

PRESS RELEASE

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VENUE: 533 Sutter Street, @ Powell
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Sunday Night Solo Series

****WORLD PREMIERE****

IN SEARCH OF MIDNIGHT

Written and Performed By Mike McGee

Directed By Anthony R. Miller

August 8, 15, 22, 29 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 its **Sunday Night Solo Series** and the first world premiere of the series. Sunday Night Solo is dedicated to showcasing the Bay Area's newest and exciting solo artists and seeks out performance artists, spoken word artists, and stand-up comedians to perform world premiere one-person shows. Anthony R. Miller curates the series.

The Sunday Night Solo series continues with the world premiere of *In Search of Midnight* by renowned spoken word artist, **Mike McGee**.

Adapted from his popular book by the same name, Mike uses stand-up comedy, poetry, puppets and spoken word to share stories of family, love, triumph and defeats, never letting us forget that life is a gift. He tells the story of his birth, diagnosis of Spina Bifida, and the moment when he realized he could make anyone laugh.

While Mike performs regularly all over the world, this show is special because it will be the first time he has performed his work as a scripted narrative. Director Anthony Miller expands; "Mike's best work comes from a personal place where each poem tells a story. I wanted to arrange those poems and craft stories around it to not only showcase the scope of his work, but also for the first time tell his entire life story. I've been Mike's friend and collaborator for over a decade, he's special in so many ways. He takes the mundane and makes it beautiful. In

90 minutes you will feel not only like you know him, but you'll love him too. He is a testament to the idea that if you are kind and never give up amazing things will happen, I've been inspired by him and I hope others will be too".

Mike McGee (Writer/Performer) was born with Spina Bifida in Fort Campbell, Kentucky and Tennessee, and grew up in San José, California. He discovered a love of words at the age of three, and now writes and performs all over the world. He has been a force in the San Francisco Bay Area spoken word scene since 1999. His reach expanded in 2003 when he won the 2003 National Poetry Slam Grand Championship in Chicago. He then embarked on an international poetry and comedy tour, which has taken him all over Europe, Canada and the U.S. He has become a favorite performer to many schools around the U.S. and was one of the first Americans to perform at the University of Paris (La Sorbonne) and Glastonbury, the largest music festival in the world. In 2006 he won the Individual World Poetry Slam Championship in Charlotte, N.C., becoming the first person to attain both titles. McGee has served time as a pirate radio station disc jockey, altar boy, travel agent, floor sweeper, hip hop emcee, band leader, and screenwriter. Mike travels over 100,000 miles a year and has appeared on CBC, NPR, and had a popular performance HBO's Def Poetry Jam. He is also a co-founder of the live spoken word groups Tons of Fun University (T.O.F.U.) and Solomon Sparrow's Electric Whale Revival. He has a mighty appetite, an uncanny relationship with ladybugs, several tattoos and siblings, and a passable Scottish accent. He breathes somewhere between Silicon Valley, California and Vancouver, B.C. as often as possible, but currently resides in Worcester, Massachusetts. Mike thoroughly enjoys weather, beverages, the number 3, and the scent of mock orange blossoms in the spring.

Anthony R. Miller (Director/Curator) is delighted to be working with his dear friend again. Anthony and Mike have been collaborators for over a decade and he is thrilled to help Mike continue to tell his unique story to the world. 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.

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.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: A latter day Will Rogers, Mike McGee uses humor, compassion and understanding to tell the story of his birth, diagnosis of Spina Bifida, the moment when he realized he could make anyone laugh. Join Mike as he introduces his family, his quest for love and shows how one man can find his place in the world. This internationally acclaimed Spoken Word artist is ingeniously funny, a brilliant writer and gives an unbelievable performance.

DATES: August 8, 15, 22, 29, 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**.

