# **SFPLAYHOUSE**

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## PRESS RELEASE

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

### \*\*Sandbox Series\*\* WORLD PREMIERE PRIVATE PARTS

Written and Performed By Graham Gremore Directed By Bill English Previews: February 2 & 3 Opens February 4 through February 25, 2012

**San Francisco, CA** (January 2012) – **The SF Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) announced today that the third season of the Sandbox Series will open with *Private Parts*, a solo show written and performed by Graham Gremore.

*Private Parts* was developed during as part of Spring 2011's Sunday Night Solo series and has since been rewritten and directed by SF Playhouse's Artistic Director Bill English.

The show hasn't even opened yet and critics are already raving! "Oh. You're doing a solo show...?" - Bob Gremore, father "See my brother's show!" - Georgia Gremore, sister "Prurient." - Hillary Rodham Clinton\*

Bay Area writer/performer **Graham Gremore** presents his solo show Private Parts, hilarious true stories about family dysfunction, disappointment, and his dramatic escape from the Midwest. Join Graham for an evening of stories and songs about his emotionally unstable mother, absent-minded academic father, some woman who died, his third grade teacher who was an idiot, his crotchety, chain-smoking grandmother, and more. If you're lucky, there might even be nudity. But don't count on it

\*Legal disclaimer: Quote not actually provided from Hillary Rodham Clinton

#### Sandbox Series Private Parts (Cont'd)

**Graham Gremore** (Book, Music, Lyrics and Performed by) is a reclusive misanthrope from St. Paul, MN. He produces the popular humor reading series LitUp Writers (www.litupwriters.com) in San Francisco. Graham has written two stage musicals, both of which were commissioned and produced by SteppingStone Theater in St. Paul. In 2009, his play "As in Autumn" was a semi-finalist in The Source: 10 Minute Play Festival in Washington D.C. In 2011, his essay "Happy Birthday (Sorry You Missed It)" was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Graham has performed on stage at the Novellus Theater at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and the Off-Market Theater & Studio in San Francisco. Currently, he is an MFA candidate in Creative Writing with an emphasis in Playwriting at San Francisco State University.

Sasha Smith (Additional music and arrangements) was born on a hippie commune in Sebastopol, California surrounded by artists, Sasha Smith began playing different instruments as soon as he could. He first started playing the violin at age four, and took up the piano at age eight. After studying music at Cal Arts, Sasha began playing for various artists including Jesca Hoop, the Winter Flowers, Sara Lov, New Tokyo Terror, and many others. In 2010, he scored the Emmy Award-winning independent film "Surgeons of Hope." He also co-wrote the hit song, "Fly My Way," with his wife, Vivian, for Taiwanese pop star Yoga Lin. The song held #1 on the radio charts for three consecutive weeks in Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong. From 2009-2011, Sasha played keyboards and sang back-up vocals from the Grammy Award-winning band Everclear. His music has been featured on such shows as HBO's "True Blood," and the History Channel's "Nostradamus Effect: 2012 Extinction," and more. He is currently recording keyboards for various artists in Los Angeles, writing music for TV and film, and performing with his new band "Thank You, Goodbye." Visit him online at www.sasha-smith.com. Here's an update bio for me:

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 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.

#### Sandbox Series Private Parts (Cont'd)

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, "San Francisco's newest theatre isn't just another tiny stage carved out of a storefront . . . it's an enticing introduction to a new company." The SF Playhouse has quickly 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.

#### FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

- WHAT:Bay Area writer/performer Graham Gremore presents his solo show Private<br/>Parts, hilarious true stories about family dysfunction, disappointment, and his<br/>dramatic escape from in the Midwest.
- **DATES:** Previews: February 2 & 3, Opens February 4<sup>th</sup>, Closes February 25<sup>th</sup>.

WHERE:The SF Playhouse, Stage 2533 Sutter Street (one block off Union Square, b/n Powell & Mason)

**TICKETS:** For tickets (\$20 general admission) or more information, the public may contact the SF Playhouse box office at **415.667.9596**, or <u>www.sfplayhouse.org</u>.