

San Francisco Playhouse announces casting for
Heroes of the Fourth Turning

By Will Arbery
Directed by Bill English
Bay Area Premiere

On stage January 26 – March 5, 2022

Press Opening Wednesday, February 2 at 7:00 P.M.

Note: This production will **not** be available as a video stream.

SAN FRANCISCO (December 15, 2021) — San Francisco Playhouse (Artistic Director **Bill English**; Producing Director **Susi Damilano**) announced casting for ***Heroes of the Fourth Turning***, the Bay Area Premiere of **Will Arbery**'s bracingly revelatory red state meditation. The play will run on the San Francisco Playhouse Mainstage from January 26 through March 5, 2022. Bill English will direct.

"*Heroes of the Fourth Turning* was one of the most controversial and talked-about plays in the last pre-pandemic off-Broadway season, so naturally we found it a perfect fit for San Francisco Playhouse," said artistic director Bill English. "Will Arbery has brilliantly crafted a play that allows us to explore the rift that divides our country and come to a greater understanding of our shared humanity. Perhaps more so than any play we have produced in our nineteen seasons, *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* will challenge the boundaries of our Empathy Gym."

Days after the white-supremacist riot in Charlottesville, four old friends gather for a reunion at their conservative Catholic alma mater in Wyoming. As the party stretches late into the night, they grapple with their beliefs and their place in the world, the conversation spiraling into spiritual chaos, clashing politics, and furious debate. Winner of the 2020 Obie Award for Playwriting, Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play, and a Pulitzer Finalist, the riveting and witty *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* speaks to the heart of a country at war with itself.

The cast features **Susi Damilano***, **Ash Malloy***, **Johnny Moreno***, **Josh Schell***, and **Wera von Wulfen**.

Heroes of the Fourth Turning is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

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About the Playwright

Will Arbery is a playwright from Texas + Wyoming + seven sisters. His play *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* premiered at Playwrights Horizons in Fall 2019 and was a Finalist for the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and winner of numerous awards, including the 2020 Obie Award for Playwriting, the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play and the Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Playwriting Award. Arbery also won the Whiting Award for Drama in 2020. His play *Corsicana* will be having its world premiere at Playwrights Horizons in the summer of 2022 in a production to be directed by Sam Gold. In addition to *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* and *Corsicana*, Will's other plays include: *Plano* (Clubbed Thumb), *Evanston Salt Costs Climbing* (New Neighborhood), *You Hateful Things* (NYTW Dartmouth Residency), and *Wheelchair* (3 Hole Press). He's currently under commission from Playwrights Horizons, MTC, and Audible. He's a member/alum of New Dramatists, The Working Farm at SPACE on Ryder Farm, Page 73's Interstate 73, Colt Coeur, Youngblood, and Clubbed Thumb's Early Career Writers Group. His plays have been developed at Clubbed Thumb, Playwrights Horizons, NYTW, The Vineyard, SPACE on Ryder Farm, Ojai Playwrights Conference, Cape Cod Theater Project, The New Group, EST/Youngblood, The Bushwick Starr, Alliance/Kendeda, and Tofte Lake Center. Will was a Consultant on Season 3 of "Succession", and has television projects in development with A24 and Frank Rich, Endeavor Content and Littlefield Company/Hulu. He also has several features in development, including with BBC Films and Sight Unseen. MFA: Northwestern. BA: Kenyon College. He's represented by John MacGregor and Olivier Sultan at CAA, and Eva Dickerman at Odenkirk-Provissiero.

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

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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: ***Heroes of the Fourth Turning***

By Will Arbery

Directed by Bill English

Days after the white-supremacist riot in Charlottesville, four old friends gather for a reunion at their conservative Catholic alma mater in Wyoming. As the party stretches late into the night, they grapple with their beliefs and their place in the world, the conversation spiraling into spiritual chaos, clashing politics, and furious debate. Winner of the 2020 Obie Award for Playwriting, Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play, and a Pulitzer Finalist, the riveting and witty *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* speaks to the heart of a country at war with itself.

THE CAST: **Susi Damilano*** as Gina

Ash Malloy* as Teresa

Johnny Moreno* as Justin

Josh Schell* as Kevin

Wera von Wulfen as Emily

WHEN: In-person performances: January 26 – March 5, 2022

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 P.M., Fridays at 8:00 P.M.,

Saturdays at 3:00 and 8:00 P.M., Sundays at 2:00 P.M.

WHERE: San Francisco Playhouse

450 Post St., San Francisco CA 94102

TICKETS: **Tickets (\$25 - \$100) are now available.** 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/2021-2022-season/heroes-of-the-fourth-turning/>