

San Francisco Playhouse presents
THE WORLD PREMIERE OF
THE DAUGHTERS

By Patricia Cotter
Directed by Jessica Holt

Press Opening: **FRIDAY, October 18, 8:00 P.M.**

Venue: **THE CREATIVITY THEATER at The Children's Creativity Museum – 221 4th Street, San Francisco CA 94103**

Performances: October 9 through November 2, 2019

Wed, Thurs 7pm / Fri, Sat 8pm / Sat 3pm

Note: Show times vary. See website for more details.

Preview Performances: October 9, 10, 11, 12 at 8pm, October 17 at 7pm

SAN FRANCISCO (September 2019) — San Francisco Playhouse announced casting for the first production of their 2019/2020 Sandbox Series of World Premieres: ***The Daughters***, written by **Patricia Cotter**. **Jessica Holt** will direct the world premiere production, presented at the Creativity Theater.

The Daughters follows the 60-year journey of a community—from the initial secret meeting of the first lesbian social club in San Francisco to closing night of the last lesbian bar. As women loving women gather in defiance of convention (and the law), they drink, debate, politicize, flirt, drink more, dance hard, make out, fall in love, break up, make history, and change the way the world thinks about the multi-dimensionality of female sexuality. *The Daughters* is a play about the transformation of identity, gender, and sexuality across generations in the queer epicenter of the universe.

“The moment the Playwrights Foundation reading of *The Daughters* was over, we reached out to the playwright, Patricia Cotter, about presenting it at the Playhouse,” said Bill English, Artistic Director. “Ms. Cotter’s play captures a priceless piece of local history and brings to life the struggles and triumphs of a community so vital to the soul of our city. We are thrilled to bring this important story to our Empathy Gym.”

The cast of ***The Daughters*** features **Erin Anderson***, **Olivia Levine**, **Em Lee Reaves**, **Katie Rubin***, **Molly Shaiken**, and **Jeunée Simon***.

San Francisco Playhouse’s production of ***The Daughters*** is made possible by executive producer Elizabeth Groenewegen; producer Nancy Larson; associate producer Melissa Shaw; and artistic underwriter Elizabeth Armstrong.

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

The Daughters

Patricia Cotter (Playwright)'s awards include American Academy of Arts Letters, Richard Rodgers Award, Emmy Award, Writers Guild of America Award. Plays include: *1980 (Or Why I'm Voting For John Anderson)* Chicago's Jackalope Theatre 2017, Jeff Awards nominee for Best New Play, *The Surrogate*, winner of the 2016 Susan Glaspell Award, finalist at the 2016 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, produced at Centenary Stage Company, NJ, in 2017, *Rules of Comedy*, produced in 2015 Humana Festival of Ten-Minute Plays. *The Stars Look Very Different Today* was produced as part of Theatreworks 17th Annual New Works Festival, 2018. *Drinking On A Plane* in 2018, and *The Anthropology Section* in 2015 both produced by The Actors Theatre of Louisville's The Tens, *The Break Up Notebook* (a GLAAD Award nominee). Musicals (librettist/ adaptations) include *Rocket Science: A Musical*, received readings at Playwrights Horizons in New York (directed by Kathleen Marshall) and was produced at The Village Theatre, Seattle; *The Break-Up Notebook: A Musical* (based on her play), at The Vineyard Theatre in New York. Patricia adapted *The Surrogate* for Kanbar Entertainment and the film is slated for a 2020 release. Patricia's most recent play; *After All I Did For You* is a commission from Theatre Lab at FAU as part of the Fair Play Initiative with a reading scheduled for October 2019. She is in residence as a playwright at the Playwrights Foundation in San Francisco. In addition to writing for the stage, Patricia has written for Twentieth Century Fox Television, Disney Theatrical, and Comedy Central.

Jessica Holt (Director) primarily directs new and contemporary plays and musicals. She is committed to telling stories of consequence and is thrilled to make her Playhouse directing debut with *The Daughters*, a special San Francisco story very dear to her heart. Recent directing projects include *Fun Home* (Virginia Stage Company), *The Resting Place* by Ashlin Halfnight (Magic Theatre), *The Wolves* (The Young Conservatory at A.C.T.), and *Female Beginner* by Edith Freni (Ensemble Studio Theatre). Selected directing credits include *Bright Half Life* by Tanya Barfield (Magic Theatre), *Ugly Lies the Bone* by Lindsey Ferrentino (Alliance Theater), *The Children* by Philip Howze (Carlotta Festival of New Plays at Yale School of Drama), *Speech and Debate* by Stephen Karam (Barrington Stage Company), and Act V of *The Lily's Revenge* by Taylor Mac (Magic Theatre). Additionally, Jessica has developed and directed work at The Ground Floor at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, New York University, the Pocono Mountains Music Festival, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Santa Cruz Shakespeare, Sewanee Writers' Conference, The Cutting Ball Theater, and New Conservatory Theatre Center. She has developed new plays with Will Arbery, Bekah Brunstetter, Christopher Chen, Megan Cohen, Jenny Connell Davis, Gabriel Jason Dean, L Feldman, Mark Kendall, Deborah Zoe Lauffer, and Ken Weitzman. Jessica is currently developing the new play *The Last White Man* by Bill Cain and the new musical *The Code* by The Kilbanes, which was commissioned by The Young Conservatory at A.C.T. Next, she will direct *Sense and Sensibility* for Virginia Stage Company. Jessica earned an MFA in directing from the Yale School of Drama, a 2016 National Directors Fellowship with the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, National New Play Network, the Kennedy Center, and Stage

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Directors and Choreographers Foundation, and is a proud member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

The **Sandbox Series** is San Francisco Playhouse's new works program. The Playhouse's commitment to new works in the Sandbox Series has been honored by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Theatre Wing. 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. The series has achieved significant critical and commercial milestones: Sandbox plays have won two Will Glickman Awards in the past three years; the Sandbox smash hit *Ideation* recently completed a successful Off-Broadway engagement in New York City; and George Brant's *Grounded* went on to international acclaim after its Sandbox premiere.

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

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: ***The Daughters* by Patricia Cotter**

An essential San Francisco story, *The Daughters* follows the 60-year journey of a community—from the first secret meeting of the first lesbian social club in San Francisco to closing night of the last lesbian bar. As women loving women gather in defiance of convention (and the law), they drink, debate, politicize, flirt, drink more, dance hard, make out, fall in love, break up, make history, and change the way the world thinks about the multi-dimensionality of female sexuality. *The Daughters* is a play about the transformation of identity, gender, and sexuality across generations in the queer epicenter of the universe.

WHO: **Erin Anderson*** as Peggy/Natalie

Olivia Levine as Evelyn/Ani

Em Lee Reaves as Shorty/Spike

Katie Rubin* as Mal/Gina

Molly Shaiken as Griff/Jefferson

Jeunée Simon* as Vivian/Leslie

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TICKETS: For tickets (\$30-\$40) or more information, the public may contact the San Francisco Playhouse box office at 415-677-9596, or <https://www.sfplayhouse.org/sfph/2019-2020-season/the-daughters/>