

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES 2020-2021 MAINSTAGE SEASON

The Ferryman, Oliver!, Art, American Son and *A Chorus Line*
Final selection to be announced at a later date

SAN FRANCISCO (March 30, 2020) — San Francisco Playhouse (Artistic Director **Bill English**; Producing Director **Susi Damilano**) announced five of the six plays that will comprise its **2020-2021 Mainstage Season**. The announcement was made on a live streaming “virtual announcement party” with subscribers and special guests. San Francisco Playhouse will announce the full calendar of dates for the 20/21 Season, as well as a sixth play selection, in a future release.

“This is a season all about challenges,” said Bill English, Artistic Director. “We all face the challenge to be our best selves as humans and are constantly tested by external obstacles and catastrophic forces of nature. Often, however, these obstacles are made of fictional constructs: oppression, hatred, prejudices, racism, inequity, as well as self-imposed standards by which we measure our own worth. This season, we are going to explore the ways in which these fictions get in our way and how we watch as people struggle to break through them or are enabled by them. It is a season about challenges and about the hope that awaits on the other side.”

Mainstage

The San Francisco Playhouse 2020-2021 Season will feature the Tony-winning drama *The Ferryman* by Jez Butterworth, marking the play’s first production since its Broadway run and its West Coast premiere. The company will present *Oliver!*, Lionel Bart’s Tony Award-winning musical adaptation of the Charles Dickens novel. Yasmina Reza’s celebrated comedy *Art*, which the company produced as part of its 2004/05 Season, will return to the San Francisco Playhouse stage. *American Son* by Christopher Demos-Brown, an unrelenting new drama, will receive its West Coast premiere, following a critically acclaimed Broadway run. Finally, the Playhouse will present a revival of the musical classic *A Chorus Line* by Marvin Hamlisch, Edward Kleban, James Kirkwood, and Nicholas Dante.

THE FERRYMAN

West Coast Premiere by **Jez Butterworth**

It’s 1981 in Northern Ireland, and the Carney farmhouse is a hive of activity with preparations for the annual harvest. A day of hard work on the land and a traditional night of feasting and celebrations lie ahead. But this year they will be interrupted by a visitor. *The Ferryman* was the recipient of 4 Tony Awards in 2019, including Best Play.

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OLIVER!

Musical Revival

Music, Lyrics, and Book by **Lionel Bart**

Based on the novel *Oliver Twist* by **Charles Dickens**

The streets of Victorian England come to life as Oliver, a malnourished orphan in a workhouse, searches for what it means to be part of a family. Lionel Bart's classic musical received the 1963 Tony Award for Best Original Score, and was adapted into an Academy Award-winning film.

ART

by **Yasmina Reza**

Serge has purchased a very expensive modern work of art: a five-feet-by-four-feet painting of white diagonal lines on a white canvas, Marc cannot believe that a friend of his could possibly spend so much money on such a piece, and Yvan wants everyone to get along. Their friendships are tested as they wonder, "are you who you think you are, or are you who your friends think you are?"

AMERICAN SON

West Coast Premiere by **Christopher Demos-Brown**

In this gripping and unrelenting drama, an estranged bi-racial couple must confront their feelings about race and bias after their son is detained by the local police following a traffic stop incident. *American Son* asks us who we are as a nation, and how we deal with love, loss, and identity.

A CHORUS LINE

Musical Revival

Music by **Marvin Hamlisch**, Lyrics by **Edward Kleban**, and Book by **James Kirkwood**, and **Nicholas Dante**

Seventeen Broadway dancers are auditioning for eight spots on a chorus line. Exploring the inner lives and bittersweet ambitions of performers, *A Chorus Line* captures the spirit, tension, and hope of an audition.

Sandbox Series

The Playhouse's award-winning **Sandbox Series of World Premieres** will begin its 12th season of new plays in 2020. The lineup for the Sandbox Series will be released in a separate announcement this summer.

San Francisco Playhouse

Founded by Bill English and Susi Damilano in 2003, **San Francisco Playhouse** has been described by the New York Times as "a company that stages some of the most consistently high-quality work around, and deemed "ever adventurous" by the Bay Area News Group. Located in the heart of the Union Square Theater District, **San Francisco Playhouse** is the city's premier Off-Broadway company, an intimate alternative to the larger more traditional Union Square theater fare. 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

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Guardian's Best Off-Broadway Theatre Award, as well as three consecutive Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards for Best Entire Production in the Bay Area (2016-2018). KQED/NPR recently described the company: "San Francisco Playhouse is one of the few theaters in the Bay Area that has a mission that actually shows up on stage. Artistic director Bill English's commitment to empathy as a guiding philosophical and aesthetic force is admirable and by living that mission, fascinating things happen onstage." **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.

Ticket Information

Season Subscriptions are available immediately online at www.sfplayhouse.org, or by calling the box office at 415-677-9596. Packages range from \$170 to \$450 for Premium Orchestra seating, with savings averaging over 40% off single ticket rates. Single Tickets will go on sale to the public in summer 2020.