

PRESS RELEASEFor immediate release
September, 2011VENUE: 533 Sutter Street, @ Powell
Contact: Susi Damilano
susi@sfplayhouse.org**THE SANDBOX SERIES**

World Premiere

TRACK IN A BOX

By Tim Barsky

Directed by Jon Tracy

October 5-October 22

Press Opening: October 8th, 10pm

Previews at 8pm, Regular 10 pm, 10/22 closing night 10pm

San Francisco, CA (September 2011) – **The SF Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing **Director**) opens its second season of the Sandbox Series with the World Premiere of local playwright, Tim Barsky's *Track in a Box*. This collaboration was made possible by the Gerbode Emerging Playwright's Grant

Using, beat-box, break dancing, contortion, circus, and spoken word, Tim Barsky has created *Track in a Box*... a song play set in a world where there are no right choices left. A world where the lines are have blurred between the good and the bad, the soldier and the stripper, and night from the day. But even in such a broken place and just before all is lost, truth rises, justice emerges and love outshines everything.

The cast is comprised of actor, Scott Coopwood* along with beatbox narration by Tim Barsky and dance and circus performances by Bree, Fleeky, DC, Davina, Erica Salazar and Iron Monkey.

The mission of **The Sandbox Series** is to promote new works utilizing top-notch directors and actors. The presentations will have limited design elements and will be promoted primarily using online services, thus reducing the costs and risk of each production. By reducing risk, we hope to bridge the gap between "readings" and "main stage" productions and thus provide increased exposure to the new voices in American Theater.

Tim Barsky (playwright) is a graduate of Brown University with a degree in Islamic & Judaic religious studies who has also studied at the Berkley School of Music, and with the renowned Chassidic folklorist and archivist Fishel Bresler. He has worked as a producer for the Providence Black Repertory Company, as a fire juggler in Dublin, Ireland, a street outreach worker & emergency youth advocate for

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the state health department of Rhode Island, and as a flute-beatboxer with over a dozen b-boy/b-girl (breakdancing) crews including Ground FX, Fillmore Rocks, & Sisterz of the Underground. A musician-composer and playwright-performer, he was awarded a \$50,000 Gerbode Emerging Playwright's Grant for TRACK IN A BOX. His work has been produced and performed at The Brava Theatre, Climate Theatre, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Julia Morgan, Traveling Jewish Theatre, The Exit Theatre, The Finborough Theatre in London and AS220 in Providence RI. In addition he is a co-founder and lead organizer for The Vowel Movement, the oldest beatboxing crew on the West Coast. A former line-producer for the Burning Man Arts Festival, & a member of the Hybrid Project at SF's Intersection for the Arts, he has also been a guest artist and lecturer at the Royal College of Art (London), Stanford University, RISD, & Oberlin College, a featured speaker at The American Press Institute, a resident artist at Lockwood Elementary School in East Oakland and a beatboxing instructor in SF juvenile detention facilities. Currently he is artistic director of City Circus, & an artist-in-residence at Climate Theater.

Jon Tracy works as a director, playwright, designer and educator throughout the Bay Area and beyond. He works with such companies as The SF Playhouse (directed *Man of La Mancha*, *Bug*, *Slasher*, and Aaron Loeb's award winning *First Person Shooter*, as well as being recently commissioned to write *All of the Above* (an adaptation of the story of Joan of Arc)), Shotgun Players (Company Member; directed *The Farm*, *The Salt Plays Pt. 1: In the Wound*, *The Salt Plays Pt. 2: Of the Earth*), American Conservatory Theatre (directing their MFA students in *The Rainmaker*, *The Diviners*), Darkroom Productions (Co-founder, Former Artistic Director; directed and designed productions of *Macbeth*, *subUrbia*, *King Lear*, *Marisol*, *Some Devil Whisper* (his movement adaptation of *Titus Andronicus*) and *The Good News*, which he also wrote), Willows Theatre (West Coast premiere of *Evil Dead: The Musical*), Impact Theatre (writer and director of *See How We Are*), Aurora Theatre (developed Ron Campbell's *Sinker*), Marin Theatre Company (developed A. Zell Williams' *Blood/Money*), TheatreFIRST (directing *Grapes of Wrath*), Sonoma County Repertory (directing *Nixon's Nixon*, *Welcome Home*, *Jenny Sutter*, *Macbeth* as well as adapting Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*), New Conservatory Theatre (Bay Area Critics Circle Nomination for Fight Choreography of *R & J*), Missouri St. Theatre (writer and director of the award winning *Chatterbox: The Anne Frank Project*), Traveling Lantern Theatre Company (former Artistic Director), Magic Theater (former Artistic Associate), and the San Francisco, Marin, Carmel, Napa, Sebastopol, and Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festivals. Further, Jon is an Affiliate Artist with The Foothill Theatre Company (developed and directed Gary Wright's *Evermore*) and Alter Theatre Ensemble (developed and directed Robert Ernst's *Catherine's Care*), a Company Member of PlayGround (developed Geetha Reddy's *The Safe House* among others), an Associate Artist at The Berkeley Playhouse (director of *The BFG*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Narnia* and the writer/director of *Born and Raised* as well as core instructor for their youth programs) and an Affiliate Artist with Marin Shakespeare Company (director of *The Tempest*). A graduate of Solano College Theatre's Actor Training Program, he is also the recipient of the Kennedy Center Meritorious Achievement Award, fifteen North Bay Arty Awards, a

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Sacramento Elly Award, Bay Area Critics Circle Award and is a grant recipient from Theatre Bay Area and the National Endowment for the Arts. He is a proud member of the Society for Stage Directors and Choreographers.

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.

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FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: Using, beat-box, break dancing, contortion, circus, and spoken word, Tim Barsky has created *Track in a Box*... a song play set in a world where there are no right choices left. A world where the lines are have blurred between the good and the bad, the soldier and the stripper, and night from the day. But even in such a broken place and just before all is lost, truth rises, justice emerges and love outshines everything.

DATES: Previews: **October 5, 6, 7, 8pm**

Open: **October 8, 2011, 10pm**

Close: **October 22, 2011, 10 pm**

SHOWS: Thursday to Saturday 10 p.m.

WHERE: **Stage 2 at The SF Playhouse**
533 Sutter Street (one block off Union Square, b/n Powell & Mason)

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