

Press Release

For immediate release
June 2014

VENUE: ACT Costume Shop
1119 Market Street
@ 7th

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2013-14 Sandbox Series presents
World Premiere
FROM RED TO BLACK
By Rhett Rossi
Directed by Susi Damilano

Press Opening: Saturday, August 9th at 8pm.
Wed, Thurs 7pm / Fri, Sat 8pm through August 30th
Preview performances August 7 & 8 at 8pm

Performances will be held at A.C.T. Costume Shop on 1119 Market Street (at Seventh Street)

San Francisco, CA (June 2014) – The **San Francisco Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) completes its fifth season of the Sandbox Series of new plays with the world premiere of **Rhett Rossi's *From Red to Black***. **Susi Damilano** will direct. Rhett Rossi is the newest playwright under commission to write a play for San Francisco Playhouse in partnership with **Bisno Productions**, producers of numerous Broadway shows.

A man falls to his death on a New York subway track. Two detectives, both Irish, one battle wearied, the other brimming with education, question a young black man who was arrested in the vicinity. Did he push the victim? Was he provoked? As they dig further into the story, identity and truth become more and elusive. And our presumptions become layers of the urban onion, peeled away one by one.

The cast includes Matthew Baldiga, Charles Shaw Robinson*, Isiah Thompson and Michael Shipley*.

The mission of **The Sandbox Series** is to promote new works utilizing top-notch directors and actors. Sandbox Series shows, with limited design elements and reduced financial risk, bridge the gap between “readings” and “main stage” productions offering increased exposure to the new voices in American Theater.

Rhett Rossi (Playwright) is an accomplished New York City based playwright. His play, *In God's Hat*, (written under the pseudonym Richard Taylor) was done at the Peter Jay Sharp theater at Playwright's Horizons. The New York Times reviewed the play as, “in a single word: terrific” and “downright thrilling”.

THE SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

World Premiere Sandbox Series

From Red to Black

Continued:

Mr. Rossi started out as an actor. That is how he met his mentor, Kevin Kittle, of Rutgers University. Kevin has developed and served as dramatist on every play Rhett has penned since 1999. Rhett's plays have been produced in both New York and Chicago and he is thrilled *From Red to Black* is having its world premiere at the San Francisco Playhouse. *From Red to Black* had previously received a reading at South Coast Rep and was a runner up in the Laurents/Hatcher Foundation for emerging US Playwrights. Rhett is currently working on a commission piece for San Francisco Playhouse in conjunction with Bisno productions. Look for his new play *Lights at the Edge* to be produced in NYC at the end of 2014. Rhett has also developed a pilot with HBO about minor league hockey and he is currently developing a new pilot based on interest in his work.

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: A man falls to his death on a New York subway track. Two detectives, both Irish, one battle wearied, the other brimming with education, question a young black man who was arrested in the vicinity. Did he push the victim? Was he provoked? As they dig further into the story, identity and truth become more and more elusive. And our presumptions become layers of the urban onion, peeled away one by one.

SHOWS: **Previews** 8/7-8/8 at 8pm
Opens August 9 at 8pm through August 30th.
Wednesday & Thursday 7pm, Friday & Saturday 8pm

WHERE: A.C.T. Costume Shop on 1119 Market Street (at Seventh Street)/Civic Center Bart

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