

World Premiere developed by San Francisco Playhouse
Moves from Sandbox to Mainstage

YOU MEAN TO DO ME HARM

By Christopher Chen
Directed by Bill English

Press Opening: Saturday, September 22 at 8 p.m.

Run dates: September 18 to November 3, 2018

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 7 p.m.; Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.;
Sunday at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Preview Performances: September 18, 19, 20, 21 at 8 p.m.

San Francisco, CA (August 2018) – **San Francisco Playhouse** kicks off its 2018/19 Mainstage series—the theater’s 16th season presenting diverse and dynamic works—with **Christopher Chen’s *You Mean to Do Me Harm***, which was originally commissioned by the Playhouse and premiered in its Sandbox Series last season. **Bill English** will direct.

An innocuous comment at a dinner of two interracial couples leads to a surreal escalation of Cold War-style paranoia. *You Mean to Do Me Harm* is a psychological exploration of Chinese and American foreign relations, how our cultural traits affect our lives in ways we don’t anticipate, and of the tenuous nature of the personal relations we hold most dear.

The cast features **Cassidy Brown***, **Charisse Loriaux***, **Katie Rubin*** and **Jomar Tagatac***. Charisse Loriaux reprises the role she played in the Sandbox Series production with the rest of the cast new to this production.

"I am thrilled that *You Mean to Do Me Harm* is completing its development at the Playhouse by opening its '18/19 Season," said playwright Christopher Chen. "It's always been a dream to have a play on San Francisco Playhouse's Mainstage, and I'm particularly excited that this personal play about the Asian American experience can reach a wider audience."

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

YOU MEAN TO DO ME HARM

Continued:

San Francisco Playhouse's production of *You Mean to Do Me Harm* is made possible by Executive Producers Scott Walecka & Martha Seaver; and Associate Producers Mary & Tom Foote; Elizabeth Groenwegen; and Betty & Cliff Nakamoto.

Christopher Chen is an Obie award-winning playwright whose plays have been performed across the United States and abroad. SELECTED PLAYS: *Caught* (Obie Award for Playwriting, NY Times Critics Pick, Barrymore Award, Drama League Nomination), *Home Invasion*, *The Hundred Flowers Project* (Glickman Award, Rella Lossy Award, James Tait Black Award shortlist), *Into The Numbers* (Belarus Free Theater International Playwriting Competition- 2nd Place), *The Late Wedding*, *Mutt* and *Passage*. OTHER SELECTED HONORS: Lanford Wilson Award, Sundance Institute/Time Warner Fellowship, Paula Vogel Playwriting Award, MAP Fund grantee, Playwright-in-Residence at Crowded Fire. PUBLICATIONS: Theatre Bay Area, American Theater Magazine, Theater Magazine (Yale), The Drama Review, Dramatists Play Service. CURRENT COMMISSIONS: The Aurora, LCT3, Manhattan Theatre Club, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Playwrights Horizons (The Steinberg Commission), Royal Shakespeare Company. A San Francisco native, Chris is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley, and holds an M.F.A. in playwriting from S.F. State.

Bill English (Director) is a co-founder and Artistic Director of San Francisco Playhouse, and in fifteen years with Susi Damilano, has guided its growth from a bare-bones storefront to the second-largest theatre in San Francisco. He designed the first theatre space at 536 Sutter Street and personally reconfigured a barn-like 700-seat hall to our currently gracious and intimate 200-seat venue. Along the way he has served as director, actor, set and sound designer, winning San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle nominations or awards in all those categories. Bill is also an accomplished musician and builder. Milestone accomplishments include bringing Pulitzer Prize-winner Stephen Adly Guirgis to the Bay Area by directing three of his plays, commissioning twelve playwrights including Theresa Rebeck, Aaron Loeb, Lauren Gunderson, Lauren Yee, and Christopher Chen, and developing world premieres from workshops to Sandbox Series to our main stage to Off-Broadway (including the New York productions of *Ideation* and *Bauer*), and presenting the very first production of *Grounded* by George Brant which later played at the Public Theatre. He coined the phrase "the empathy gym" and it drives everything at the Playhouse.

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The **Sandbox Series** is San Francisco Playhouse's new works program. Designed to bridge the gap between staged readings and Mainstage productions, the program combines top-notch directors and actors with limited design elements, allowing new voices in American Theater to be heard while reducing the theatre's financial risk for full production at this stage of a play's development. Sandbox Series plays have won two Will Glickman Awards in the past three years, and the Sandbox smash hit *Ideation* recently completed a successful Off-Broadway engagement in New York City.

San Francisco Playhouse

Founded in 2003 and boasting 2800 subscribers, San Francisco Playhouse is the only mid-sized professional venue in downtown San Francisco; an intimate alternative to the larger more traditional Union Square Theater fare. Presenting a diverse range of plays and musicals, **San Francisco Playhouse** produces new works as well as re-imagined classics, "making the edgy accessible and the traditional edgy." And with its bold Sandbox Series, dedicated to nurturing World Premieres, the Playhouse has become a significant player in developing new works as well. **San Francisco Playhouse** is committed to providing a creative home and inspiring environment where actors, directors, writers, designers, and theater lovers converge to create and experience dramatic works that celebrate the human spirit.

**Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.*

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: *You Mean to Do Me Harm* begins when an innocuous comment at a dinner of two interracial couples leads to a surreal escalation of Cold War-style paranoia. *You Mean to Do Me Harm* is a psychological exploration of Chinese and American foreign relations, and of the personal relations we hold most dear.

WHEN: **September 18 to November 3, 2018**
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 7 p.m.; Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. (except opening and closing weekend). Preview Performances: September 18-21 at 8 p.m.

WHERE: 450 Post Street, San Francisco, 2nd floor of the Kensington Park Hotel

TICKETS: For tickets or more information, the public may contact the San Francisco Playhouse box office at 415-677-9596, or online at <https://www.sfplayhouse.org/sfph/2018-2019-season/you-mean-to-do-me-harm/>