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San Francisco Playhouse presents
Real Women Have Curves

marking the 30th anniversary of the show's world premiere in San Francisco
Written and directed by **Josefina López**

Press Opening: Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 8:00 P.M.

Run dates: March 17 through April 25, 2020

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: March 17, 18, 19, 20 at 8:00 P.M.

San Francisco, CA (March 2020) – **San Francisco Playhouse** announced complete casting for ***Real Women Have Curves*** by **Josefina López**. Ms. López will direct the Playhouse production. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the play, which premiered at San Francisco's Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts on May 25, 1990. The play was adapted into an acclaimed 2002 film starring America Ferrera.

In a tiny factory in East L.A., five full-figured Latina employees work to deliver an impossible production order. As the threat of deportation and cultural pressures mount, the women must navigate issues of self-image while uniting to achieve their goals. ***Real Women Have Curves*** is a microcosm of the Latina immigrant experience that celebrates real women's bodies, the power of women, and the incredible bond that happens when women work together.

"Thirty years after its premiere in San Francisco, *Real Women Have Curves* still carries a potent and empowering message", said Bill English, Artistic Director. "Ms. López draws us into this coming-of-age drama with five captivatingly written female characters that teach us essential lessons about resiliency, humanity, and identity."

The cast features **Vanessa Barrantes**, **Gianna DiGregorio Rivera***, **Jordan Maria Don**, **Estrella Esparza-Johnson***, and **Jennifer Proctor***. Ms. Proctor returns to the play after originating the role of Estela in the 1990 production.

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

Real Women Have Curves

Continued:

San Francisco Playhouse's production of *Real Women Have Curves* is made possible by Executive Producers **William and Marsha Adler**; Producers **Clay Foundation – West**, and **Peggy Skornia**; Associate Producers **Elizabeth Groenewegen**, **Marcy Taylor Pattinson**, **Erwin Kelly**, **Erica Nietfeld** and **Royce Kelley**, and **Bill and Ursula Moffett**; and Artistic Underwriters **Agata Opalach**, **Gail Hamilton**, and **Deirdre Hamilton**.

Josefina López (Playwright, Director) is best known for authoring the play and co-authoring the film *Real Women Have Curves*. Although *Real Women Have Curves* is López's most recognized work, it is only one of many literary and artistic works she has created since her artistic career began when she was 17 years old. Born in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, in 1969, López was 5 years old when she and her family immigrated to the United States and settled in the East Los Angeles neighborhood of Boyle Heights. She was undocumented for 13 years before receiving amnesty in 1987, and she eventually became a U.S. citizen in 1995. López has been an activist and has been doing public speaking for more than 20 years and has lectured on various topics including Chicano theatre, women's history issues and minority representation in cinema at more than 200 universities including Yale, Dartmouth and USC. She has been the subject of countless TV and radio interviews in which she has passionately discussed immigration issues and other controversial subjects concerning women and minorities. López is the recipient of a number of other awards and accolades, including a formal recognition from U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer's 7th Annual "Women Making History" banquet in 1998; and a screenwriting fellowship from the California Arts Council in 2001. She and *Real Women Have Curves* co-author George LaVoo won the Humanitas Prize for screenwriting in 2002, the Gabriel Garcia Marquez Award from the L.A. Mayor in 2003, and an artist-in-residency grant from the NEA/TCG for 2007. López has had more than 80 productions of her plays throughout the United States. In addition to playwriting, she also paints, writes poetry, performs, designs and is a mother of two boys and resides in L.A. She is the founding artistic director of CASA 0101 in Boyle Heights. At CASA 0101, her commitment is to teach screenwriting and playwriting and nurture a new generation of women and Latino artists. López is currently developing a musical version of *Real Women Have Curves* for Broadway. Her first novel, *Hungry Woman in Paris*, is available on Amazon as well as her two play anthologies. She wrote a play to protest SB1070 titled *Detained in the Desert*, which she turned into a feature film and many awards. She is working on numerous plays, screenplays and TV projects.

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

Real Women Have Curves

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San Francisco Playhouse

Founded in 2003 and now the second largest non-profit 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.

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

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

THE PLAY: Marking the 30th anniversary of the world premiere in San Francisco of *Real Women Have Curves*, the play's empowering message about the immigrant experience still resonates. In a tiny factory in East L.A., five full-figured Latina employees work to deliver an impossible order. As the threat of deportation and cultural pressures mount, the women must navigate issues of self-image while uniting to achieve their goals. ***Real Women Have Curves*** is a microcosm of the Latina immigrant experience that celebrates real women's bodies, the power of women, and the incredible bond that happens when women work together.

THE CAST: **Vanessa Barrantes** as Ana
Gianna DiGregorio Rivera* as Rosali
Jordan Maria Don as Estela
Estrella Esparza-Johnson* as Pancha
Jennifer Proctor* as Carmen

WHEN: **Run dates: March 17 through April 25, 2020**
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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/2019-2020-season/real-women-have-curves/>