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San Francisco Playhouse announces casting for *The Song of Summer*

By Lauren Yee
Directed by Bill English

Previews begin July 20, 2021

Press Opening July 24 at 8:00 P.M.

In-person performances July 20 – August 14, 2021

On-demand video production available to view July 24 – August 14, 2021

SAN FRANCISCO (June 24, 2021) — San Francisco Playhouse (Artistic Director **Bill English**; Producing Director **Susi Damilano**) announced casting for *The Song of Summer* by Lauren Yee, directed by **Bill English**. The play marks the company's second in-person production since the coronavirus pandemic began, following *Hold These Truths* by Jeanne Sakata. The show will also be available as an on-demand video stream for audiences to enjoy at home. In-person performances at 450 Post Street will take place July 20 through August 14, 2021, with reduced audience capacity. The on-demand video stream will be available July 24 through August 14, 2021.

The cast features **Riley Cheng, Anne Darragh*, Riley Hashimoto, Monica Ho*, Jeremy Kahn*, and Reggie D. White***.

"I can think of no better way to usher in the summer of 2021 than with *The Song of Summer*, the uplifting comedy by Lauren Yee, one of our favorite playwrights," said Bill English, Artistic Director. "Lauren offers a complex, nuanced view of her characters and encourages us all to look within and be true to ourselves."

Each summer, there's a song on every playlist, radio station, and wedding dance floor; that inescapable earworm that everyone hums on the way to work—the Song of Summer. This year, that song belongs to Robbie, but his unexpected pop superstardom is far more than he can handle. When he sneaks away from a sold-out tour to return to his childhood home, Robbie must reconnect with his past and find his authentic self. *The Song of Summer* is a harmonious and hilarious romantic comedy about how revisiting the past can change our future.

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

Announces Casting for The Song of Summer

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 June 29, 2021, along with on-demand video tickets (\$15 - \$100) that are valid throughout the show's run.

Lauren Yee is a playwright, screenwriter, and TV writer born and raised in San Francisco. She currently lives in New York City. Her CAMBODIAN ROCK BAND, with music by Dengue Fever and others, premiered at South Coast Rep, with subsequent productions at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, Victory Gardens, City Theatre, Merrimack Rep, and Signature Theatre. Her play THE GREAT LEAP has been produced at Denver Center, Seattle Rep, Atlantic Theatre, Guthrie Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, Arts Club, InterAct Theatre, Steppenwolf, Pasadena Playhouse/East West Players, and Cygnet Theatre. Lauren Yee's play KING OF THE YEES premiered at The Goodman Theatre and Center Theatre Group, followed by productions at ACT Theatre, Canada's National Arts Centre, and Baltimore Center Stage. Other plays include CHING CHONG CHINAMAN (Pan Asian Rep, Mu Performing Arts), THE HATMAKER'S WIFE (Playwrights Realm, Moxie, PlayPenn), HOOKMAN (Encore, Company One), IN A WORD (Young Vic, SF Playhouse, Cleveland Public, Strawdog), SAMSARA (Victory Gardens), THE SONG OF SUMMER (Trinity Rep, Mixed Blood), and THE TIGER AMONG US (Mu). She is the winner of the Doris Duke Artist Award, the Steinberg Playwright Award, the Horton Foote Prize, the Kesselring Prize, the ATCA/Steinberg Award, American Academy of Arts and Letters literature award, and the Francesca Primus Prize. She has been a finalist for the Edward M. Kennedy Prize and the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. Her plays were the #1 and #2 plays on the 2017 Kilroys List. Lauren is a Residency 5 playwright at Signature Theatre, New Dramatists member (class of 2025), Ma-Yi Writers' Lab member, former Princeton University Hodder fellow, and Playwrights Realm alumni playwright. TV: PACHINKO (Apple), SOUNDTRACK (Netflix). Current commissions include Geffen Playhouse, La Jolla Playhouse, Portland Center Stage, Second Stage, South Coast Rep. BA: Yale. MFA: UCSD. www.laurenzee.com

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

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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: *The Song of Summer*
By **Lauren Yee**
Directed by **Bill English**

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THE CAST:
Riley Cheng as **Brett** (alternating each performance)
Anne Darragh as **Mrs. C.**
Riley Hashimoto as **Brett** (alternating each performance)
Monica Ho as **Tina**
Jeremy Kahn as **Robbie**
Reggie D. White as **Joe**

WHEN: In-person performances: July 20 – August 14, 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, July 20 at 7:00 P.M.

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On-demand video stream: July 24 – August 14, 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/the-song-of-summer/>