

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
February, 2012

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

West Coast Premiere

THE ALIENS

By Annie Baker

Original Music and Lyrics by Michael Chernus, Patch Darragh and Erin Gann

Directed by Lila Neugebauer

March 20th to May 5th

PRESS OPENING: March 24th, 8pm

San Francisco, CA (February 2012) – **Annie Baker's Obie winning *The Aliens*** will receive its West Coast premiere at the **SF Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) opening March 24th (after previews that begin March 20th) through May 5th.

The New York Times calls Annie Baker's *The Aliens* "a gentle and extraordinarily beautiful new play".

In the town of Shirley, hanging out by the dumpster behind the coffee shop, two young men meditate on music, philosophy, 'shrooms, and Bukowski. When a teenage employee asks them to relocate, they find the disciple they've been waiting for. A beat-tinged, psychotropic journey, Annie Baker's *The Aliens* is a funny and heartening look at friendship, ritual, and small town New England.

Artistic Director Bill English is, "honored to present the most recent play by this amazing young playwright. Her ability to capture the nuances and subtleties of contemporary dialogue and the dense power of silence has made her one of the most exciting new voices in American theatre. This award-winning play subversively sneaks up on you as it pretends to present slice of life everyday conversation that slowly mesmerizes you with the nuanced depths of the characters."

Lila Neugebauer will direct a cast that includes **Brian Miskell, Peter O'Connor* and Haynes Thigpen***.

THE SF PLAYHOUSE

The Aliens

Continued:

Annie Baker (Playwright) Full-length plays include *Circle Mirror Transformation* (OBIE Award for Best New American Play, Drama Desk nomination for Best Play), *The Aliens* (OBIE Award for Best New American Play), *Body Awareness* (Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations for Best Play/Emerging Playwright), and *Nocturama*. Her work has been developed and produced at the Aurora Theatre, Bush Theatre in London, New York Theatre Workshop, MCC, Soho Rep, the Orchard Project, the Ontological-Hysteric, Ars Nova, the Huntington Theatre, South Coast Repertory, the Magic Theater, the Cape Cod Theatre Project and the Sundance Institute Theatre Lab in Utah and Ucross, Wyoming. Annie is a member of New Dramatists and MCC's Playwrights Coalition, and she is an alumna of Youngblood, Ars Nova's Play Group and the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab. Recent honors include a New York Drama Critics Circle Special Citation, a Lilly Award, a Susan Smith Blackburn Prize nomination, a Time Warner Storytelling Fellowship, a MacDowell Fellowship and commissions from Center Theatre Group and Playwrights Horizons.

Lila Neugebauer (Director) is a freelance director based in New York. Recent projects include Annie Baker's *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Juilliard), Anne Washburn's *When The Tanks Break* and Steven Belber's *Tape* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), Eli Clark's *Snow Day* (Drama League DirectorFest) and *Edgewise* (Cherry Lane Studio), *The Wii Plays* (Ars Nova), Josh Conkel's *The Sluts of Sutton Drive* (Ensemble Studio Theatre/Youngblood), associate director on Karen O's *Stop The Virgens* (St. Ann's Warehouse), and various projects at Actors Theatre of Louisville and NYU/Tisch. As Co-Artistic Director of The Mad Ones, she conceived and directed *Samuel & Alasdair: A Personal History of the Robot War* (Ars Nova, The Brick, New Ohio Theatre) and *Inspector Pennywhistle and the Nefarious Case of the Sweet Shop Murder* (Clubbed Thumb Summerworks Hot Dish). She has developed new work through Bay Area Playwrights Festival, New Dramatists, Dramatists' Guild, New Georges, and Yale Playwrights Festival. Lila is an alum of the Drama League, Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab, Lincoln Center Directors Lab, and The Civilians' inaugural R&D Group, a member of Ensemble Studio Theatre, New Georges Affiliated Artist, and two-time recipient of Manhattan Theatre Club's Jonathan Alper Directing Fellowship.

THE SF PLAYHOUSE

The Aliens

Continued:

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.

THE SF PLAYHOUSE

The Aliens

Continued:

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: In the town of Shirley, hanging out by the dumpster behind the coffee shop, two young men meditate on music, philosophy, 'shrooms, and Bukowski. When a teenage employee asks them to relocate, they find the disciple they've been waiting for. A beat-tinged, psychotropic journey, Annie Baker's *The Aliens* is a funny and heartening look at friendship, ritual, and small town New England.

SHOWS: Tues/Wed/Thurs. 7 p.m., Friday & 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 (\$20-\$70) or more information, the public may contact The SF Playhouse box office at **415-677-9596**, or www.sfplayhouse.org.

EVENTS: The SF Playhouse also now offers exclusive events in conjunction with our shows.

Talk backs: The public is invited to join us for a special talk-back featuring members of our artistic team directly following the performances on March 27 & 29, and April 3, 5 & 12.

Thirsty Thursday – Thursday April 19 - Join young professionals and socialize pre-show while enjoying \$1 beer, soda and pizza, great music, and a specially-discounted ticket.