

San Francisco Playhouse Announces On-Stage Filming for
Art
by Yasmina Reza
translated by Christopher Hampton

SAN FRANCISCO (October 2020) — San Francisco Playhouse (Artistic Director **Bill English**; Producing Director **Susi Damilano**) were given the green light yesterday to film their production of *Art* by Yasmina Reza on stage at San Francisco Playhouse. The announcement makes San Francisco Playhouse one of the first theatres in the United States to get approval for on-stage filming.

“We could not be happier to have passed all Actors Equity Association safety requirements and have permission to film live, in-person next week,” said director Bill English “After weeks of rehearsing over video chat, it is a thrill to be returning to our stage to bring this next phase of live theatre to our patrons.”

The in-person filming will be done next week on stage at the Playhouse following a deep clean, installation of PPE stations, and other safety regulations that include having all personnel tested for COVID-19 and isolating until in-person work is complete.

Art will be staged as a full-fledged production with professional costumes, set, lighting, sound, and properties design. Filming is planned for 3 days, after which the video will be edited and provided to subscribers and single ticket buyers as an on-demand video stream from October 24th through November 7th, 2020. Tickets (\$15 - \$100) and subscriptions (\$200 - \$300) are now available.

The cast features **Bobak Cyrus Bakhtiari**, **Johnny Moreno**, and **Jomar Tagatac**. All actors appear courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association.

The company hopes that as COVID rates continue to decrease in San Francisco, more in-person theatrical work can be performed, eventually leading to partial live audiences when safety permits.

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2020/21 SEASON, ACT I

OCTOBER 24 – DECEMBER 31, 2020

Art

By Yasmina Reza

Translated by Christopher Hampton

Directed by Bill English

Starring Bobak Cyrus Bakhtiari, Johnny Moreno, and Jomar Tagatac

On demand October 24 – November 7, 2020

Virtual Opening Night Gala October 24, 2020 Watch Party

The Jewelry Box

Written and Performed by Brian Copeland

Developed with David Ford

On demand November 28 – December 25, 2020

Virtual Opening Night Gala November 28, 2020

From Blues to Broadway: An Original Musical Revue

Created by the San Francisco Playhouse in collaboration with Dave Dobrusky, Bill English, John Paul Gonzalez, Cate Hayman, Rodney Earl Jackson, Jr, and Katrina Lauren McGraw. Directed by Bill English.

Streaming December 12 – December 31, 2020

Virtual Opening Night Gala December 12, 2020

2020/21 SEASON, ACT II

JANUARY 1 – APRIL 30, 2021

Act II will be announced in October 2020.

2020/21 SEASON, ACT III

MAY 1 – AUGUST 31, 2021

Act III will be announced in early 2021.

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FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

THE PLAY: *Art* by Yasmina Reza
Translated by Christopher Hampton
Directed by Bill English

Serge has purchased a very expensive modern work of art: a five-foot-by-four-foot 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.

In this time, when an upcoming election is showing how our nation has become divided into opposing camps, *Art* explores how we turn on each other. Still a hilarious comedy, it also addresses the complex layers of friendship. Are we who we think we are? Or are we who our friends think we are?

THE CAST: **Bobak Cyrus Bakhtiari** as Yvan
Johnny Moreno as Serge
Jomar Tagatac as Marc

WHEN: **October 24 through November 7, 2020**
Watch Party: Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 8:00 P.M.

WHERE: Streaming video at [sfplayhouse.org](https://www.sfplayhouse.org) (tickets required)

TICKETS: For tickets (\$15 - \$100) 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/2020-2021-season/art/>

About 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

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overall productions, acting, and design, including the SF Weekly Best Theatre Award and the Bay 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.