

T H E SF PLAYHOUSE

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PRESS RELEASE

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VENUE: 533 Sutter Street, @ Powell
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Regional Premiere of **WIREHEAD**

By Benjamin and Brown

Directed by Susi Damilano

March 15 to April 23rd: Press Opening: March 19th

Imagine that tomorrow anyone with the money could get a brain implant that would automatically make them a genius. How far would you go to get it? How far would you go to stop it?

San Francisco, CA (February, 2011) - **The SF Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) are thrilled to announce casting for the Regional Premiere of ***Wirehead* by Matt Benjamin and Logan Brown**.

Susi Damilano will direct a **cast** of SF favorites, including **Madeline H.D. Brown, Scott Coopwood*, Lauren Grace*, Craig Marker*, Gabriel Marin*, and Cole Alexander Smith**.

Wirehead dives headlong into the universal human fear of change to explore what happens when a wire implant that increases one's intelligence is made available to the public. This will be the second production of *Wirehead* which had its world premiere at Los Angeles's Echo Theatre Company. The SF Playhouse invited the writers to conduct a week long workshop last fall to work on the play with its current cast resulting in a significant rewrite and exciting new script.

Matt Benjamin (Playwright) graduated from Northwestern University's Theater program, and is a playwright, screenwriter, producer and actor. His plays include *How to Act Around Cops*, which received the Playwriting Award at the 2003 NYC Fringe Festival and the Fringe First award at the 2004 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, *Wirehead* and *The Old Inn*. His plays have been produced in London, Edinburgh, Dublin, NYC, Chicago, Sydney, and most recently in Los Angeles. His most notable readings include one at Manhattan Theatre Club directed by Mark Brokaw and another as part of Ars Nova's Out Loud series directed by John Cameron Mitchell. He currently resides in NYC with his wife. Matt is represented by Olivier Sultan at CAA/NY.

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Logan Brown (Co-writer) graduated from Northwestern University's Creative Writing for the Media Program. His produced plays include *Hogs* (Northwestern University), *Oasis* (Hanger Theater) and *How To Act Around Cops* (with writing partner Matthew Benjamin), which won Best Play at the 2003 New York Int'l Fringe Festival and a Fringe First at the Edinburgh Int'l Fringe Festival. *Cops* then went on to a successful run at London's Soho Theatre where it received a Critic's Pick in Time-Out London. It has since been published and produced around the world, including numerous performances in England, America and Australia. Logan also created the web series *Not Alone*, which can be viewed at www.not-alone.tv, and he wrote and directed the short film, *Simulacrum*®, which has screened at over a dozen film festivals, including the 2009 Palm Springs Int'l Film Festival, London Sci-Fi Film Festival, Sedona Int'l Film Festival and many more. It won the Playhouse West Film Festival's Audience Choice Award for Best Comedy Short. Most recently, his new play with partner Matthew Benjamin, *Wirehead*, was produced in Los Angeles by the Echo Theater Company. Logan and Matt are now extremely excited to have their second production of this new play at the San Francisco Playhouse. Logan is represented by Olivier Sultan at CAA/NY.

Susi Damilano (Director and Producing Director) is co-founder of The SF Playhouse, Her directing credits include *Den of Thieves* and the West Coast Premieres of *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Coronado*, *The Mystery Plays* and *Roulette* and the World Premiere of Daniel Heath's *Seven Days* in the 2010 Sandbox Series. She is a three-time recipient of the Bay Area Critic Circle Award for Best Female Performance in *Bug*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, and *Reckless*. At the SF Playhouse she has performed leading roles in *Harper Regan*, *Coraline*, *Slasher*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Landscape of the Body*, *First Person Shooter*, *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train*, *The Crucible*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, *Our Town*, and *The Smell of the Kill*.

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

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

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: Imagine that tomorrow anyone with the money could get a brain implant that would automatically make them a genius. How far would you go to get it? How far would you go to stop it?

DATES: Previews: **March 15, 16, 17, 18 at 8pm**
Open: **March 19, 2011 8pm**
Close: **April 23, 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)

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**.