

San Francisco Playhouse announces casting for
Shoot Me When...

By Ruben Grijalva
Directed by Susi Damilano
Commissioned by San Francisco Playhouse
On-demand video stream premieres May 1

SAN FRANCISCO (23 April 2021) — San Francisco Playhouse (Artistic Director **Bill English**; Producing Director **Susi Damilano**) announced casting and streaming dates for ***Shoot Me When...***, a new play written by **Ruben Grijalva** and commissioned by San Francisco Playhouse. The play will be filmed on stage at San Francisco Playhouse and will be presented as an on-demand video stream from May 1st through May 22nd, 2021. The cast features **Blythe de Oliveira Foster, Dan Hiatt, Lorri Holt,** and **Melissa Ortiz**. All actors appear courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.

Jackie has dementia. She also has a pact, carefully crafted with her two daughters, for how to depart on her own terms when the time comes. Well, the night has arrived, the girls have gathered, the plan is in motion—but Jackie forgot the pact. ***Shoot Me When...*** is a heartfelt and humorous exploration of love, responsibility, and finding joy in life's challenges.

The production marks the third work in San Francisco Playhouse's five-year, 20-play Commission Program to receive a full production at the Playhouse. The first, Chelsea Marcantel's *A White Girl's Guide to International Terrorism*, was staged in the company's Sandbox Series in 2019, and the second, *I Was Right Here* by Julia Brothers was filmed on stage and celebrated its premiere in March 2021. Playwrights still under commission include Theresa Rebeck, Aaron Loeb, and Octavio Solis, among many others.

Access to the performance will be provided to subscribers and single ticket buyers as an on-demand video stream from May 1st through May 22nd, 2021. Tickets (\$15 - \$100) and subscriptions (\$200 - \$300) are now available.

Ruben Grijalva is an award-winning San Francisco-based playwright and filmmaker. His short plays include *Full Steam Ahead* and the PianoFight ShortLived winning *All The Worlds Are Stages*. His full-length plays include *Foresight*, *Anna Considers Mars*, and the Edgerton Foundation New Play Award-winning *Value Over Replacement*. He lives in San Francisco's Sunset District with a Labrador named

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Retha, a human named Keli, and a tiny human named Genevieve, whose arrival served as the very hard deadline for the first draft of this play.

Susi Damilano is co-founder and producing director of the Playhouse. She is a five-time recipient of the Excellence in Theatre Award for Principal Actress in a Play from the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle for the Playhouse productions of *Abigail's Party*, *Harper Regan*, *Bug*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, and *Reckless*. Susi has also performed leading roles here in *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Yoga Play*, *The Effect*, *The Roommate*, *Red Velvet*, *Tree*, *Bauer*, *Abigail's Party*, *Harper Regan*, *Coraline*, *Slasher*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Landscape of the Body*, *First Person Shooter*, *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train*, *The Crucible*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, *Our Town*, and *The Smell of the Kill*. Directing credits include Playhouse productions of *Groundhog Day The Musical*, *Cabaret*, *Mary Poppins*, *Noises Off*, *She Loves Me*, *Stage Kiss*, *Company*, *Stupid Fucking Bird*, *Into the Woods*, *A Behanding in Spokane*, *Den of Thieves*, and *Wirehead* (SFBATCC nomination), the West Coast premieres of *Honey Brown Eyes* (SFBATCC nomination), *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Coronado*, *The Mystery Plays*, and *Roulette*, and the world premieres of *On Clover Road* by Steven Dietz, *From Red to Black* by Rhett Rossi, and *Seven Days* by Daniel Heath in the Sandbox Series.

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 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.

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FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

THE PLAY: ***Shoot Me When...***

By **Ruben Grijalva**

Directed by **Susi Damilano**

Featuring **Blythe de Oliveira Foster, Dan Hiatt, Lorri Holt, and Melissa Ortiz**

Jackie has dementia. She also has a pact, carefully crafted with her two daughters, for how to depart on her own terms when the time comes. Well, the night has arrived, the girls have gathered, the plan is in motion—but Jackie forgot the pact. ***Shoot Me When...*** is a heartfelt and humorous exploration of love, responsibility, and finding joy in life's challenges.

THE CAST: **Blythe de Oliveira Foster** as Gabrielle

Dan Hiatt as Len

Lorri Holt as Jackie

Melissa Ortiz as Ariel

WHEN: May 1 – May 22, 2021

WHERE: On-demand video streaming 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/shoot-me-when/>

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