

T H E SF PLAYHOUSE

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
July, 2010

VENUE: 533 Sutter Street, @ Powell
Contact: Susi Damilano
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****Sunday Night Solo Series****

MADHOUSE RHYTHM

Written and Performed by Joshua Walters

Sundays: July 11, 18, 25 and August 1, 7PM

San Francisco, CA (July, 2010) – **The SF Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) is proud to announce the next edition of their Sunday Night Solo Series. Sunday Night Solo is dedicated to showcasing the Bay Area's most new and exciting solo artists and seeks out performance artists, spoken word artists, and stand-up comedians to perform one-person shows. Anthony R. Miller curates the series.

The Sunday Night Solo series continues with *Madhouse Rhythm*, an autobiographical collage based on one man's struggle with madness. A variety of styles, including hip hop theater, spoken word, and beatbox infuse this humorous tale. Join Joshua as he takes you inside the mind of a man captured in the throes of a psychotic breakdown, forced to make sense of being locked away in a madhouse. It made its Debut in 2008 to critical acclaim and has had a great impact in the theater and mental health community. The show premiered at JCC East Bay, had successful runs at MACLA and Climate Theater, and is now taught as curriculum in performance and disability studies at UC Berkeley.

PRESS:

"Frank, funny, intense, at times unsettling, Walters is a dynamic performer"
-SF Bay Guardian

"Recasting illness as armature"
-East bay Express

The SF Playhouse
Sunday Night Solo (cont'd)

"Artful...informative...done with humor." -KGO 560, ABC

"Great style...we saw that Joshua Walters as the stand-up comedy specialist dominated." -Frankenslam.de, Germany.

"Uplifting in a way that is rare as the performer was real, insightful, educational and extremely entertaining—A Robin Williams in bloom who speaks to issues so vital to our culture of indifference to difference." -Dr. Joyce Block, Psychiatrist

"I worked as a professional in Mental Health for over 40 years and never saw such a lucid exposition of the reality of symptoms, medication and awareness. This message should be broadcast." -Paul Gorman, Psychologist

Watch the Trailer at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSw2fwKRS0A>

Joshua Walters (Author/Performer) is an internationally acclaimed comedian, poet, educator and performer, whose work has appeared on ABC, MTV2, PBS and NPR. Theater performer for over a decade, Walters incorporates elements of spoken word and beat box into his shows, in a mash-up of comedy, intimate reflection and unpredictable antics. In the last two years, Walters has performed at theaters and universities throughout North America, Europe and the Middle East.

His eclectic combination of performance disciplines and activity as an educator in mental health has given Walters a national platform and audience. Walters appears on radio and television stations ranging from ABC in San Francisco to Radio X in Frankfurt, Germany. He has been a guest on KGO Radio with Gil Gross discussing the intersection of performance and madness. He has appeared on NPR and Snap Judgment Radio a storytelling radio program with Glynn Washington. As a member of the Vowel Movement beat box collective he has performed on MTV2, PBS, and KQED.

In 2002, Walters co-founded the DBSA (Depression Bipolar Support Alliance) Young Adults Chapter in San Francisco, one of the few support groups specifically for mentally ill young adults in the country. As a facilitator, Walters developed humor to address the subject of mental illness, reframing it as a positive. Walters speaks as a mental health educator and has engaged in mental health advocacy at conventions and in classrooms nation-wide.

The SF Playhouse
Sunday Night Solo (cont'd)

Currently Walters is a Resident Artist at The Hub of the JCCSF and the Climate Theatre in San Francisco where he is developing a new solo play, *JawVox*, premiering in fall 2010. Walters lives in Oakland, California.

Anthony R. Miller (Curator) is very excited to build this program. His background in theatre, performance art and poetry slam gives him a unique perspective in choosing and developing new work. He has a BA in Dramaturgy from SFSU and has worked for the SF Playhouse for two years in several capacities. He is the writer director of the wildly successful *Zombie! The Musical*. Miller is an accomplished playwright and performance artist, has toured nationally, and produced several spoken word events in the Bay. He will also be directing developing the next Sunday Night Solo production *In Search of Midnight* by world renowned spoken word artist, Mike McGee.

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

The SF Playhouse
Sunday Night Solo (cont'd)

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: An autobiographical collage based on one man's struggle with madness. A variety of styles, including hip hop theater, spoken word, and beatbox infuse this humorous tale. Join Joshua as he takes you inside the mind of a man captured in the throes of a psychotic breakdown, forced to make sense of being locked away in a madhouse.

DATES: Sundays: July 11, 18, 25 August 1, 7PM (4 Performances Only)

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

TICKETS: For tickets (\$20 regular, \$10 to subscribers) or more information, the public may contact The SF Playhouse box office at **415-677-9596**, or **www.sfplayhouse.org**.