



Press Release
For immediate release
January 2013

Publicist: Anne Abrams
goanne@comcast.net

588 Sutter Street #318
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.677.9596 fax 415.677.9597
www.sfplayhouse.org

VENUE: 450 Post St, 2nd Floor
Contact: Susi Damilano
susi@sfplayhouse.org

NEW Play Reading Festival
Our Voices, Our Stories
Presented by San Francisco Playhouse
February 11 to March 18

San Francisco, CA (January 2013) – **The San Francisco Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) will present its first *Our Voices, Our Stories* Play Reading Festival on select Sundays and consecutive Monday evenings at 7:30 pm Feb. 11 through March 18.

Our Voices, Our Stories, Play Reading Festival is an organic extension of the San Francisco Playhouse mission to give voice to compelling stories that inspire and encourage empathy. This festival will showcase the developing work of new artistic voices, creating a forum for emerging playwrights to deepen and refine current projects.

An additional focus for this festival is to celebrate artists from communities too often absent from mainstream stages. The goal is to introduce these artists to new audiences and encourage their creative experiments. These stories are everyone's stories.

In honor of Black History month, February will highlight African American stories and in March, the spotlight will be on female playwrights. Festival Curators include Playhouse creative staff: Brit Frazier, Lauren English, Jordan Puckett, Gwen Kingston and Karlie Braufman.

Calendar of February Events: To compliment the February play readings will be Silent Auction of paintings by local artist, Jonathan Williams who has painted imagery from *The Black Odyssey*.

Monday, Feb. 11, 7:30pm Play readings directed by Steven Anthony Jones

Poison Ground, a ten-minute play by Robert Henry Johnson
The Black Odyssey a full length play by Marcus Gardley

Featuring; Margo Hall*, Steven Anthony Jones*, Aldo Billingslea*, Halili Knox*, Donald Lacy*, Britney Frazier*, Jonathan Williams, Kehinde Koyejo* and Michael J Asberry*

(more...)

THE SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

Our Voices, Our Stories

Play Reading Festival

Continued:

Monday, Feb. 18, 7:30pm Play reading directed by Britney Frazier

Love Balm for my Spirit Child

by Arielle Julia Brown, Denika Chatman, Ayanna Davis, Yasmin Flores, Brenda Grisham, Bonnie Johnson, Ade Ngeno, Ayodele Nzinga, Ana. Bel and Anita Willis

Stories from Bay Area mothers who have lost their children to either community violence or police brutality and have dared to move through the fear and pain into activism and healing. *Love Balm* features testimonies from the families of Oscar Grant III, Kenneth Harding Jr., Khatari Gant, Daniel Booker, Christopher LaVell Jones, and Kerry Baxter Jr.

Featuring; *Anna Maria Luera**, *Cat Brooks*, *Dawon Davis*, *Ayodele Nzinga*, *Allysa Evans*

Monday, Feb. 25, 7:30pm Play reading directed by Steven Anthony Jones

10-minute teaser of *Without Any Opportunity for Defense*, a play that will take us on a journey by way of traditional story-telling, through the history and folklore of African American music. *Written by and Featuring;* *Kehinde Kojeyo** and *Awele Makeba**

Play reading of *Obeah* written by Britney Frazier

An African American, magical, mimetic and mythic folktale

Featuring; *Krystal Bates*, *Jonathan Williams*, *Kehinde Kojeyo**, and *Awele Makeba**

(Details for Play readings in March, presented Sunday March 10 and 17 and Monday March 11 and 18, all at 7:30 pm, TBA; Events will include staged readings and a special playwriting workshop and panel discussion featuring prominent local female artists)

Founded by Bill English and Susi Damilano in 2003, **The San Francisco Playhouse** has been described in the New York Times as “a company that stages some of the most consistently high-quality work around.” Located right in the heart of the Union Square Theater District, **The San Francisco Playhouse** is the city’s Off-Broadway company, an intimate alternative to the larger more traditional Union Square theater fare. The San Francisco Playhouse provides audiences the opportunity to experience professional theater with top-notch actors and world-class design in a setting where they are close to the action. The company has received multiple awards for overall productions, acting, and design including the SF Weekly Best Theatre Award and the Bay Guardian’s Best Off-Broadway Theatre Award. Presenting a diverse range of plays and musicals, **The San Francisco Playhouse** produces new works as well as re-imagining classics, “making the edgy accessible and the traditional edgy.” As the company marks its 10th anniversary with the launch of its 2012-2013 season in a new venue, The San Francisco Chronicle recently raved: “On the verge of opening its 10th season, the company that lived a hand-to-mouth existence for its first few years has become the little playhouse that could. It quickly established a reputation for attracting some of the Bay Area’s best acting and directing talent, as well as for its exciting play choices. And with its bold Sandbox Series, it’s become a player in developing new works as well.” **The San Francisco Playhouse** is committed to providing a creative home and inspiring environment where actors, directors, writers, designers, and theater lovers converge to create works that celebrate the human spirit.