



For immediate release
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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/>.

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

Richard Maltby, Jr. conceived and directed two Tony Award winning musicals: *Ain't Misbehavin'* (1978: Tony, N.Y. Drama Critics, Outer Critics, Drama Desk Awards — also Tony Award for Best Director); *Fosse* (1999: Tony, Outer Critics, Drama Desk Awards); as well as *Ring of Fire*, (2006). With composer David Shire: director/lyricist: *Baby* (1983, seven Tony nominations); lyricist: *Big* (1996, Tony nomination: Best Score; also Dominium Theatre London 2019). With Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg, co-lyricist: *Miss Saigon* (Evening Standard Award, London 1990; Tony nomination: Best Score, 1991); co-lyricist: *The Pirate Queen* (2007). Director: *The Story of My Life* (2009). Director/co-lyricist: Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Song & Dance* (1986 Tony Award for star, Bernadette Peters.) **OFF-BROADWAY**: with David Shire: director/lyricist *Starting Here, Starting Now* (1977, Grammy nomination) and *Closer than Ever*, (1989, two Outer Critics Circle Awards: Best Musical, Best Score; also Off-Broadway Alliance Award, Best Musical Revival 2013; and London Jermyn Street Theatre 2014.). Director: *Just Jim Dale*, (Roundabout Theatre 2014, Vaudeville Theatre, London 2015). **REGIONAL**: Lyricist/conceiver, *Take Flight* (Menier Chocolate Factory, London 2010; McCarter Theatre 2012); book and lyrics, *Waterfall* (2015, Pasadena Playhouse and Seattle's Fifth Avenue Theatre); Lyricist, new musical *Sousatzka* (2017, Toronto). **FILM**: Screenplay, *Miss Potter*, (2007: Christopher Award, best screenplay.). Contributes cryptic crossword puzzles to *Harpers Magazine*. Son of well-known orchestra leader; Five children: Nicholas, David, Jordan, Emily and Charlotte.

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*
Music by **David Shire**

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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/>