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Casting Announced for Sarah Ruhl's **STAGE KISS**

Directed by Susi Damilano

Press Opening: Saturday, November 21, 8pm

November 17 through January 9, 2016
Tues, Wed, Thurs 7pm / Fri, Sat 8pm / Sat 3pm, Sun 2pm
Preview Performances: November 17, 18, 19, 20 at 8pm

No matinees November 21st & 22nd
No shows: 11.26, 12.25, 1.1
Added shows: 11/25 & 12/23 at 2pm, 12/27 & 1/3 at 7pm.

San Francisco, CA (September 2015) – **San Francisco Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) continues its thirteenth Mainstage season with the Bay Area premiere of Sarah Ruhl's valentine to the theatre, ***Stage Kiss***, directed by **Susi Damilano**. The show will feature **Allen Darby, Millie DeBenedet, Taylor Jones, Gabriel Marin*, Carrie Paff*, Mark Anderson Phillips*, and Michael Gene Sullivan***.

Stage Kiss is a wry romantic comedy about two former lovers who find themselves starring in a play together. As they're required to share the stage, and stage kisses, they have to navigate their feelings for one another, and the line between art and reality starts to blur. Art imitates Life imitates Art. This frothy farce mixing stage drama and backstage lives is a semi-romantic comedy, tripping lightly through a playground of desire and sexual fantasy. Is this kiss for real?

"How weird, to watch actors kiss," said playwright Sarah Ruhl on her inspiration for the play. "It's their job, and what a wonderful job, to get to walk in and kiss attractive people all day, but also what a weird job."

San Francisco Playhouse's production of *Stage Kiss* is made possible by producers **Dana and Gary Shapiro** and Associate Producers **Fred & Beth Karren** and **Richard & Susan Lieberman**.

THE SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

STAGE KISS

Continued:

Sarah Ruhl (Playwright) Originally from Chicago, Ms. Ruhl received her M.F.A. from Brown University where she studied with Paula Vogel. In 2003, she was the recipient of the Helen Merrill Emerging Playwrights Award and the Whiting Writers' Award. She was a member of **13P** and of **New Dramatists** and won the MacArthur Fellowship in 2006. She was recently the recipient of the **PEN Center Award** for a mid-career playwright, the Feminist Press' *Forty under Forty* award, and the **2010 Lilly Award**. She is currently on the faculty at **Yale School of Drama** and lives in Brooklyn with her family. Plays include *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play* (Pulitzer Prize finalist, Tony Award nominee for best new play), *The Clean House* (Pulitzer Prize Finalist, 2005; **The Susan Smith Blackburn Prize**, 2004); *Passion Play, a cycle* (Pen American award, The Fourth Freedom Forum Playwriting Award from The Kennedy Center); *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Helen Hayes award); *Melancholy Play*; *Eurydice*; *Orlando*, *Demeter in the City* (NAACP nomination), *Late: a cowboy song*, *Three Sisters*, and most recently, *The Oldest Boy*, *Stage Kiss* and *Dear Elizabeth*. Her plays have been produced on Broadway at the Lyceum by Lincoln Center Theater, off-Broadway at Playwrights' Horizons, Second Stage, and at Lincoln Center's Mitzi Newhouse Theater, and downtown at Clubbed Thumb and Classic Stage Company. Her plays have been produced regionally all over the country, with premieres at Yale Repertory Theater, the Goodman Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theater, Arena Stage, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Madison Repertory Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Cornerstone Theater, and the Piven Theatre Workshop in Chicago. Her plays have also been produced **internationally** in London, Germany, Australia, Canada and Israel, and have been translated into Polish, Russian, Spanish, Norwegian, Korean, German and Arabic.

Susi Damilano (Director) is co-founder and Producing Director of the San Francisco Playhouse. Directing credits include Playhouse productions of *Company*, *Stupid Fucking Bird*, *Into the Woods*, *A Behanding in Spokane*, *Den of Thieves and Wire head***; 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. 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, **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.

*Actors appear courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: Art imitates Life imitates Art. And the dance continues. Prepare yourself for a frothy farce mixing stage drama and backstage lives into an intoxicating delight. This semi-romantic comedy delivers the laughs, tripping lightly through a playground of desire and sexual fantasy. Is this kiss for real?

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WHERE: 450 Post Street, San Francisco, 2nd Floor of the Kensington Park Hotel.

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.