

## PRESS RELEASE

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VENUE: 533 Sutter Street, @ Powell  
Contact: Susi Damilano  
[susi@sfplayhouse.org](mailto:susi@sfplayhouse.org)

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**\*\*West Coast Premiere\*\***  
**ANIMALS OUT OF PAPER**

**By Rajiv Joseph**

**Directed by Amy Glazer**

Opens (Press Night) January 23 through February 27, 2010  
Previews January 19, 20, 21 and 22

**San Francisco, CA** (November 2009) – **The SF Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) are thrilled to announce the West Coast Premiere of Rajiv Joseph's *Animals Out of Paper* will fill their previously unannounced Winter slot.

Hailed as "alternatively wrenching and funny" by **The New York Times**, *Animals Out of Paper* is as a quirky comedy about origami experts that deftly explores how life can get messy as it unfolds. When a world renowned origami artist opens her studio to a teenage, hip-hopping, origami prodigy and his school teacher, she finds that life and love can't always be neatly arranged.

**Amy Glazer** will direct the three person cast featuring **Lorrie Holt\*** (remaining cast to be announced.) (*\*Appears courtesy of Actors Equity*).

In researching the **origami** world of the play, we discovered that Rajiv had done his homework. Right here in the Bay Area is a hub of Origami experts, including **Robert Lang**, **Linda Tomoko Mihara**, and **Bernie Peyton**. Robert Lang was hired by the medical association to invent the heart pouch referred to in the play. We met Robert at the SF International Origami Convention and he was thrilled to report that Rajiv had gotten all his points correct. Many of the props and set pieces for 'Animals' will be created by the **Bay Area Rapid Folders (BARF)**, thus furthering the bridge between the arts of origami and theater.

## THE SF PLAYHOUSE

### ***Animals Out of Paper***

*Continued:*

In his 2008 interview with **The Brooklyn Rail**, Rajiv described his inspiration for the play, “I came into the subject in a strange way, since I don’t fold origami at all,” he explains. “I had always been interested in writing a play about a young prodigy. I’ve always liked chess, but chess-prodigy stories have been done. One night I was sitting on a Greyhound bus next to a woman who was folding origami and we started talking. She told me she teaches children origami, and she noted that every once in a while, a kid will understand how to fold in a way that most other people cannot. She said these kids ‘see folds before they happen’, which I thought was fascinating, and which led me to the creation of this play.”

**Rajiv Joseph (Playwright)** was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in 1996 with a B.A. in Creative Writing. Following graduation Joseph joined the Peace Corps, serving three formative years in the West African Republic of Senegal. He earned a Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 2004 where he teaches Essay Writing with intermittent trips to Romania as part of the *Ecrivains sans Frontieres (ESF)* organization. Joseph's first production, *Huck & Holden*, debuted at the Cherry Lane Theatre in 2005. The play also had a West Coast run at the Black Dahlia Theater in Los Angeles the following year. *All This Intimacy* premiered at New York's McGinn/Cazale Theater in 2006. The TBG Theater featured Joseph's re-imagining of *The Leopard and the Fox* in 2007. Joseph returned to the Upper West Side in the summer of 2008 for Second Stage Theatre's premiere of *Animals Out of Paper*. Joseph's sensation *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, directed by Moisés Kaufman, debuted at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City, May, 2009. It can next be seen at the Mark Taper Forum in downtown Los Angeles (April 14 - May 30, 2010). In 2008, Joseph was awarded the Vineyard Theatre's Paula Vogel Award given to emerging playwrights. *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* was chosen by the NEA in 2008 as one of two Outstanding New American plays and Joseph received the 2009 Kesselring Fellowship awarded to emerging dramatists and received a prestigious Whiting Writers' Award in 2009, an international award given annually to 10 writers of fiction, nonfiction, plays, and/or poetry who show "exceptional talent and promise in early career". *Animals Out of Paper* received a Lucille Lortel Award nomination for 'Outstanding Play' on April 2, 2009.

## THE SF PLAYHOUSE

### ***Animals Out of Paper***

*Continued:*

Founded by **Bill English and Susi Damilano** in 2003, **The SF Playhouse** is San Francisco's fastest growing and most awarded Theater Company and hailed as a "small delicacy" by *SF Weekly*, "eclectic" by the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* and "local theater's best kept secret" by *San Francisco Magazine*. Located in Union Square, The SF Playhouse offers intimate, professional theatre with top notch actors and world class design. It has received multiple awards for overall productions, acting and design including the SF Weekly Best Theatre Award, Bay Guardian's Best Off-Broadway Theatre Award. The *San Francisco Chronicle* raved, "San Francisco's newest theatre isn't just another tiny stage carved out of a storefront . . . it's an enticing introduction to a new company." The SF Playhouse has quickly become the intimate theatre alternative to the traditional Union Square theatre fare, providing a creative home and inspiring environment where actors, directors, writers, designers, and theatre lovers converge to create works that celebrate the human spirit.

**THE SF PLAYHOUSE**  
***Animals Out of Paper***  
*Continued:*

**FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** Hailed as "alternatively wrenching and funny" by **The New York Times**, *Animals Out of Paper* is a quirky comedy about origami experts that deftly explores how life can get messy as it unfolds. When a world renowned origami artist opens her studio to a teenage, hip-hopping, origami prodigy and his school teacher, she finds that life and love can't always be neatly arranged.

**DATES:** Previews: **January, 19, 20, 21, 22, 2010**  
Open: **January 23, 2010**  
Close: **February 27, 2010**

**SHOWS:** Tuesday 7pm, Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., plus Saturdays 3p.m.

**WHERE:** **The SF Playhouse**  
533 Sutter Street (one block off Union Square, b/n Powell & Mason)

**TICKETS:** For tickets (\$30 previews, \$40 regular) or more information, the public may contact The SF Playhouse box office at **415-677-9596**, or **[www.sfplayhouse.org](http://www.sfplayhouse.org)**.