San Francisco Playhouse announces casting for

**Starting Here, Starting Now**

Music by David Shire | Lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr.
Directed by Susi Damilano
Music Direction by Dave Dobrusky
Choreography by Nicole Helfer

Previews begin August 31, 2021
Press Opening September 4 at 8:00 P.M.
In-person performances August 31 – October 2, 2021
On-demand video production available to view September 4 – October 2, 2021

Note: Video stream is not intended for consideration in press reviews

SAN FRANCISCO (July 29, 2021) — San Francisco Playhouse (Artistic Director Bill English; Producing Director Susi Damilano) announced casting for *Starting Here, Starting Now* by David Shire and Richard Maltby, Jr. Susi Damilano will direct the Playhouse production, with music direction by Dave Dobrusky and choreography by Nicole Helfer. The play marks the company’s third in-person production since the coronavirus pandemic began, following *The Song of Summer* by Lauren Yee and *Hold These Truths* by Jeanne Sakata, and will close out the company’s 2020/21 Season.

In-person performances at 450 Post Street will take place August 31 through October 2, 2021. An on-demand video stream of the production will be available September 4 through October 2, 2021. Current information regarding San Francisco Playhouse’s COVID safety protocols can be found at [https://www.sfplayhouse.org/sfph/covid-safety/](https://www.sfplayhouse.org/sfph/covid-safety/).

The cast features Rinabeth Apostol*, Wilson Jermaine Heredia*, Keith Pinto*, and Melissa WolfKlain*. Heredia, who won a Tony Award for his portrayal of Angel in *Rent*, returns to San Francisco Playhouse for the first time since 2013’s *Camelot*.

*Starting Here, Starting Now* is a thrilling and touching musical revue using the songs of Richard Maltby, Jr., and David Shire (Big, Baby, Closer Than Ever). In only 24 songs, *Starting Here, Starting Now* offers a tender-tough inventory of love and the lonesome lack thereof. Made for each other, the wry lyrics of Richard Maltby, Jr., combined with David Shire’s buoyant music, forge a fast-moving, ingratiating look at how love can go right, wrong or nowhere. Using songs from their various early musicals (produced or
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otherwise), this bold, extroverted journey takes a winsome cast of four through the maze of modern relationships with its heart firmly on its sleeve. As with all of Maltby and Shire’s work, each song is an impeccably crafted story – original, engaging, bursting with character and showcasing the versatility and charisma of its performer.

Access to the performance’s limited seating will be provided to subscribers free of charge. In-person tickets ($30-$100) will be available for purchase starting August 3, 2021, along with on-demand video tickets ($15 - $100) that are valid throughout the show’s run.

ABOUT THE CREATORS


David Shire wrote the music for Baby (Tony nominations for Best Score and Musical) and Big (nominated for Best Score). Off-Broadway credits include Starting Here, Starting Now (Grammy nomination), Closer Than Ever (Outer Critics Award for Best Musical and Score), Urban Blight (MTC), The Sap of Life, and incidental scores for As You Like It (NYSF), The Unknown Soldier and His Wife, The Loman Family Picnic, Shmulnik’s Waltz and Visiting Mr. Green. He and his long-time collaborator Richard Maltby are at work on Take Flight, a new musical which premiered at the Charlotte Rep in the spring of 2004. His many film scores include Norma Rae (Academy Award for Best Song),
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Francis Coppola’s *The Conversation, All the President’s Men, The Taking of Pelham 1-2-3, Farewell, My Lovely, ‘Night, Mother, Return to Oz* and *Saturday Night Fever* for which he won two Grammy Awards. His numerous television scores have earned five Emmy nominations and include *Sarah Plain and Tall, Rear Window, Raid on Entebbe, The Women of Brewster Place, The Kennedys of Massachusetts, The Heidi Chronicles, Jake’s Women* and *Broadway Bound*. His songs have been recorded by Barbra Streisand, Maureen McGovern, Melissa Manchester, Jennifer Warnes, Kiri Ti Kanawa and many others, and include the international Billy Preston & Syreeta hit “With You I’m Born Again” and the Oscar-winning “It Goes Like It Goes.” Mr. Shire is a member of the Dramatists Guild Council, the proud husband of actress Didi Conn and doting father of sons Matthew and Daniel.

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.

*Actors appear courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the U.S.*

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

THE PLAY: *Starting Here, Starting Now*

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THE CAST: Rinabeth Apostol
Wilson Jermaine Heredia
Keith Pinto
Melissa WolfKlain

WHEN: In-person performances: August 31 – October 2, 2021
Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 P.M., Fridays at 8:00 P.M., Saturdays at 3:00 and 8:00 P.M. Additional preview performance Tuesday, August 31 at 7:00 P.M.
On-demand video stream: September 4 – October 2, 2021 (tickets valid throughout the run)

WHERE: San Francisco Playhouse
450 Post St., San Francisco CA 94102
-AND-
Streaming video at sfplayhouse.org (tickets required)

TICKETS: For tickets 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/starting-here-starting-now/