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# SF PLAYHOUSE

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[www.sfplayhouse.org](http://www.sfplayhouse.org)

## PRESS RELEASE

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VENUE: 533 Sutter Street, @ Powell  
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### West Coast Premiere of **CORALINE**

Book by David Greenspan, Music & Lyrics by Stephin Merritt

Based on the novel by Neil Gaiman

Directed by Bill English

November 16, 2010 through January 15, 2011

Press Opening: November 20th

San Francisco, CA - **The SF Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) is thrilled to announce casting for the West Coast Premiere (and only second presentation) of ***Coraline***.

The **cast** will introduce twelve year old, **Maya Donato** in the title role and feature **Susi Damilano, Jackson Davis\*, Maureen McVerry\*, Stacy Ross\*, Brian Degan Scott** and **Brian Yates Sharber\***.

**Bill English** will direct, **Erika Chong Shuch** will choreograph and **Robert Moreno** will be music director. The play will also include puppets created by **Chris White**, costumes by **Valera Coble**, and light design by **Michael Oesch**.

Poor bored Coraline. She's left to rattle 'round her perpetually distracted, workaholic parents' house all by her lonesome. But late one night, her dreams of a better reality come true as she opens a big, carved, wooden door at the far end of the drawing room and passes into a perfect replica of her own world. When she's greeted there by a vastly loving Other Mother and a kindly Other Father, she's thrilled! But as the rats start to creep from the floorboards, and the way home becomes increasingly unclear, Coraline begins to suspect that, perhaps, all is not as perfect as it seems...

A musical like no other, *Coraline* sprang from the minds of three of the most wildly popular cult figures of our time. Adapted from the terrifying children's book by **Neil Gaiman** (author of the international sensation *Sandman*), this tale of menace and mayhem was set to music and lyrics by smart-rock iconoclast **Stephin Merritt** of The Magnetic Fields, and boasted a book by celebrated downtown

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*Continued:*

actor/playwright, **David Greenspan** (*She Stoops to Comedy, Dead Mother*), who served double-duty as the villainous Other Mother in the original off-Broadway premiere.

**STEPHIN MERRITT** (Composer) releases albums under the band names the Magnetic Fields, the 6ths, the Gothic Archies, and Future Bible Heroes. With his band The Magnetic Fields, Merritt has written, produced and recorded eight albums to date. Their 1999 album 69 Love Songs was a 3-disc masterwork which garnered Merritt widespread acclaim, including "best of" year-end lists in Spin, Rolling Stone, The New York Times, LA Times, Washington Post and most other major national publications. In 2002, Merritt signed to Nonesuch Records. The Magnetic Fields performed as part of Lincoln Center's 'American Songwriters' series and at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's 'Next Wave of Song'. Merritt has composed original music and lyrics for three music theater pieces directed by Chen Shi-Zheng; *The Orphan of Zhao* in 2003 for the Lincoln Center Festival; *Peach Blossom Fan*, produced at Cal Arts in 2004; and *My Life As a Fairy Tale*, at the Lincoln Center Festival in 2005. Merritt composed the score for the academy award nominated film *Pieces of April* (dir. Peter Hedges) and for the independent film *Eban and Charley*, and released soundtrack albums for each. His song "The Book of Love," was performed by Peter Gabriel and appears in the film *Shall We Dance*. He has composed incidental music for the HarperCollins' audio books of *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket and for Neil Gaiman's *Coraline*, and subsequently released an album *Songs from A Series of Unfortunate Events*. In 2008, Magnetic Fields toured in the US and Europe to support their new album, *Distortion*, on Nonesuch records. Additional information on Merritt and his work can be found at [www.houseoftomorrow.com](http://www.houseoftomorrow.com).

**DAVID GREENSPAN** (Book writer / Other Mother) was previously seen at MCC in José Rivera's *Sueño*. Other credits include *The Beebo Brinker Chronicles* (Hourglass), Obie for his performances in *Some Men* (Second Stage) and Goethe's *Faust* (Target Margin), *The Wax* (Playwrights Horizons), *Lipstick Traces* (Foundry), *The Boys in the Band* (Obie) and his plays *Jack*, *The Home Show Pieces* and *2 Samuel 11*, Etc., (Home) *Dead Mother* (Public, TJT), *She Stoops to Comedy* (SF Playhouse, Playwrights Horizons, Obie), *The Myopia* (Foundry) and *The Argument* (Target Margin, Obie). An alumnus of New Dramatists, he has received Revson, McKnight, Guggenheim, Lucille Lortel Foundation fellowships and an Alpert Award in the Arts.

**NEIL GAIMAN** (*Coraline* novel author) is the critically acclaimed and award-winning author of the novels *American Gods*, *Stardust*, and *Neverwhere*. He is also the author of the *Sandman* series of graphic novels, and coauthor of the novel *Good Omens* with Terry Pratchett. Among the many awards he has won are the World Fantasy Award, Bram Stoker Award, and the Newbery Award for children's literature. Originally from England, Gaiman now lives in America. Visit him at [www.neilgaiman.com](http://www.neilgaiman.com).

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*,

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

### FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

**WHAT:** A musical like no other, *Coraline* sprang from the minds of three of the most wildly popular cult figures of our time. Adapted from the terrifying children’s book by **Neil Gaiman** (author of the international sensation *Sandman*), this tale of menace and mayhem was set to music and lyrics by smart-rock iconoclast **Stephin Merritt** of The Magnetic Fields, and boasted a book by celebrated downtown actor/playwright, **David Greenspan** (*She Stoops to Comedy, Dead Mother*)

Poor bored Coraline. She’s left to rattle ‘round her perpetually distracted, workaholic parents’ house all by her lonesome. But late one night, her dreams of a better reality come true as she opens a big, carved, wooden door at the far end of the drawing room and passes into a perfect replica of her own world. When she’s greeted there by a vastly loving Other Mother and a kindly Other Father, she’s thrilled! But as the rats start to creep from the floorboards, and the way home becomes increasingly unclear, Coraline begins to suspect that, perhaps, all is not as perfect as it seems.

**DATES:** Previews: **November 16, 17, 18, 19 8pm**  
Open: **November 20, 2010 8pm**  
Close: **January 15, 2011**

**SHOWS:** Tues./Wed. 7 p.m., Thursday through 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)

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**TICKETS:** For tickets (\$30-\$50) or more information, the public may contact The SF Playhouse box office at **415-677-9596, or [www.sfplayhouse.org](http://www.sfplayhouse.org)**.