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San Francisco Playhouse's Musical Revival of ***Cabaret***

Book by Joe Masteroff; Based on the play by John Van
Druten and Stories by Christopher Isherwood;
Music by John Kander; Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Directed by Susi Damilano
Music direction by Dave Dobrusky
Choreography by Nicole Helfer

Press Opening: Wednesday, July 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

Run dates: June 26 through September 14, 2019

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

Matinees: Saturday at 3 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Preview Performances: June 26, 27, 28, 29, at 8 p.m., June 29 at 3 p.m., June 30 at 2 p.m., and July 2 at 7 p.m.

San Francisco, CA (June 2019) – **San Francisco Playhouse** announced casting for ***Cabaret***, the Tony Award-winning musical that will close the company's 2018/19 Season. **Susi Damilano** will direct, with music direction by **Dave Dobrusky** and choreography by **Nicole Helfer**.

Cliff Bradshaw, an American author working on a novel in pre-WWII Berlin, falls in love with the vivacious Sally Bowles, a singer at the local Kit Kat Klub. Their dream-like romance is tested by the political upheaval that changes their lives dramatically. Even after fifty years, this classic Tony Award-winning musical remains painfully prophetic, reminding us through Sally and the Emcee's lost souls what horrors humans are capable of, lest we ever forget.

"Today, as the last of the Holocaust survivors are passing, it feels more important than ever to revisit this great story," said Bill English, Artistic Director. "We must never forget and always stand watch against the power of ultra-nationalist hatred to take away our human rights."

The cast includes **Jennie Brick***, **John Paul Gonzalez**, **Carlos Guerrero**, **Abby Haug***, **Cate Hayman***, **Zachary Isen**, **Jean-Paul Jones**, **Mary Kalita**, **Louis Parnell***, **Atticus Shaindlin***,

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

Cabaret

Continued:

Loreigna Sinclair, Will Springhorn Jr.*, Zoë Swenson-Graham, Shaun Leslie Thomas and Melissa WolfKlain*.

San Francisco Playhouse's production of *Cabaret* is made possible by executive producer Robert Hulteng; producers Samuel and Sharon Muir & Morgan and Michael Callahan; and associate producers Anne and Martin Roher, Wayne Bryan and Dick Bufania, Elizabeth Werter and Henry Trevor, Vicki and David Fleishacker, Carol and Duff Nusinow Kurland; and artistic underwriters Richard Andersen and Ursula Schorn, Fred Karren, Jackie and Richard Mayer, Larry Russo, Samuel Test, and Joan C. Zinner.

Joe Masteroff (Book): Born in 1919 in Philadelphia, he had only one dream from infancy: to write for the theatre. After the essential lonely childhood and four-year stint in the Air Force, he came to New York to face his future: book writer or book seller? Fortunately, luck intervened. Before long he had three shows on Broadway bearing his name: *The Warm Peninsula* starring Julie Harris, and two musicals *She Loves Me* and *Cabaret*, for which he was the book writer. Thanks to indulgent parents, the New Dramatists, Hal Prince and many others, he is now retired and living in subdued luxury.

John Van Druten (Playwright) was born in 1901 in London to a Dutch father and an English mother. Before becoming a writer, Van Druten studied law at the University of London. He became an acclaimed playwright, and his plays have been produced in the UK and the U.S. His works include, among many others, *Old Acquaintance* (1940), *Leave Her to Heaven* (1940), *The Voice of the Turtle* (1943), *I Remember Mama* (1944), *Bell, Book, and Candle* (1951) and *I Am a Camera* (1951). Many of his plays have been made into successful films and major TV series, and the musical *Cabaret* is based on his play *I Am a Camera*. He also wrote two autobiographies: *The Way to the Present* (1938) and *The Widening Circle* (1957).

Christopher Isherwood (Novelist) was an English-American novelist. His best-known works include *The Berlin Stories* (1935–39), two semi-autobiographical novellas inspired by Isherwood's time in Weimar Republic Germany. These enhanced his postwar reputation when they were adapted first into the play *I Am a Camera* (1951), then the 1955 film of the same name, *I am a Camera*; much later (1966) into the bravura stage musical *Cabaret* which was acclaimed on Broadway, and Bob Fosse's inventive re-creation for the film *Cabaret* (1972). His novel *A Single Man* was published in 1964 and adapted into the film of the same name in 2009.

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

Cabaret

Continued:

John Kander and Fred Ebb (Music and Lyrics): The Kander and Ebb collaboration of four decades has created what many would consider Broadway standards and contemporary classics: *The Scottsboro Boys* (Tony Award Nomination), *Flora*, *The Red Menace*, *Cabaret* (Tony Award for Best Musical), *The Happy Time*, *Zorba*, *70 Girls 70*, *Chicago*, *The Act*, *Woman of the Year* (Tony Award for Best Score), *The Rink*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Tony Award for Best Score) and *Steel Pier*. Their collaboration also transferred itself to movies and television as they wrote original material for the Academy Awards, “*Liza with a Z*” (Emmy Award for Music and Lyrics), *Funny Lady* (Oscar nominated for Best Song), *Lucky Lady*, *New York, New York*, *Stepping Out* and *Chicago* (Oscar nominated for Best Song). In the mid-1980’s the song “*New York New York*” became the official anthem of New York City. At the time of the unfortunate death of Mr. Ebb, Kander and Ebb had several projects in different stages of completion waiting in the wings including *The Visit*, *All About Us* (a musical adaptation of Thornton Wilder play *The Skin of our Teeth*) and *Curtains*.

Susi Damilano (Director, Producing Director) is co-founder and Producing Director of San Francisco Playhouse. Directing credits include Playhouse productions of *Mary Poppins*, *Born Yesterday*, *A Christmas Story: The Musical*, *Noises Off*, *She Loves Me*, *Stage Kiss*, *Company*, *Stupid Fucking Bird*, *Into the Woods*, *A Behanding in Spokane*, *Den of Thieves* and *Wirehead* (San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle nomination), the West Coast premieres of *Honey Brown Eyes* (SFBATCC nomination), *Dead Man’s Cell Phone*, *Coronado*, *The Mystery Plays* and *Roulette*, and the world premieres of *On Clover Road* by Steven Dietz, *From Red to Black* by Rhett Rossi, and *Seven Days* by Daniel Heath in the Sandbox Series. She is a five-time recipient of the Excellence in Theatre Award for Principal Actress – Play from the San Francisco Bay Area Critics Circle for *Abigail’s Party*, *Harper Regan*, *Bug*, *Six Degrees of Separation* and *Reckless*. At the Playhouse, Susi has performed leading roles in *Yoga Play*, *Barbecue*, *The Roommate*, *Red Velvet*, *Tree*, *Bauer*, *Abigail’s Party*, *Harper Regan*, *Coraline*, *Slasher*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, *Landscape of the Body*, *First Person Shoot*, *Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train*, *The Crucible*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, *Our Town*, and *The Smell of the Kill*.

Dave Dobrusky (Music Director) is proud to have been associated with SF Playhouse for thirteen years: *Sunday in the Park with George**, *A Christmas Story*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Company*, *Into the Woods*, *My Fair Lady*, *Man of LaMancha**, *Putting It Together*. Dave is also the resident music director at 42nd Street Moon Theatre where he has played, conducted, arranged & orchestrated dozens of "uncommon" musicals since 1996: *110 in the Shade*, *Dames*

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

Cabaret

Continued:

at Sea, Me and My Girl, Ain't Misbehavin, No No Nanette, Most Happy Fella, Scrooge in Love! (world premiere), *Nick and Nora, The Boy Friend, Do I Hear a Waltz?, Three Sisters, Paint Your Wagon**, and cast recordings of Cole Porter's *Leave It to Me* and Jerome Kern's *The Cabaret Girl*. Other Bay Area credits include appearances at Theatre Rhinoceros, TheatreWorks, Center Rep, New Conservatory Theatre, and Playhouse West (*In This House**). Dave is from Albuquerque and was educated at Oberlin Conservatory.

* SF Bay Area Critics Circle awards

Nicole Helfer (Choreography) is a Bay Area native and a graduate of San Francisco State University. Choreography credits include: *Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Peter Pan* and *West Side Story* for Mountain Play, *In the Heights* for Broadway By The Bay (Theatre Bay Area Award-winner), *Dogfight* for OMG Productions, *Tarzan* for Contra Costa Musical Theater (Shellie Award nominee), *Rent* for Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre Company, *Measure for Measure* for San Francisco State University, *8 Track: The Sounds of the 70s, Six Women With Brain Death*, and *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* (Shellie Award nominee) for Willows Theatre Company. She has also choreographed *Click Clack Moo* and the very successful *Pinkalicious* for Bay Area Children's Theater. In addition to performing regularly in regional musical theatre productions, she has taught dance and theatre classes for Young REP, Kid Stock, Inc., Dance Mission Theatre, Marilyn Izdebski Productions, YMCA and Spindrift School of Performing Arts. Currently, Nicole is happily teaching a variety of dance classes at the Ballet School in Walnut Creek and is theatre faculty at Oakland School for the Arts. She is so honored to be working with such an amazing creative team.

San Francisco Playhouse

Founded in 2003 and now the second largest theater in the city, 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.

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

Cabaret

Continued:

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

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

THE PLAY: Cliff Bradshaw, an American author working on a novel in pre-WWII Berlin, falls in love with the vivacious Sally Bowles, a singer at the local Kit Kat Klub. Their dream-like romance is tested by the political upheaval that changes their lives dramatically. Even after fifty years, this classic Tony Award-winning musical remains painfully prophetic, reminding us through Sally and the Emcee's lost souls what horrors humans are capable of, lest we ever forget.

THE CAST: **Jennie Brick*** as Fräulein Schneider
John Paul Gonzalez as Emcee
Carlos Guerrero as Victor/Sailor
Abby Haug* as Fräulein Kost
Cate Hayman* as Sally Bowles
Zachary Isen as Bobby/Sailor
Jean-Paul Jones as Texas/Rudy
Mary Kalita as Frenchie
Louis Parnell* as Herr Schultz
Atticus Shaindlin* as Clifford Bradshaw
Will Springhorn Jr.* as Ernst Ludwig
Zoë Swenson-Graham as Helga
Shaun Leslie Thomas as Max/Train Conductor
Melissa WolfKlain* as Rosie

WHEN: **June 26 through September 14, 2019**
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WHERE: 450 Post Street, San Francisco, 2nd floor of the Kensington Park Hotel

TICKETS: For tickets (\$35 - \$125) 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/cabaret/>