



Press Release
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The Power and Perils of Human Nature
BENGAL TIGER AT THE BAGHDAD ZOO

By **Rajiv Joseph**

Directed by **Bill English**

October 1st - November 16th

Tuesday to Thursday 7pm, Friday and Saturday 8pm,
plus 3pm Saturday and *new this season*, 2pm Sunday.

PRESS OPENING: Saturday, October 5th, 8pm

San Francisco, CA (August 2013) –San Francisco Playhouse (Bill English, Artistic Director and Susi Damilano, Producing Director) launch the first year of their second decade, now in a new venue at **450 Post Street**, with the Tony nominated and Pulitzer finalist *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo (BTBZ)* by Rajiv Josef, directed by **Bill English**.

“A savagely funny & visionary new work of American theater”—NY Times

The lives of two American Marines and an Iraqi translator are forever changed by an encounter with a quick-witted Tiger who haunts the streets of war-torn Baghdad attempting to find meaning, forgiveness and redemption amidst the city’s ruins. **Rajiv Joseph's** (*Animals out of Paper, North Pool*) groundbreaking new American play explores both the power and the perils of human nature.

Artistic Director, Bill English has been pursuing this play for five years because “It asks the biggest question of our lives, ‘Why are we here?’ We are all part animal, part spiritual, and our success at being human is defined by how we balance our two natures. BTBZ is the perfect kick-off for our season of Body and Soul.”

The *BTBZ* cast teams up Bay Area award winning actors: **Gabriel Marin***, **Craig Marker***, and **Will Marchetti*** with new faces to the Playhouse, **Kuros Charney***, **Livia Demarchi**, **Pomme Koch**, and **Sarita Ocon**. The design team includes **Bill English** (Set), **Dan Reed** (Lights), **Steven Klems** (Sound),

THE SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE
BENGAL TIGER AT THE BAGHDAD ZOO

Continued:

Tatjana Genser* (Costumes), **Micah J. Stiegliz** (Projections), **Ben Schmidt** (Props Artisan) and **Paul Theren** (Prosthetics).

Rajiv Joseph *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* was a 2010 Pulitzer Prize finalist for drama, and also awarded a grant for Outstanding New American Play by the National Endowment for the Arts. Joseph's plays include *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Animals Out of Paper*, *The Leopard and the Fox* (adaptation), *Alter Ego*, *Huck & Holden*, *All This Intimacy*, *The North Pool*, *The Lake Effect* and *The Medusa Body*. He received his BA in Creative Writing from Miami University and his MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He served for three years in the Peace Corps in Senegal.

Bill English (Director, Artistic Director) has spent his life producing works of art. Bill is an accomplished singer, pianist and composer. He has acted in films, television and professional theater and is a member of all the performing unions. Bill's work in the theater has been recognized with numerous awards for acting, directing, sound and set design. Under Bill's leadership The San Francisco Playhouse, has earned multiple nominations and awards

Founded by Bill English and Susi Damilano in 2003, **The San Francisco Playhouse** has been described in the New York Times as "a company that stages some of the most consistently high-quality work around." Located right in the heart of the Union Square Theater District, **The San Francisco Playhouse** is the city's Off-Broadway company, an intimate alternative to the larger more traditional Union Square theater fare. The 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. Presenting a diverse range of plays and musicals, **The San Francisco Playhouse** produces new works as well as re-imagining classics, "making the edgy accessible and the traditional edgy." The company's 2012-2013 season marked its 10th anniversary and as it moved to a newly renovated venue, The San Francisco Chronicle raved: "On the verge of opening its 10th season, the company that lived a hand-to-mouth existence for its first few years has become the little playhouse that could. It quickly established a reputation for attracting some of the Bay Area's best acting and directing talent, as well as for its exciting play choices. And with its bold Sandbox Series, it's become a player in developing new works as well." **The San Francisco Playhouse** is committed to providing a creative home and inspiring environment where actors, directors, writers, designers, and theater lovers converge to create works that celebrate the human spirit.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: In this Pulitzer Prize finalist, two US Marines and an Iraqi translator are thrust into a world of greed, mystery and betrayal after an encounter with a now-deceased but still very pissed-off tiger. The streets of war-torn Baghdad are filled with ghosts, riddles and wry humor in this groundbreaking play that explores the power and perils of human nature.

SHOWS: **Previews** 10/1-10/4 at 8pm, **Opens** 10/5 at 8pm through 11/14.
Tues/Wed/Thurs. 7 p.m., Friday & Saturday 8 p.m., plus Saturdays 3 p.m, *NEW:* Sunday 2pm.

WHERE: **The San Francisco Playhouse**
450 Post Street (2nd Floor of Kensington Park Hotel, b/n Powell & Mason)

TICKETS: For tickets (\$30-\$100) or more information, the public may contact The San Francisco Playhouse box office at **415-677-9596**, or www.sfplayhouse.org.