

Tony-Nominated Musical
SHE LOVES ME
Comes to San Francisco This Holiday Season

Book by Joe Masteroff
Music by Jerry Bock
Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick

Directed by Susi Damilano
Music Direction by David Aaron Brown
Choreography by Kimberly Richards

Press Opening: Wednesday, November 30, 7pm

November 23, 2016 to January 14, 2017

Tues, Wed, Thurs 7pm / Fri, Sat 8pm / Sat 3pm, Sun 2pm

Preview Performances: November 23, 25, 26 at 8pm, November 27 at 2pm, November 29 at 7pm,
November 26 at 3pm, November 27 at 2pm, November 29 at 7pm

NO SHOW: 12.25, 1.1

ADDED SHOWS: Saturday 12.24 at 2pm, Monday 12.26 at 7pm

San Francisco, CA (September 2016) – **San Francisco Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) now in its fourteenth season—one highlighting “transformations”—celebrates the holiday season with the musical ***She Loves Me*** by Joe Masteroff, Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick, which received the 2016 Tony Award nominee for Best Revival of a Musical on Broadway.

Nominated for a total of six Tony Awards in 2016 and winner of the Drama Desk and Outer Critic Circle Awards for Outstanding Revival of a Musical, ***She Loves Me***, based on the same romantic story as the popular film *You’ve Got Mail*, follows Amalia and George, two perfume shop clerks who don’t quite see eye to eye. Constantly bumping heads while on the job, the sparring coworkers can’t seem to find common ground. After they each respond to a “lonely hearts advertisement” in the newspaper, they start to fall for their anonymous pen pals—but will love continue to blossom once their identities are finally revealed?

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

She Loves Me

Continued:

"When we discovered this gem was available, we knew we had the perfect show for this holiday season," said San Francisco Playhouse Co-Founder Susi Damilano. "It takes place during Christmas and is a sweet reminder of the power of love to transform our lives." ***She Loves Me*** is based on Miklos Laszlo's Hungarian play *Illatszertár (Parfumerie)*, which served as the source for the 1940 Ernst Lubitsch film *The Shop Around the Corner* and Robert Z. Leonard's 1949 Americanized adaptation *In the Good Old Summertime*, as well as the indirect inspiration for the 1998 film *You've Got Mail*.

She Loves Me will be **directed by Susi Damilano** and feature Playhouse favorites **Jeffrey Brian Adams***, **Joseph Estlack***, **Monique Hafen***, **Rodney Jackson***, **Michael Gene Sullivan*** and **Nanci Zoppi***.

San Francisco Playhouse's production of *She Loves Me* is made possible by Executive Producer Robert Hulteng, Producers Scott Walecka and Martha Seaver; Associate Producers: Margaret Sheehan, William & Janet McAllister, Phyllis & Jerry Rosenberg, Peggy Skornia, Margot Golding, Larry Russo; Artistic Sponsors: Elizabeth Werter and Henry Trevor.

Jerry Bock (Music) was an American musical theater composer. He received the Tony Award for Best Musical and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama with Sheldon Harnick for their 1959 musical *Fiorello!* and the Tony Award for Best Composer and Lyricist for the 1964 musical *Fiddler on the Roof* with Sheldon Harnick.

Sheldon Harnick (Lyrics) is an American lyricist best known for his collaborations with composer Jerry Bock on hit musicals such as *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Fiorello!*. Harnick began his career writing words and music to comic songs in musical revues. One of these, "The Merry Minuet", was popularized by the Kingston Trio. .

Joe Masteroff (Book) is best known as the book writer for the Tony Award-winning *Cabaret*. Coming to New York from Philadelphia after attending Temple University and serving in the US Air Force, he has been represented in New York City by the play *The Warm Peninsula*, the libretto for an operatic version of Eugene O'Neill's *Desire Under the Elms* and the book and lyrics for a production of *Six Wives* at the York Theatre Company.

Susi Damilano (Director) is co-founder and Producing Director of the San Francisco Playhouse. Directing credits include Playhouse productions of *Stage Kiss***, *Company*, *Stupid Fucking Bird*, *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 Steven Dietz' *On Clover Road*, 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.)

David Aaron Brown (Music Director) is thrilled to be making his San Francisco Playhouse debut with this charming production. A Bay Area native, his past music directing credits include *The Wild Party* and *The Rocky Horror Show* (BATCC nominee) with Ray of Light, *Grey Gardens* (TBA nominee, BATCC winner) with Custom Made, and *Blood Wedding* (TBA nominee) with Breadbox. He is the resident music director at Menlo School and a graduate of Brown University, where he received the Weston Award for Piano Performance. Upcoming: *Seussical* with Bay Area Musicals.

Kimberly Richards* (Choreographer) launched her versatile career 40 years ago: actress, aerialist, choreographer, comedienne, dancer, director, and illusionist. She co-starred (with Louis Parnell) in SF Playhouse's first production, *It Had to Be You*. San Francisco Playhouse choreography: *Animals Out of Paper*, *Coronado*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *First Day of School*, *Landscapes of the Body*, two Best Choreographer Awards from the Bay Area Theater Critics Circle (BATCC) for *My Fair Lady* (2012) and *Company* (2015), as well as multiple Best Choreographer nominations from BATCC and Theatre Bay Area (TBA) for *Promises, Promises* (2013-14) and *Into the Woods* (2014). She was co-choreographer (with Tom Segal) for *Abe Lincoln's Big Gay Dance Party*, awarded Best New Play in the 2009 New York International Fringe Festival. Since 2001, Kim has toured the continent starring as "Sister" in all 7 installments of the hit one-woman comedy series *Late Nite Catechism*.

Founded in 2003 and boasting 2500 subscribers, **San Francisco Playhouse** is the only mid-sized professional venue in downtown San Francisco, an intimate alternative to the larger more traditional Union Square theater fare. Presenting a diverse range of plays and musicals, **San Francisco Playhouse** produces new works as well as re-imagined classics, "making the edgy accessible and the traditional edgy." And with its bold Sandbox Series, dedicated to nurturing World Premieres, the Playhouse has become a significant 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 and experience dramatic works that celebrate the human spirit.

*Actors appear courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

She Loves Me

Continued:

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: A treat for the holidays, set at Christmas time, the musical *She Loves Me*—based on the same romantic story as the popular film *You've Got Mail*—follows Amalia and George, two perfume shop clerks who don't quite see eye to eye. Constantly bumping heads while on the job, the sparring coworkers can't seem to find common ground. After they each respond to a "lonely hearts advertisement" in the newspaper, they start to fall for their anonymous pen pals—but will love continue to blossom once their identities are finally revealed?

SHOWS: **November 23, 2016 to January 14, 2017**
Tues, Wed, Thurs 7pm / Fri, Sat 8pm / Sat 3pm, Sun 2pm
Preview Performances: November 23, 25, 26 at 8pm, November 27 at 2pm, November 29 at 7pm, November 26 at 3pm, November 27 at 2pm, November 29 at 7pm
NO SHOW: 12.25, 1.1
ADDED SHOWS: Saturday 12.24 at 2pm, Monday 12.26 at 7pm

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

TICKETS: For tickets (\$30-\$125) or more information, the public may contact the San Francisco Playhouse box office at 415-677-9596, or <http://sfplayhouse.org/sfph/2016-2017-season/she-loves-me/>