San Francisco Playhouse announces updated casting for *Follies*

Book by James Goldman  
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim  
Music direction by Dave Dobrusky  
Choreography by Nicole Helfer  

Legendary musical to make San Francisco professional premiere on June 30th

On stage June 30 – September 10, 2022  
Press Opening Wednesday, July 6 at 7:00 P.M.  

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

SAN FRANCISCO (June 24, 2022) — San Francisco Playhouse (Artistic Director Bill English; Producing Director Susi Damilano) announced updated casting for *Follies* by James Goldman and Stephen Sondheim. The musical will run on the San Francisco Playhouse Mainstage from June 30 through September 10, 2022. Bill English will direct, with music direction by Dave Dobrusky and choreography by Nicole Helfer. This marks the first fully staged professional production of *Follies* in San Francisco.

The cast features three-time Helen Hayes Award winner Natascia Diaz* in the role of Sally Durant Plummer, alongside local favorites Samantha Rose Cárdenas* as Young Sally, Maureen McVerry* as Phyllis Rogers Stone, Danielle Cheiken as Young Phyllis, Anthony Rollins-Mullens* as Buddy Plummer, Chachi Delgado as Young Buddy, Chris Vettel* as Benjamin Stone, Cameron La Brie as Young Benjamin, Cindy Goldfield* as Carlotta Campion, Lucinda Hitchcock Cone* as Hattie Walker, Jill Slyter as Solange LaFitte, Caroline Louise Altman* as Stella Deems, Louis Parnell* as Dimitri Weismann, Frederick Winthrop as Roscoe, Eiko Yamamoto as Emily Whitman, Rene Collins as Theodore Whitman, and Emily Corbo, M. Javi Harnly, Anthony Maglio, Catrina Manahan, and Anne Warque in the ensemble.

Originally slated for the Playhouse’s 2019/20 Season and canceled due to Covid-19, the show marks the first fully staged professional production of *Follies* in San Francisco. The musical, which won seven Tony Awards in 1972 and has been heralded by the New York Times as “one of the greatest musicals ever written,” closed on Broadway after 522 performances and never went on a national tour.
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“We are thrilled and amazed to be presenting the professional San Francisco premiere of this Sondheim classic,” said Bill English, Artistic Director. “More than a dazzling collection of tributes to musical styles from the first half of the 20th century, Follies is a meditation on the subject of regret, urging us to either refuse to regret or to make sure we have nothing in life to regret. It is also a profoundly feminist piece, that speaks with even greater power now than it did in 1971. We intend our Follies to capitalize on our intimate space to really delve into the characters’ dilemmas while at the same time giving space to theatrical wizardry!”

It’s 1971, and theatrical impresario Dimitri Weismann is hosting a reunion of former Follies performers in his crumbling theatre, about to be demolished to make room for a parking lot. The artists gather for one last time, reminiscing about the past and contemplating their future, before the theater dims its lights for good. Surreal, sophisticated, compelling, heart wrenching and epic in scope, this legendary masterpiece uses the musical theatre as a metaphor for the collapse of American innocence and naivété.

About the Creators

James Goldman (book) was an American playwright, novelist, and screenwriter, honored with an Academy Award for the screen adaptation of his own play The Lion in Winter. He is also the author of the screenplays for Robin and Marion, Nicholas and Alexandra, and White Nights; and the book for Stephen Sondheim’s stage musical Follies. Mr. Goldman was born in Chicago and was a graduate of the University of Chicago before beginning postgraduate work at Columbia University in music criticism until he was drafted into the army during World War II. In 1961 his whimsical play They Might Be Giants, about a man who believes he is Sherlock Holmes and is attended by a psychiatrist named Dr. Watson, was produced by Joan Littlewood in London and 10 years later was turned into a film starring George C. Scott and Joanne Woodward and directed by Anthony Harvey, who also directed the 1968 film version of A Lion in Winter. Mr. Goldman’s first play on Broadway was a comedy about life in the army, Blood, Sweat, and Stanley Poole (1961), written with his brother William Goldman. Other work for the stage includes A Family Affair, a collaboration with John Kander, starring Shelley Berman; Evening Primrose (1966), his second collaboration with Mr. Sondheim; Oliver Twist (1982), Anna Karenina (1985), Anastasia: The Mystery of Anna (1986), and Tolstoy (1996). Mr. Goldman’s novels include The Man from Greek and Roman (1974), Myself as Witness (1980), and Fulton County (1989).

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(1959) and Do I Hear a Waltz? (1965) and additional lyrics for Candide (1973). Anthologies of his work include Side by Side by Sondheim (1976), Marry Me a Little (1981), You’re Gonna Love Tomorrow (1983), Putting It Together (1993/99) and Sondheim on Sondheim (2010). He composed the scores of the films “Stavisky” (1974) and “Reds” (1981) and songs for “Dick Tracy” (1990) and the television production “Evening Primrose” (1966). His collected lyrics with attendant essays have been published in two volumes: “Finishing the Hat” (2010) and “Look, I Made A Hat” (2011). In 2010 the Broadway theater formerly known as Henry Miller’s Theatre was renamed in his honor.

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 MUSICAL: Follies

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THE CAST:  
Natascia Diaz* as Sally Durant Plummer  
Samantha Rose Cárdenas* as Young Sally and Ensemble  
Maureen McVerry* as of Phyllis Rogers Stone  
Danielle Cheiken as Young Phyllis and Young Heidi  
Anthony Rollins-Mullens* as Buddy Plummer  
Chachi Delgado as Young Buddy  
Chris Vettel* as Benjamin Stone  
Cameron La Brie as Young Benjamin  
Cindy Goldfield* as Carlotta Campion  
Lucinda Hitchcock Cone* as Hattie Walker  
Jill Slyter as Solange LaFitte  
Caroline Louise Altman* as Stella Deems and Heidi Schiller  
Louis Parnell* as Dimitri Weismann  
Frederick Winthrop as Roscoe  
Eiko Yamamoto as Emily Whitman  
Rene Collins as Theodore Whitman  
Emily Corbo as Ensemble  
M. Javi Harnly as Ensemble  
Anthony Maglio as Ensemble and Kevin  
Catrina Manahan as Ensemble  
Anne Warque as Ensemble

WHEN:  
In-person performances: June 30 – September 10, 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
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**TICKETS:** Tickets ($30 - $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/follies/](https://www.sfplayhouse.org/sfph/2021-2022-season/follies/)