

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
April, 2012

VENUE: 533 Sutter Street, @ Powell
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Regional Premiere **A BEHANDING IN SPOKANE**

By Martin McDonagh

Directed by Susi Damilano

May 15 through June 30, 2012

PRESS OPENING: May 19, 8pm

San Francisco, CA (April 2012) – **The regional premiere** of *A Behanding in Spokane* by Academy Award winning playwright, **Martin McDonagh** will open May 19th at the **SF Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director), **Susi Damilano** will direct.

"You'll spend 90 minutes laughing nonstop." -- *The Wall Street Journal*

"Perfect, demented, ecstatic, sadistic and imaginative." -- *New York Times*

What lurks in America's heart? Obsessions, prejudices, madness, horror, and, above all, absurdity. Crawl beneath the cover of daily life, and discover what kinds of things you might give up to survive. How far would you go to recover that which you've lost?

The mysterious, gun-toting Carmichael has been searching for his missing left hand for decades. Enter two bickering con artists with a hand to sell, and a hotel clerk with an aversion to gunfire, and we're set for an uproarious ride of love, hate, desperation and hope. The Wall Street Journal calls McDonagh "one of the finest playwrights in the English-speaking world."

McDonagh's other plays include *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *The Lonesome West*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *The Pillowman* and *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, all of which received Tony nominations for Best Play. McDonagh received the Academy Award for Best Live Action Short in

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2006 for his film *Six Shooter* and his most recent film, *In Bruges*, received an Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay.

This four-cast play stars **Rod Gnapp*** as the man with the missing limb; **Alex Hurt** as the overly inquisitive clerk; and **Daveed Diggs*** and **Melissa Quine** as the two con artists out to make a few bucks.

Martin McDonagh (Playwright) was nominated for an Oscar and a Golden Globe for his first feature film, *In Bruges*. He already earned an Oscar for his short film, *Six Shooter*. These are merely the latest accolades in a meteoric career that had humble beginnings. Born and raised in London, McDonagh dropped out of school at 16, went on the dole, and borrowed a how-to book on writing. After trying his hand at short stories, radio plays, and television scripts, he turned to the chapter on playwriting and quickly became a legend. His first play, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, was written in only eight days and netted him the Evening Standard Award for Most Promising Playwright and the first of four Tony nominations for Best Play. By the age of 26, McDonagh achieved the incredible: he became, as *The New Yorker* notes, “the first dramatist since Shakespeare to have four works professionally produced on the London stage in a single season.” Six of his plays are set in his parents’ native Ireland: the Galway trilogy (*Beauty Queen*, *A Skull in Connemara*, and *The Lonesome West*) and the Aran Islands trilogy (*The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, and *The Banshees of Inisherin*). Berkeley Rep introduced Bay Area audiences to the macabre world of McDonagh with the West Coast premiere of *Beauty Queen* in 1999, and in 2007 it presented his seventh show, *The Pillowman*, winner of England’s prestigious Olivier Award.

Susi Damilano (Director) is co-founder and Producing Director of The SF Playhouse, Her directing credits include the world premiere of *Wirehead*, *Den of Thieves* and the West Coast Premieres of *Honey Brown Eyes*, *Dead Man’s Cell Phone*, *Coronado*, *The Mystery Plays* and *Roulette* and the World Premiere of Daniel Heath’s *Seven Days* in the 2010 Sandbox Series. She

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is a four-time recipient of the Bay Area Critic Circle Award for Best Female Performance in *Harper Regan*, *Bug*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, and *Reckless*. In 2011 she received nominations for Best Director by the BATCC for *Honey Brown Eyes* and *Wirehead*. At the SF Playhouse she has performed leading roles in *Harper Regan*, *Coraline*, *Slasher*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Landscape of the Body*, *First Person Shooter*, *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train*, *The Crucible*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, *Our Town*, and *The Smell of the Kill*.

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: The mysterious, gun-toting Carmichael has been searching for his missing left hand for decades. Enter two bickering con artists with a hand to sell, and a hotel clerk with an aversion to gunfire, and we're set for an uproarious ride of love, hate, desperation and hope. The Wall Street Journal calls McDonagh "one of the finest playwrights in the English-speaking world."

Profanity, violence, adult situations. Recommended for mature audiences.

SHOWS: Tues/Wed/Thurs. 7 p.m., Friday & Saturday 8 p.m., plus Saturdays 3 p.m. May 15 through June 30th. Opens May 19.

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.