

Press Release  
For immediate release  
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Regional Premiere  
**STUPID FUCKING BIRD**  
By Aaron Posner  
Directed by Susi Damilano  
March 17<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup> **opens March 21, 2015**  
Tues, Wed, Thurs 7pm / Fri, Sat 8pm / Sat 3pm, Sun 2pm  
*No matinee March 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>*  
**Previews at 8pm March 17, 18, 19, 20**  
**Press Opening: 8 pm, Saturday, March 21, 2015**

**San Francisco, CA** (February 2015) – **San Francisco Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) continues its twelfth season with the regional premiere of Aaron Posner's *Stupid Fucking Bird*—irreverently based on Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*—directed by Susi Damilano.

You've never seen Chekhov like this. Aaron Posner's bold and cheeky update of "*The Seagull*" thrusts us into a country house where unrequited desire is drowned in equal parts alcohol and sarcasm. In true Chekhovian fashion, actresses, playwrights, doctors, and novelists bare their souls as they search desperately for the truth of love and art.

An aspiring young theatre director struggles to get out from under the shadow of his mother, a famous actress. Meanwhile, his young muse falls for his mother's lover, and everyone discovers just how disappointing love, art, and growing up can be. In this contemporary riff on Chekhov's *The Seagull*, Aaron Posner skillfully remixes the renowned "subtext" of the classic play into exuberant and hysterical scenes and songs.

"*Stupid Fucking Bird*, like *The Seagull*, is mostly about love, art, hope, and disappointment," said playwright Aaron Posner. "It pits passionate dreams of ideal love and artistic success against the simple hard realities of quotidian life. It's been fascinating to explore *The Seagull*—a play I truly love and, in some odd ways, loathe—to find my own resonances and rebellions within it. What has emerged, I hope, in this rough-and-tumble, meta-theatrical mash-up, is a deliberately unfaithful re-imagining that I hope will challenge, amaze, engage, and delight."

The cast includes **El Beh**, **Martha Brigham\***, **Joseph Estlack**, **Adam Magill**, **Johnny Moreno\***, **Carrie Paff\***, and **Charles Shaw Robinson\***.

## **SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE**

*Regional Premiere: Stupid Fucking Bird*  
*Continued:*

**Aaron Posner** (Playwright) is a Helen Hayes and Barrymore Award-winning director and playwright. He is a founder and former Artistic Director of Philadelphia's Arden Theatre, an Associate Artist at both the Folger Theatre and Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, and has directed at major regional theatres from coast to coast including ART, South Coast Rep, Seattle Rep, Portland Center Stage, The Alliance, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Arizona Theatre Company, Milwaukee Rep, California Shakespeare Theatre, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Roundhouse Theatre, Studio Theatre, Signature Theatre, Theatre J, American Player's Theatre and many more. His adaptations include Chaim Potok's *The Chosen* and *My Name is Asher Lev* (both of which have enjoyed successful runs at more than 50 theatres across the country and the latter of which ran for ten months Off-Broadway in 2012/13 and won both the Outer Circle Critics Award for Best New Off-Broadway play and the John Gassner Award), as well as Ken Kesey's *Sometimes a Great Notion*, Mark Twain's *A Murder, A Mystery, and a Marriage*, an adaptation of three Kurt Vonnegut short stories, entitled *Who Am I This Time? (and other conundrums of love)*. His Chekhov inspired *Stupid Fucking Bird* debuted at Woolly Mammoth and won the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Resident Play as well as the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding Play or Musical. The LA production at Theatre@Boston Court received nine Ovation Award nominations including Best Playwright. Aaron was raised in Eugene, Oregon, graduated from Northwestern University, is an Eisenhower Fellow, and lives near Washington, DC.

**Susi Damilano** (Director) is co-founder and Producing Director of the San Francisco Playhouse. Directing credits include Playhouse productions of *Into the Woods*, *A Behanding in Spokane*, *Den of Thieves* and *Wirehead\**; the West Coast Premieres of *Honey Brown Eyes\**, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Coronado*, *The Mystery Plays* and *Roulette* and the world premieres of Rhett Rossi's *From Red to Black* and Daniel Heath's *Seven Days* in the Sandbox Series. She is a five-time recipient of the Bay Area Theatre Critic Circle (BATCC) award for Best Female Performance in *Abigail's Party*, *Harper Regan*, *Bug*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, and *Reckless*. At the Playhouse she has performed leading roles in *Tree*, *Bauer*, *Abigail's Party*, *Harper Regan*, *Coraline*, *Slasher*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Landscape of the Body*, *First Person Shooter*, *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train*, *The Crucible*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, *Our Town* and *The Smell of the Kill*. (\*nominated for BATCC Directing award.)

Founded by Bill English and Susi Damilano in 2003, **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, **San Francisco Playhouse** is the city's Off-Broadway style 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. Presenting a diverse range of plays and musicals, **San Francisco Playhouse** produces new works as well as re-imagining classics, "making the edgy accessible and the traditional edgy." 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." **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 irreverent remix of Chekhov's *The Seagull*, an aspiring young director rails against art created by his mother's generation, a nubile young actress wrestles with an aging Hollywood star for the affections of a renowned novelist, and everyone discovers just how disappointing life, art, and growing up can be.

**SHOWS:** **Previews** 3.17-3.20 at 8pm, **Opens** 3.21 at 8pm through 5.2

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 7pm  
Friday & Saturday 8pm  
Matinees Saturday 3pm and Sunday 2pm.  
No Matinee 3.21 or 3.22

**WHERE:** 450 Post Street, San Francisco

**TICKETS:** For tickets (\$20-\$120) or more information, the public may contact the San Francisco Playhouse box office at 415-677-9596, or [www.sfplayhouse.org](http://www.sfplayhouse.org).