



Press Release  
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## WHAT YOU SAY AND WHAT YOU MEAN COLLIDE

### **reasons to be pretty**

**By Neil LaBute**

**Directed by Susi Damilano**

March 26-May 11

**PRESS OPENING: March 30th, 8pm**

San Francisco, CA (February 2013) –Smart, funny, edgy yet compassionate, *reasons to be pretty* by Neil LaBute continues San Francisco Playhouse's (Bill English, Artistic Director and Susi Damilano, Producing Director) **Tenth Season**, now in their new venue at **450 Post Street**, Directed by Susi Damilano, the ensemble cast features **Lauren English\***, **Craig Marker\***, **Patrick Russell\*** and **Jennifer Stuckert\***.

Obsessed.

You. Me. America. This bristling comedy confronts our collective obsession with physical beauty. See what happens when Greg, a working-class guy in a long-term relationship, inadvertently remarks to a friend that, compared to a pretty coworker, his girlfriend is "regular."

A hopelessly romantic drama about the hopelessness of romance, *reasons to be pretty* is the final installment (following *The Shape of Things* and *Fat Pig*) in Neil LaBute's critically acclaimed trilogy focusing on America's obsession with physical appearance. When an off-handed remark disrupts the lives of two young couples, they confront self-deceit, treachery and their own willingness to change. *reasons to be pretty* has the razor-sharp wit and insight we expect from LaBute, but with an extraordinary new twist – hope!

*reasons to be pretty* premiered Off-Broadway at the Lucille Lortel Theatre and then moved to Broadway where it was nominated for both a Tony Award and Drama Desk Award for Best New Play. It also received Tony nominations for Best Performance by a Leading Actor and Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Play as well as Drama Desk nominations for Outstanding Actor and Outstanding Director in a Play.

## THE SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

### *reasons to be pretty*

*Continued:*

**Neil LaBute** (Playwright) received his Master of Fine Arts degree in dramatic writing from New York University and was the recipient of a literary fellowship to study at the Royal Court Theatre. Films include *In the Company of Men* (New York Critics Circle Award for Best First Feature, Filmmakers' Trophy at the Sundance Film Festival), *Your Friends and Neighbors*, *Nurse Betty*, *Possession*, *The Shape of Things* — a film adaptation of his play by the same title — *The Wicker Man*, *Lakeview Terrace* and *Death at a Funeral*. Plays include *bash: reasons to be pretty*, *latter-day plays*, *The Shape of Things*, *The Distance From Here*, *The Mercy Seat*, *Autobahn*, *This Is How It Goes*, *Some Girl(s)*, *Wrecks*, *In a Dark Dark House*, *Helter Skelter*, *The Furies* and *The War on Terror*. LaBute is the author of several fictional pieces that have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Harper's Bazaar* and *Playboy*, among others. A collection of his short stories was published by Grove/Atlantic.

**Susi Damilano** (Director) is co-founder and Producing Director of the San Francisco Playhouse (SFPH). Directing credits include *A Behanding in Spokane*, *Den of Thieves* and *Wirehead* (nominated for *BATCC Directing award*) and the West Coast Premieres of *Honey Brown Eyes* (nominated for *BATCC Directing award*), *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 is a four-time recipient of the Bay Area Theatre Critic Circle (BATCC) award for Best Female Performance in *Harper Regan*, *Bug*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, and *Reckless*. At SFPH 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 San Francisco Playhouse** has been described in the *New York Times* as “a company that stages some of the most consistently high-quality work around.” Located right in the heart of the Union Square Theater District, **The San Francisco Playhouse** is the city's Off-Broadway company, an intimate alternative to the larger more traditional Union Square theater fare. The San Francisco Playhouse provides audiences the opportunity to experience professional theater with top-notch actors and world-class design in a setting where they are close to the action. The company has received multiple awards for overall productions, acting, and design including the SF Weekly Best Theatre Award and the Bay Guardian's Best Off-Broadway Theatre Award. Presenting a diverse range of plays and musicals, **The San Francisco Playhouse** produces new works as well as re-imagining classics, “making the edgy accessible and the traditional edgy.” As the company marks its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the launch of its 2012-2013 season in a new venue, *The San Francisco Chronicle* recently raved: “On the verge of opening its 10th season, the company that lived a hand-to-mouth existence for its first few years has become the little playhouse that could. It quickly established a reputation for attracting some of the Bay Area's best acting and directing talent, as well as for its exciting play choices. And with its bold Sandbox Series, it's become a player in developing new works as well.” **The San Francisco Playhouse** is committed to providing a creative home and inspiring environment

where actors, directors, writers, designers, and theater lovers converge to create works that celebrate the human spirit.

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**THE SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE**  
***reasons to be pretty***  
*Continued:*

**FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

- WHAT:** Obsessed.  
You. Me. America. This bristling comedy confronts our collective obsession with physical beauty. See what happens when Greg, a working-class guy in a long-term relationship, inadvertently remarks to a friend that, compared to a pretty coworker, his girlfriend is "regular."
- SHOWS:** **Previews** 3/26-3/29 at 8pm, **Opens** 3/30 at 8pm through 5/11.  
Tues/Wed/Thurs. 7 p.m., Friday & Saturday 8 p.m., plus Saturdays 3 p.m.
- WHERE:** **The San Francisco Playhouse**  
450 Post Street (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Kensington Park Hotel, b/n Powell & Mason)
- TICKETS:** For tickets (\$30-\$70) or more information, the public may contact The San Francisco Playhouse box office at **415-677-9596**, or [www.sfplayhouse.org](http://www.sfplayhouse.org).