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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
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VENUE: 533 Sutter Street, @ Powell
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MY FAIR LADY

Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's Play and Gabriel Pascal's motion picture "PYGMALION"

Book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe

Directed by Bill English

July 10th to September 29th, 2012

PRESS OPENING: July 14th, 8pm

San Francisco, CA (May 2012) – Casting has been announced for the eleven actor, two piano version of My Fair Lady, which **will complete the San Francisco Playhouse's ninth season. Opening July 14th at the SF Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director), **Bill English** will direct.

This show is the standard by which all other musicals are measured. Based on Shaw's play with book, music, and lyrics by Lerner and Loewe, My Fair Lady is triumphant. With songs like "Wouldn't It Be Lovely?," "Little Bit of Luck," "The Rain in Spain," "I Could Have Danced All Night," "On the Street Where You Live," "Get Me to the Church on Time," and "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face," it's no wonder everyone -- not just Henry Higgins -- falls in love with Eliza Doolittle.

The San Francisco Playhouse has re-invented this classic Broadway musical to fit their intimate stage. By stripping the show to its core, casting much younger actors as Higgins and Pickering, as well as a street tough Eliza, our production aims to stir more romantic heat, while de-sanitizing our mis-conceptions of what was a very gritty London of 1912. **Performed by a cast of 11 actors with two pianos**, this *My Fair Lady* will return to Shaw's original purpose while honoring the glorious score.

Johnny Moreno* (Period of Adjustment) stars as **Henry Higgins** and **Monique Hafen*** (Harper Regan) as **Eliza**. The remaining cast consists of **Charles Dean*** (Doolittle), **Richard**

THE SF PLAYHOUSE

My Fair Lady

Continued:

Frederick* (Colonel Pickering), **Justin Gillman (Freddy)**, **Karen Hirst (Mrs. Higgins/Mrs. Pierce)** and an ensemble of **Luke Chapman, Mandy Khoshnevisan, Ken McPherson, Randy Nazarian***, and **Corinne Proctor**.

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 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*).

Founded by **Bill English and Susi Damilano** in 2003, **The San Francisco Playhouse** is the fastest growing and most awarded Theater Company in San Francisco. It has been 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 San Francisco 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
My Fair Lady
Continued:

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: The San Francisco Playhouse has taken this classic Broadway musical and reinvented into a sexy new production designed to fit their intimate stage. By stripping the show to its core, the power, brilliance and humor of the original pour forth with new life. Performed by a cast of 10 with two pianos, this My Fair Lady will de-sanitize our preconceptions of the gritty London of 1912.

SHOWS: **Tues/Wed/Thurs. 7 p.m., Friday & Saturday 8 p.m., plus Saturdays 3 p.m.** July 10th through September 29th. Previews July 10th through July 13th at 8pm. Opens July 14th.

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

TICKETS: For tickets (\$30-\$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:

Thirsty Thursday – Thursday 8/9 Join young professionals and socialize pre-show while enjoying \$1 beer, soda and pizza, great music, and a specially-discounted ticket.