



Press Release

For immediate release
October 2013

Publicist: Anne Abrams
goanne@comcast.net

It's Almost Christmas! **STOREFRONT CHURCH**

By John Patrick Shanley

Directed by Joy Carlin

November 26 – January 11th

Previews November 26-29, Tues, Wed 8pm, Fri 3 and 8pm
Tuesday to Thursday 7pm, Friday and Saturday 8pm,
plus 3pm Saturday and *new this season*, 2pm Selected Sundays.

PRESS OPENING: Saturday, November 30th, 8pm

San Francisco, CA (October 2013) –San Francisco Playhouse (Bill English, Artistic Director and Susi Damilano, Producing Director) welcome the holiday season with John Patrick Shanley's *Storefront Church*.

Storefront Church, like *Bell Book and Candle* and *Period of Adjustment* before it, is San Francisco Playhouse's "out of the box" response to the more traditional Holiday entertainment. San Francisco Playhouse delves deeper to find the intimate stories that happen to real people during the bittersweet holiday season. From Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright John Patrick Shanley (*Doubt*), *Storefront Church*, brings us to a wintery Bronx, where capitalists devour giant gingerbread houses, a disenchanting preacher rediscovers his faith, and a Scrooge-like atheist loan officer experiences a glorious Holiday rebirth.

Directed by **Joy Carlin** and starring popular Bay Area actors **Derek Fischer**, **Rod Gnapp***, **Carl Lumbly***, **Gabriel Marin***, **Ray Reinheart*** and **Gloria Weinstock***, *Storefront Church* is a contemporary Holiday story: funny and touching, asking questions of us, showing both the good and bad sides of people but ultimately an uplifting and inspiring story.

THE SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

STOREFRONT CHURCH

Continued:

Storefront Church joins *Doubt* and *Defiance* to complete Tony, Oscar and Pulitzer winner John Patrick Shanley's "Church and State" trilogy where, as in all his best works, he calls out authority figures and tests their mettle with moral issues. Shanley elaborates: "I think, with the third play, it all comes to a landing place. I feel a sense of resolution about it. I'm quite pleased with *Storefront Church*. What it says is very applicable to the time we're living in. There is a dearth of places for people who have a spiritual hunger to satisfy, and there's a dearth of places for people who have the hunger for community to satisfy."

John Patrick Shanley (Playwright) is from The Bronx, New York. His plays include *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, *Savage in Limbo*, *Italian-American Reconciliation*, *Welcome to the Moon*, *Four Dogs and a Bone*, *The Dreamer Examines His Pillow*, *Dirty Story*, *Defiance*, *Beggars in the House of Plenty* and *Storefront Church*. His theatrical work is performed extensively across the United States and around the world. For his play, *Doubt*, he received both the Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize. In the arena of screenwriting, he has nine films to his credit, most recently *Doubt*, starring Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams, which was nominated for five Academy Awards, including Best Adapted Screenplay. The film of *Doubt* was also directed by Mr. Shanley. Other films include *Five Corners* (Special Jury Prize, Barcelona Film Festival), *Alive*, *Joe Versus the Volcano*, which he also directed, and *Live from Baghdad* for HBO (Emmy nomination). For his script of *Moonstruck* he received both the Writers Guild of America Award and an Academy Award for best original screenplay. The Writers Guild of America awarded Mr. Shanley the 2009 Lifetime Achievement in Writing.

Joy Carlin (Director) is a former Associate Artistic Director at A.C.T. and member of the acting company for many years. Carlin has also been Resident Director and Interim Artistic Director at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre. She is a member of Playground and of 4 unions including the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) At San Francisco Playhouse she directed *The Ride down Mt. Morgan* and *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge* and appeared in *Kimberly Akimbo* and *Harper Regan*. Most recently she acted in Marin Theatre Company's *Beauty Queen of Leenane* and directed *After the Revolution* at Aurora Theatre Co. and can be seen as "The Lady on the Plane" in Woody Allen's *Blue Jasmine*.

Founded by Bill English and Susi Damilano in 2003, **The San Francisco Playhouse** was 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 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: It's almost Christmas, and Tony, Oscar and Pulitzer winner, John Patrick Shanley (*Doubt*), transports us to a wintry Bronx, where gluttonous bankers devour giant gingerbread houses, a disillusioned preacher rediscovers his faith, and a modern day Scrooge is redeemed.

SHOWS: Previews 11.26 & 11.27 at 8pm and 11.29 at 3 and 8pm
Tuesday to Thursday 7pm, Friday and Saturday 8pm,
Matinees: 3pm Saturday and 2pm Sunday on 12.8, 12.15, 12.22, 12.29, 1.5
Added: Sunday 12.22 at 7pm
No show: 11.28, 12.24, 12.25 and 1.1

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.