



Press Release
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AWARD-WINNING CAST ANNOUNCED **CAMELOT**

By Alan Jay Lerner (book and lyrics) and Frederick Loewe (music).
Based on "Once and Future King" by T.H. White

Directed by Bill English
Music Director Dave Dobrusky

July 16-Sept 14

PRESS OPENING: July 20th, 8pm

San Francisco, CA (May 2013) –San Francisco Playhouse (Bill English, Artistic Director and Susi Damilano, Producing Director) brings a triumphant conclusion to its **Tenth Season**, now in a new venue at **450 Post Street**, with an award-winning cast for *Camelot* by Alan Jay Lerner (book and lyrics) and Frederick Loewe (music), directed by **Bill English**, music director **Dave Dobrusky**.

The *Camelot* cast features these award-winning actors: **Wilson Jermaine Heredia**, * (Lancelot) who won a Tony Award for his performance on Broadway in *Rent*, **Johnny Moreno*** (Arthur), **Monique Hafem*** (Guenevere), and **Charles Dean*** (Merlin/Pelinore), all three winners of BATCC Awards for Best Actors in a Musical for last summer's San Francisco Playhouse hit, *My Fair Lady*.

Inspired by the extraordinary success of Bill English's re-imagination of *My Fair Lady*, winner of multiple Bay Area Critics' Awards including Best Production, this *Camelot* will delve into a barbaric world where shining knights are little more than bikers with clubs, Arthur is a dreamer with a crazy idea, Guenevere an angry Goth princess, Modred, a budding Richard III, and Lancelot, a religious zealot unaware of his sexual nature. **Nina Ball** designs the set. Think "Camelot" meets "Game of Thrones".

Camelot is the timeless and powerful love triangle between legendary King Arthur, his Queen Guenevere and his best friend Lancelot. With one of Broadway's most enchanting scores featuring the hauntingly romantic "If Ever I Would Leave You", "I Loved You Once in Silence", and "Follow Me", *Camelot* is the definitive musical theatre fable.

Alan Jay Lerner (1918-1986) and **Frederick Loewe** (1901-1988) wrote some of the most stylish, sophisticated theater music of the 20th century. The collaboration didn't come until relatively late in the career of each. New York-born, Harvard-educated Lerner wrote material for radio and for individual

THE SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

CAMELOT

Continued:

performers in the '30s. Loewe, born in Berlin, came to the U.S. in 1924 and gradually worked his way into theater music. The two were introduced in 1942. They scored their first hit, the fantasy *Brigadoon*, in 1947. The Lerner-Loewe formula was to combine Loewe's lush, melodic music, redolent of Viennese waltz, with Lerner's witty, literate lyrics. This they did in some of the most popular and best-remembered musicals of the '40s, '50s, and '60s, notably *Paint Your Wagon*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Camelot* (plus the musical film *Gigi*). After Loewe's retirement, Lerner wrote with other composers, most successfully with Burton Lane (*On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*).

Bill English (Director, Artistic Director) has spent his life producing works of art. Bill is an accomplished singer, pianist and composer. He has acted in films, television and professional theater and is a member of all the performing unions. Bill's work in the theater has been recognized with numerous awards for acting, directing, sound and set design. Under Bill's leadership The San Francisco Playhouse, has earned multiple nominations and awards

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.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

- WHAT:** *Camelot* is the timeless and powerful love triangle between legendary King Arthur, his Queen Guinevere and his best friend Lancelot. With one of Broadway's most enchanting scores featuring the hauntingly romantic "If Ever I Would Leave You", "I Loved You Once in Silence", and "Follow Me", *Camelot* is the definitive musical theatre fable.
- SHOWS:** **Previews** 7/16-7/19 at 8pm, **Opens** 7/20 at 8pm through 9/14.
Tues/Wed/Thurs. 7 p.m., Friday & Saturday 8 p.m., plus Saturdays 3 p.m.
- WHERE:** **The San Francisco Playhouse**
450 Post Street (2nd Floor of Kensington Park Hotel, b/n Powell & Mason)
- TICKETS:** For tickets (\$30-\$100) or more information, the public may contact The San Francisco Playhouse box office at **415-677-9596**, or www.sfplayhouse.org.