic Director Bill English will direct, Barbara Bernardo will choreograph and Martin Rojas-Dietrich will be Music Director.

“No good is sitting alone in your room, come hear the music play!” This legendary landmark musical turns Weimar Berlin of 1931 into a dark and sexually charged haven of decadence where its extraordinary and morally ambiguous inhabitants are determined to keep up appearances as the real world-outside the comfortable sanctuary of the cabaret- prepares for the nightmarish chaos of war. It is here that Sally Bowles performs nightly at the infamous Kit-Kat Klub. “Its divine decadence darling!”

Lauren English and Brian Yates Sharber* star as Sally Bowles and the MC. Also featured are Bobby Bryce, Karen Grassle*(*Little House on the Prairie*), Kristopher Hauck, Tania Johnson*, Rana Kangas-Kent, Daniel Krueger, Norman Munoz, Laurie Nellesen, Louis Parnell*, Martin Rojas-Dietrich, Will Springhorn Jr., Alex Szotak, and Lily Tung Crystal. *Kate Del Castillo* will replace Lauren English as Sally Bowles beginning August 27th. *Courtesy of Actor's Equity.

The musical was turned into an eight-time Oscar-winning 1972 movie starring Liza Minnelli, Michael York and Joel Grey. Prior to the movie, *Cabaret* premiered on Broadway 1966. The musical returned to New York with Mendes' famous Tony-winning production, which premiered at London's Donmar, and starred Alan Cumming (London and Broadway) and Natasha Richardson (Broadway only). Joe Masteroff's book for *Cabaret* was based on John van Druten's play *I Am a Camera*, itself inspired by Christopher Isherwood's Berlin stories

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Continued:

John Kander (music) & Fred Ebb (lyrics) The John Kander and Fred Ebb collaboration of four decades has created what many would consider Broadway standards and contemporary classics: *Flora, the Red Menace*; *Cabaret* (Tony Award); *The Happy Time*; *Zorba*; *70, Girls, 70*; *Chicago*; *The Act*; *Woman of the Year* (Tony Award, Best Score); *The Rink*; *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Tony Award, Best Score); and *Steel Pier*. Their collaboration also transferred itself to movies and television as they wrote original material for the Academy Awards; “Liza With a Z” (Emmy Award); HBO’s “Liza Minnelli’s Stepping Out” (Emmy Award); *Funny Lady* (Oscar nominated for “How Lucky Can You Get”); *Lucky Lady*; *New York, New York*; *Stepping Out*; and *Chicago* (Oscar nominated for Best Song). In the mid ‘80s the song “New York, New York” becoming the official anthem of New York City. At the time of the unfortunate death of Mr. Ebb, Kander and Ebb had several projects in different stages of completion waiting in the wings: *The Visit*, *All About Us*, *Curtains* (currently on Broadway) and *Minstrel Show*. Life goes on.

Joe Masteroff (book) Came to New York from Philadelphia after attending Temple University and serving in the U.S. Air Force, he has been represented in New York City by the play *The Warm Peninsula*, the libretto for an operatic version of Eugene O’Neill’s *Desire Under the Elms* and the book and lyrics for a recent production of *Six Wives* at the York Theatre Company.

Founded by **Bill English and Susi Damilano** in 2003, **The SF Playhouse** is Union Square’s intimate, professional theatre. Using professional actors and world class design, The SF Playhouse, which won the SF Weekly 2007 Best Theatre Award, Bay Guardian’s 2006 Best Off Broadway Theatre Award and about which the *San Francisco Chronicle* raved, “San Francisco’s newest theatre isn’t just another tiny stage carved out of a storefront . . . its an enticing introduction to a new company,” has become an intimate theatre alternative to the traditional Union Square theatre fare, garnering multiple awards for its productions and providing a creative home and inspiring environment where actors, directors, writers, designers, and theatre lovers converge, The SF Playhouse, 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*, strives to create works that celebrate the human spirit.

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Continued:

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: “No good is sitting alone in your room, come hear the music play!” John Kander and Fred Ebb’s legendary landmark musical turns Weimar Berlin of 1931 into a dark and sexually charged haven of decadence where its extraordinary and morally ambiguous inhabitants are determined to keep up appearances as the real world-outside the comfortable sanctuary of the cabaret- prepares for the nightmarish chaos of war. It is here that Sally Bowles performs nightly at the infamous Kit-Kat Klub in “a shimmering masterpiece of a show guaranteed night after night. Its divine decadence darling!”

Winner of the Tony and 8 Oscar Awards, Joe Masteroff’s book for *Cabaret* was based on John van Druten’s play *I Am a Camera*, itself inspired by Christopher Isherwood’s Berlin stories.

DATES: Previews: **June 25, 26 and 27**
Open: **June 28, 2008**
Close: **September 20, 2008**

SHOWS: Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., plus Saturdays 3p.m.

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

TICKETS: For tickets (\$20 previews, \$40 regular, \$55 Special Cabaret Seating.) For more information, the public may contact The SF Playhouse box office at **415-677-9596, TicketWeb.com.**