

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
April 28, 2010

VENUE: Stage 2
533 Sutter Street, @ Powell
Contact: Susi Damilano
susi@sfplayhouse.org

****Sandbox Series World Premiere****

The Apotheosis of Pig Husbandry

By William Bivins

Directed by Bill English

May 19th to June 12th (Opens Saturday, May 22nd)

San Francisco, CA (April 2010) – **The SF Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) announces casting for the second show in their **Sandbox Series**; dedicated to presenting World Premieres in their second stage.

The cast includes: **Keith Burkland***, **Chad Deverman*** and **Madeline H.D. Brown** (*appear courtesy of Actors' Equity) and will be directed by **Bill English** and runs **May 22 through June 12**.

In *The Apotheosis of Pig Husbandry* we find a woman in a slip handcuffed to a bed. A bar that only serves one drink. Windows duct-taped to keep out the smell. Welcome to the Lazy Eight Motel, where sex, revenge, social theory and pig farming mix in an explosive cocktail.

Philosopher and social theorist Asuncion "Assy" Boyle drifts into town, buys the derelict motel downwind of the biggest pig farm in the state, and seduces the pig farmer's wife Lola. His plan? To put Charles, the farmer, out of business and clean up the pig shit that's destroying the community and polluting the groundwater. But since Assy blames Charles for his mother's death is this really social justice... or naked revenge? By the startling end of the play, Assy learns what happens when you take justice into your own hands.

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

THE SF PLAYHOUSE

The Apotheosis of Pig Husbandry

Continued:

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.

William Bivins is an award-winning playwright, recovering screenwriter and library school drop-out. With six world premieres--four of them, including “The Apotheosis of Pig Husbandry,” full-length plays--William Bivins is, by some counts, the most produced playwright of the 2009/2010 Bay Area season. He is the winner of Pacific Repertory's 2009/2010 Hyperion Project Original Play Competition (his two-act drama "Ransom, Texas" will go up at PacRep in November). William's Biblical comedy "Pulp Scripture," which he both wrote and produced, was nominated for two Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards: Best Original Script and Best Ensemble. "Pulp," which ran in the San Francisco Fringe Festival and Off-Market Theaters in 2009, also won 8 SF Fringe Awards, including Best New Comedy. His paranoid thriller “The Position,” commissioned and produced by PianoFight after William won the company's play writing competition, enjoyed a critically-acclaimed run in February at Off-Market Theater. "The Afterlife of the Mind," a brain transplantation comedy, premiered in Berkeley in the fall of 2009 (Virago Theatre Co.) and ran in Anchorage in January (Out North Theatre). William was one of twelve Bay Area playwrights chosen in 2008 for Theatre Bay Area/TheatreWorks Playwrights Showcase and has been a finalist for the Heideman Award in the National Ten-minute Play Contest. His screenplays have been optioned more than half-a-dozen times, and "Rio Sangre," a horror-western he co-wrote with Ken Karn, is currently under option by ASL management. William has also won awards from the Nantucket Short Play Competition, the Rochester International Film Festival and the Palo Alto Film Festival. He is a member of the Monday Night Playwrights Group and the Dramatists Guild.

Jon Tracy is the Director of Artistic Development at The SF Playhouse where he directed Aaron Loeb's award winning *First Person Shooter*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Bug*, and the upcoming *Slasher*. He has also worked with such companies as Darkroom Productions (Founder/Former Artistic Director; directed and developed *Some Devil Whisper* (his adaptation of *Titus Andronicus*) and *The Good News*), Shotgun Players (*The Farm*, currently under commission to write *The Salt Plays*), Impact Theatre (writer/director of *See How We Are*), Aurora Theatre (developed Ron Campbell's *Sinker*), Marin Theatre Company (developed A. Zell

THE SF PLAYHOUSE

The Apotheosis of Pig Husbandry

Continued:

Williams' *Blood/Money*), and Missouri St. Theatre (writer/director of *Chatterbox: The Anne Frank Project*). Jon is an Affiliate Artist with The Foothill Theatre Company, Marin Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Playhouse and Alter Theatre Ensemble, and a Company Member of PlayGround. A graduate of Solano College Theatre's Actor Training Program, he is the recipient of the Kennedy Center Meritorious Achievement Award, fifteen North Bay Arty Awards, a Sacramento Elly Award, Bay Area Critics Circle Award and grants from Theatre Bay Area and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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 Apotheosis of Pig Husbandry

Continued:

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: *The Apotheosis of Pig Husbandry, a World Premiere written by William Bivins.*

A woman in a slip handcuffed to a bed. A bar that only serves one drink. Windows duck-taped to keep out the smell. Welcome to the Lazy Eight Motel, where sex, revenge, social theory and pig farming mix in an explosive cocktail.

DATES: Previews: **May 19, 20, 21, 2010**

Open: **May 22, 2010**

Close: **June 12, 2010**

SHOWS: Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m.

WHERE: **Stage 2** at the SF Playhouse

533 Sutter Street (one block off Union Square, b/n Powell & Mason)

TICKETS: For tickets (\$15 previews, \$30 regular) or more information, the public may contact The SF Playhouse box office at **415-677-9596**, or **www.sfplayhouse.org**.