

# THE SF PLAYHOUSE

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### THE SANDBOX SERIES PRESENTS A WORLD PREMIERE CO-PRODUCTION WITH PLAYGROUND **REUNION**

**By Kenn Rabin**

Directed by Louis Parnell

June 6 through June 30, 2012

**Press Opening: June 9, 8pm**

Previews at 8pm,

Regular showtimes: Wed/Thurs 7pm, Fri/Sat 8pm

**San Francisco, CA** (May 2012) – **The SF Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing **Director**) in association with PlayGround (Jim Kleinman, Artistic Director) continues its second season of the Sandbox Series with a co-production of the world premiere, *Reunion* originally commissioned by PlayGround and written by local playwright Kenn Rabin.

Julie and Valerie have several things in common- they both went to the same high school, they both now reside in Berkeley, CA, and they both had a sexual relationship with their high school teacher, Mr. Gillette. Now that their paths have crossed, again, they are now uncovering their pasts together. All the while, anticipating Mr. Gillette's prison release.

**The cast includes Alexandra Creighton, Lauren English\*, Marvin Greene\* and Emily Rosenthal.**

The mission of **The Sandbox Series** is to promote new works utilizing top-notch directors and actors. The presentations will have limited design elements and will be promoted primarily using online services, thus reducing the costs and risk of each production. By reducing risk, we hope to bridge the gap between "readings" and "main stage" productions and thus provide increased exposure to the new voices in American Theater.

**Kenn Rabin's** short plays include *How to Chop Wood*, *Hotel Poststrasse*, *When the Dead Weep*, *The Country of Us*, *not yet discouraged of man*, *The Great Wall From Space* and *Blackbird*, as well as *Celadon Box #8*, *Hunters and Gatherers*, *Gymnopedie No. 1* and the short version of *Reunion*, all of which won PlayGround Emerging Playwright Awards. The short version of *Reunion* was recently made

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### ***Reunion***

*Continued:*

into a film, which will premiere at the first annual PlayGround Film Festival at Thick House in May, 2012. The full-length version of *Reunion* originally received a staged reading at Zeum in San Francisco in 2006. Also in 2006, Mr. Rabin received a commission from Marin Theatre Company for his play *Found Objects*, which received a production there in 2007. Rabin is also the author of two radio plays, *Turning the Tables: Two Women* (performed live on KWMR), and *Neighbors*. He is currently at work on an evening of two-character, one-act plays entitled *Just Us*. As a producer, writer, and researcher, he has been nominated for two Emmy Awards for his work in television (including the landmark PBS documentary series *Vietnam: A Television History*, and *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years*). He has worked on over one hundred documentaries and feature films, including episodes of PBS's *American Experience* and *American Masters*, and the recent Sundance favorites, *Daughter from Danang* and *How to Survive a Plague*. He associate produced and co-wrote the film *Yesterday's Tomorrows* for director Barry Levinson, and co-produced and co-wrote a PBS special, *The Storm that Swept Mexico*. Feature research, consulting and writing credits include *The Indian Runner* (Sean Penn), *The Good German* (Steven Soderbergh), and *Milk* (Gus Van Sant). He received the FOCAL International Award for his work with George Clooney on *Good Night and Good Luck*. Rabin's fiction has appeared in various literary journals including *Washout Review*, *Vignette*, and *Barnabe Mountain Review*, and in the anthologies *Why We Work* and *You Are Here*. He has received a Marin Headlands Center for the Arts Associate Fellowship, a Marin Arts Council Individual Grant for Fiction, and a Marin Arts Council Fund for Artists Grant for Playwriting. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild.

**Louis Parnell (Director)** has worked extensively with numerous companies in the Bay Area including American Conservatory Theater, Campo Santo, Center Rep, The Magic, Marin Theatre Co and TheatreWorks. He has acted in many plays at SF Playhouse and previously directed *Reckless* on the SF Playhouse Main stage (BATCC nomination). Other directing credits include *Four Dogs and a Bone* and *Amulets Against the Dragon Forces* (both at ATSF) for which he received Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle and Drama-Logue Awards for both productions for directing, as well as *American Buffalo* (Bay Guardian Black Box Award). He has also directed productions of *Deathtrap*, *The Dead Monkey*, *Hurly Burly*, *A poster of the Cosmos*, *Private Eyes*, *The Shannon Doyle Incident* and *The Thing of It* at various theaters. As an actor, favorite roles include *After the Fall*, *Angels in America*, *Art*, *The Boys in the Band*, *The Fantasticks*, *It Had to be You*, *My Antonia* and *Speed the Plow* and he has accumulated 11 BATCC nominations (3 wins) and many Drama-Logue Awards and Dean Goodman Critics Choice Awards for his work. He is a company member of Playground and a proud member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA.

**PlayGround** is the Bay Area's leading playwright incubator. Founded in 1994, PlayGround creates community by nurturing collaboration between early career playwrights and established professional directors and actors. Led by co-founder and Artistic Director Jim Kleinmann, PlayGround has developed more than 600 short plays by 175 Bay Area writers and, since 2002, has commissioned

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### ***Reunion***

*Continued:*

and developed 41 new full-length plays, including Kenn Rabin's *Reunion*. PlayGround is the producer of the Monday Night PlayGround staged reading series at Berkeley Rep and the Best of PlayGround Festival, the Bay Area's largest annual showcase for local writers. For more information, visit [www.playground-sf.org](http://www.playground-sf.org).

Founded by **Bill English and Susi Damilano** in 2003, **The San Francisco 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, "***One of the most meteoric rises [of the decade] has been that of SF Playhouse, Bill English and Susi Damilano's 7-year-old-start-up that has been attracting more top-notch actors, directors, and scripts every year.***" The SF Playhouse has 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.

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### ***Reunion***

*Continued:*

#### FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

**WHAT:** A world premiere by local playwright, **Kenn Rabin**. Julie and Valerie have several things in common- they both went to the same high school, they both now reside in Berkeley, CA, and they both had a sexual relationship with their high school teacher, Mr. Gillette. Now that they're paths have crossed, again, they are now uncovering their pasts together. All the while, anticipating Mr. Gillette's prison release.

**DATES:** Previews: **June 6, 7, 8 at 8pm**  
Open: **June 9, 8pm**  
Close: **June 30, 8pm**

**SHOWS:** Wednesday & Thursday 7pm, Friday & Saturday 8pm

**WHERE:** **Stage 2 at The SF Playhouse**  
533 Sutter Street (one block off Union Square, b/n Powell & Mason)

**TICKETS:** For tickets (\$20) or more information, the public may contact The SF Playhouse box office at **415-677-9596**, or **[www.sfplayhouse.org](http://www.sfplayhouse.org)**.