

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
October 15, 2009

VENUE: 533 Sutter Street, @ Powell
Contact: Susi Damilano
susi@sfplayhouse.org

****West Coast Premiere****
SHE STOOPS TO COMEDY

By David Greenspan

Directed by Mark Rucker

Opens (Press Night) November 21 through January 9, 2010

Previews November 17, 18, 19 and 20.

San Francisco, CA (October 2009) – **The SF Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) continue their 7th Season dedicated to ‘The Power of Laughter’ with the West Coast Premiere of David Greenspan’s *She Stoops to Comedy*.

She Stoops to Comedy is a gender-bending romp by one of New York's most innovative writer/performers, David Greenspan. With multi-layered shenanigans--actress Alexandra Page (Liam Vincent) schemes to woo back her estranged female lover (Sally Clawson) by playing Orlando opposite her lover's Rosalind in a summer-stock production of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Multiple romances of multiple kinds ensue among a cast of characters that include an archeologist/lighting designer, a director, several actors and the director's assistant for a dazzling feast of theatre.

She Stoops to Comedy is an examination and deconstruction of theatrical convention, even the script of *She Stoops to Comedy* - and, thus, the very lives of the characters in it - is completely a work in progress, open to reinvention, reinterpretation, and even rewriting at the slightest whim. The line between actor and character is blurred, the distinctions between reality and theatricality are eliminated, and the significance of gender and sexual identity explored from practically every conceivable angle.

THE SF PLAYHOUSE

She Stoops to Comedy

Continued:

Mark Rucker will direct a cast of local favorites including; **Liam Vincent***, **Amy Resnick***, **Sally Clawson**, **Cole Alexander Smith**, **Carly Cioffi** and comedian, **Scott Capurro** will return from London for this production. (**Appear courtesy of Actors Equity*).

Scott Capurro (Actor) was reared in Daly City, California; at age 3, he swam the English Channel; and since 1993, he's told unsavory jokes in every English speaking country, so he's surrounded by duplicity. Yet he keeps challenging himself, because he's physically challenged and emotionally unavailable. Described by San Francisco Weekly as "stand-up in the very best possible sense - deadpan, ever-alert and hilarious", Scott has appeared in Mrs. Doubtfire, where, effortlessly, he played a homosexual; and Star Wars The Phantom Menace, where, breathlessly, he wore rubber. Scott knows Jimmy Carter and Nelson Mandela. Well, he's met Nelson once. They're both vegetarians. Actually, Nelson is. Scott said he was, to impress Nelson. Jimmy eats anything.

Mark Rucker (Director) has directed at many regional theaters across the country including Yale Repertory Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, Arena Stage, The Old Globe, The Intiman Playhouse, The Taper Too, The Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Asolo Repertory Theater, The George Street Playhouse, The Old Globe, Syracuse Stage, and the Acting Company. He has directed Premieres of plays by Richard Greenberg, Christopher Shinn, Melanie Marnich, Annie Weisman, John Walch, Anna Deveare Smith, John Glore and Culture Clash. He is an associate artist at South Coast Repertory Theater where he has directed over 20 productions; He is also an associate artist at ACT, The Asolo Rep, and The California Shakespeare Theater. In the bay area, his work includes, The Rainmaker, The Beard of Avon at ACT; The Birds at Berkeley Rep, Private Lives, Twelfth Night and Richard III at Calshakes, Luminescence Dating (with ACT) and The Joan Rivers Theater Project at The Magic, and ten productions at Shakespeare Santa Cruz. His feature film, Die Mommie Die! won a special grand jury prize at The Sundance Film Festival.

David Greenspan is an award winning American actor and playwright. In 1997 he received an Obie Award for his work in the off-broadway revival of *Boys in the Band*. An alumnus of New Dramatists, he has received playwriting fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, Jerome Foundation, Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation and Charles Revson Foundation. He received the 1993 McKnight Fellowship from the Playwrights

THE SF PLAYHOUSE

She Stoops to Comedy

Continued:

Center, a 2002 CalArts/Alpert Awards in the Arts and a 2006 Lucille Lortel Foundation Fellowship. He holds a B.A. in Drama from the [University of California](#) at Irvine. Recent theater credits include *Coraline* (he also wrote the stage adaptation, based on Neil Gaiman's novel), *Some Men*, and *The Boys in the Band*, for which he was won an Obie Award and was nominated for a Drama Desk Award. Greenspan is currently appearing on Broadway as Jo in *The Royal Family*. His plays include *Dead Mother* (performed by Travelling Jewish Theater last season) *The Myopia*, *Son of an Engineer*, and *She Stoops to Comedy*.

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, "San Francisco's newest theatre isn't just another tiny stage carved out of a storefront . . . it's an enticing introduction to a new company." The SF Playhouse has quickly 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
She Stoops to Comedy
Continued:

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: *She Stoops to Comedy* is a gender-bending romp by one of New York's most innovative writer/performers, David Greenspan. With multi-layered shenanigans--actress Alexandra Page (Liam Vincent) schemes to woo back her estranged female lover (Sally Clawson) by playing Orlando opposite her lover's Rosalind in a summer-stock production of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Multiple romances of multiple kinds ensue among a cast of characters that include an archeologist/lighting designer, a director, several actors and the director's assistant for a dazzling feast of theatre.

DATES: Previews: **November 17, 18, 19, 20, 2009**
Open: **November 21, 2009**
Close: **January 9, 2010**

SHOWS: Tuesday 7pm, 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 (\$30 previews, \$40 regular) or more information, the public may contact The SF Playhouse box office at **415-677-9596**, or **www.sfplayhouse.org**.