

San Francisco Playhouse presents
The Jewelry Box
On-demand video stream premieres November 28, 2020

SAN FRANCISCO (November 2020) — San Francisco Playhouse (Artistic Director **Bill English**; Producing Director **Susi Damilano**) presents ***The Jewelry Box***, written and performed by **Brian Copeland**, as the second show of their 2020/21 Season. ***The Jewelry Box*** was developed by **David Ford** and **Brian Copeland**. **David Ford** directs this production. The on-demand video production will be filmed in-person on stage at San Francisco Playhouse, in collaboration with Actors' Equity Association. The on-demand video will be airing November 28 - December 25, 2020.

In this hilariously heartwarming story, a prequel to Copeland's hit solo show *Not a Genuine Black Man*, a young Brian heads to the "mean streets" of Oakland to buy his mom a Christmas present. When he finds the perfect gift – a jewelry box in the White Front store – six-year-old Brian sets out to earn the required \$11.97 by Christmas Eve.

Access to the performance will be provided to subscribers and single ticket buyers as an on-demand video stream from November 28th through December 25th, 2020. Tickets (\$15 - \$100) and subscriptions (\$200 - \$300) are now available.

About Brian Copeland

Brian Copeland is an award-winning actor, comedian, author, playwright, television and radio talk show host based in the San Francisco Bay Area. He began his career in standup at the tender age of 18 performing in comedy venues in San Francisco. Soon he was traveling the country opening for such legendary performers as Smokey Robinson, Aretha Franklin, Dionne Warwick, Ray Charles, The Temptations, Natalie Cole, Julio Iglesias, Ringo Starr and Gladys Knight. Copeland performed his brand of biting, cutting edge social commentary in venues including the Universal Amphitheater and Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

In 2004, Copeland debuted his first one-man play, *Not a Genuine Black Man* at the Marsh in San Francisco. The play explored his childhood experiences as a member of one of the only African American families living in the then 94% white suburb of San Leandro, California. His tale of laughter, tears, and sociology went on to become the longest-running solo show in San Francisco theatrical history

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with over 800 performances. The show has been performed in over 30 cities, including a critically acclaimed run Off-Broadway. The play is currently in television series development. In 2006, Copeland published a best-selling book based on *Genuine* that is now required reading in several high schools and colleges across the country. The book was the 2009 pick for Silicon Valley Reads, a library-based program in which all of Santa Clara County reads the same book simultaneously.

To date, he has written and performed three subsequent critically acclaimed solo plays including *The Waiting Period* (2015 Theater Bay Area Award for Outstanding Production of a Solo Play), the hit Christmas show *The Jewelry Box* and *The Scion* (PBS affiliate KQED's Best New Play of 2014). His new play, *Grandma & Me: An Ode to Single Parents*, debuted in 2019. In 2021, Brian can be seen in a production of his new solo play *Grandma & Me* and in the Sony motion picture *VENOM 2*. In addition to his stage work, Copeland is a fixture in Bay Area broadcasting, where he has hosted programs on just about every television station, including KTVU (a five-year stint as cohost of Mornings on 2), ABC7 (host of the Emmy award-winning 7Live) and KNTV (the hit 2015 late night special Now Brian Copeland). He has also performed on MTV, A&E, NBC, VH1 and Comedy Central. In 2006, Director Rob Reiner (a fan of *Genuine*) cast Copeland as Lee Chambers, the youngest son of Morgan Freeman, in the instant classic, *The Bucket List*. A lifelong fan and listener of legendary Bay Area radio station KGO, Copeland was thrilled to become a substitute talk show host for the station beginning in 1991. In 1994, The Brian Copeland Show debuted as a weekend program that spent years as the most listened to radio show in its time slot. In the mid 2000s, Copeland did a weekly commentary feature for the station called Copeland's Corner. The segment was honored with awards from the Radio Television News Directors Association and the Associated Press. Brian Copeland lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

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 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

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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.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

THE PLAY: ***The Jewelry Box***

Written and performed by **Brian Copeland**

Developed by **David Ford** and **Brian Copeland**

Directed by **David Ford**

In this hilariously heartwarming story, a prequel to Copeland’s hit solo show *Not a Genuine Black Man*, a young Brian heads to the “mean streets” of Oakland to buy his mom a Christmas present. When he finds the perfect gift – a jewelry box in the White Front store – six-year-old Brian sets out to earn the required \$11.97 by Christmas Eve.

WHEN: Available on-demand

November 28 through December 25, 2020

Virtual Opening Night Gala: Saturday, November 28, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. PST

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/the-jewelry-box/>