

THE **SF PLAYHOUSE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**BlueRare Productions, San Francisco Playhouse and PlayGround Present**

**The SF Playhouse Production of**

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIG GAY DANCE PARTY**

**In The New York International Fringe Festival - FringeNYC**

**August 14<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>**

**For tickets visit [www.FringeNYC.org](http://www.FringeNYC.org)**

**San Francisco, CA (June 2009) – The SF Playhouse's** critically acclaimed production of **ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIG GAY DANCE PARTY**, by **Aaron Loeb**, directed by **Chris Smith**, will be presented as part of the **13<sup>th</sup> Annual New York International Fringe Festival**.

The SF Playhouse Company – featuring **Velina Brown, Joe Kady, Lorraine Olsen, Mark Anderson Phillips, Michael Phillis, and Brian Degan Scott** – will travel to New York for this East Coast premiere.

SF Playhouse Artistic Director **Bill English** says, "I thought when I first read this script, that there was something absolutely unique about it and it will be wonderful to be able to share this "one of kind" gem with the East Coast." Playwright **Aaron Loeb** adds, "It is a genuine thrill to be able to re-mount the San Francisco Playhouse World Premiere of Abe at the New York Fringe. The actors, directors and producers of the production are all involved in bringing the production to a new city. San Francisco audiences embraced our show so warmly; we can't wait to show-'em-what-we-got in the Big Apple."

In this new comedy of political values, Honest Abe's hometown puts a teacher on trial for asking "Was Lincoln gay?" Told in three acts - the audience decides the order - we see the events surrounding the "Trial of the Century" through the eyes of the prosecution, the defense and the big city reporter.

The SF Playhouse world premiere production of the play, originally commissioned by PlayGround, received the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for Best New Play and made three year-end Bay Area Top 10 Lists. *Variety* called it an "ambitious mashup of burlesque anarchy, elaborate narrative intrigue, serious sociopolitical themes and campy dance interludes. . . . It shouldn't all hold together. Yet somehow this frequently ingenious, hilarious contraption does."

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### ***Abraham Lincoln goes to New York***

*Continued:*

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**Aaron Loeb** (Playwright) received BFAs in Dramatic Writing and Dramatic Literature from NYU, is a member of the Dramatists' Guild of America and is also the chief operating officer of Planet Moon Studios, a leading developer of next-generation Wii, PSP and PC games. His play, *First Person Shooter*, was named a Top 10 (2007) by *The San Francisco Chronicle* and *The Oakland Tribune* and won the Bay Area Theater Critic Circle Award for Best New Play.

**Chris Smith** (Director) directed Charles Grodin's *The Right Kind of People* (Primary Stages/59E59 and Magic Theatre) and several dozen other world premieres, including works by Edna O'Brien, David Ives, Joyce Carol Oates, Romulus Linney, Joe Pintauro, and Pulitzer Prize-winner Frank D. Gilroy. He is the former Artistic Director of San Francisco's Magic Theatre and Youngblood, Ensemble Studio Theatre's company of emerging playwrights, in New York City.

**BlueRare Productions** is a venture company dedicated to the power of live performance.

**San Francisco Playhouse** has garnered multiple awards for its productions, including the SF Weekly 2007 Best Theatre Award and Bay Guardian's 2006 Best Off-Broadway Theatre Award. SF Playhouse strives to create works that celebrate the human spirit and provide a creative home and inspiring environment where actors, directors, writers, designers and theater lovers converge.

**PlayGround** has helped to identify some of the leading emerging writers in the Bay Area and, at the same time, create a community of theatre artists, bringing together more than one hundred Bay Area actors, directors and playwrights.

**For more information about the Fringe Production, visit:**  
**[www.abrahamlincolnsbiggaydanceparty.com](http://www.abrahamlincolnsbiggaydanceparty.com).**