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World Premiere of New Play by
Theresa Rebeck:
SEARED

Commissioned by San Francisco Playhouse

Directed by Margaret Perry

Press Opening: Saturday, October 1st, 8pm

September 27 to November 12, 2016
Tues, Wed, Thurs 7pm / Fri, Sat 8pm / Sat 3pm, Sun 2pm
Preview Performances: September 27, 28, 29, 30 at 8pm

San Francisco, CA (July 2016) – **San Francisco Playhouse** (Bill English, Artistic Director; Susi Damilano, Producing Director) begins its fourteenth season with the tasty World Premiere **Seared** by powerhouse playwright **Theresa Rebeck**. **Seared** is a special commission by San Francisco Playhouse. **Margaret Perry** will direct.

Playhouse audiences fell in love with Ms. Rebeck's work in *Seminar* and *The Scene*, the latter of which was adapted to a film, *Seducing Charlie Barker*, by local director Amy Glazer. In **Seared**, Ms. Rebeck explores the tension between following your dream and cashing in for success. Ms. Rebeck's works have been produced in New York, across the country, and on television. Her complete bio is below.

Seared explores the delicate balance between a creative spirit navigating success, recognition, and responsibility to a financial bottom line. In between the caramelized onions and sizzling garlic frying up in the onstage kitchen, tempers are boiling over. The Chef's eight-table jewel box has become a New York favorite. Now the Investor wants to cash in, but the Chef isn't ready to sell out—and the battle between art and commerce ensues. What *is* the recipe for success, and how many can it serve?

THE SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

Seared

Continued:

The cast includes **Brian Dykstra*** (*Jerusalem*), **Rod Gnapp***, **Larry Powell*** and **Alex Sunderhaus***.

The San Francisco Playhouse 2016-2017 Season is one of transformation that is sure to captivate with all of its intimate and thought-provoking premieres. "There is a compelling and palpable power you sense standing in the back of our theatre during a performance," observes Bill English, Artistic Director. "We create theater to tell stories that enhance our understanding of being alive in our time. The plays we have selected for our new season all tell stories of people who experience a transformation. They have their beliefs challenged and are inspired to question their own identity and their place in the community."

San Francisco Playhouse's production of ***Seared*** is made possible by: Executive Producer Andrew Teufel; Producers Fred & Beth Karren, Dana & Gary Shapiro, Arne & Gail Wagner; Associate Producers David and Cynthia Bogolub, Andre Chenoweth, Loni & Bob Dantzler / Harry & Kay Rabin, Mary & Tom Foote, Leslie Karren, Phyllis & Jerry Rosenberg; and Artistic Underwriters Joan Rost, and Mike Smith.

Theresa Rebeck (Playwright) is a widely produced playwright throughout the United States and abroad. Plays include *Dead Accounts*, *Mauritius*, *The Scene*, *The Water's Edge*, *Loose Knit*, *The Family of Mann*, *Spike Heels* at Second Stage; *Bad Dates*, *The Butterfly Collection*, *Our House*, *The Understudy*, *View of the Dome*, *Omnium Gatherum* (co-written, finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2003) and *Poor Behavior*. In television, Ms. Rebeck has written for *Dream On*, *Brooklyn Bridge*, *L.A. Law*, *American Dreamer*, *Maximum Bob*, *First Wave*, and *Third Watch*. She was the creator of the NBC drama *Smash*. She has been a writer/producer for *Canterbury's Law*, *Smith*, *Law and Order: Criminal Intent* and *NYPD Blue*. Her produced feature films include *Harriet the Spy*, *Gossip*, and the independent features *Sunday on the Rocks* and *Seducing Charlie Barker*, an adaptation of her play, *The Scene*. Awards include the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Award, the Writer's Guild of America award for Episodic Drama, the Hispanic Images Imagen Award, and the Peabody, all for her work on *NYPD Blue*. She has won the National Theatre Conference Award (for *The Family of Mann*), and was awarded the William Inge New Voices Playwriting Award in 2003 for *The Bells*. *Mauritius* was originally produced at Boston's Huntington Theatre, where it received the 2007 IRNE Award for Best New Play as well as the Eliot Norton Award. Other awards include the PEN/Laura Pels Foundation Award, the Athena Film Festival Award, an Alex Award, a Lilly Award and in 2011 she was named one of the 150 Fearless Women in the World by Newsweek. Ms. Rebeck is originally from Cincinnati and holds an MFA in Playwriting and a PhD. in Victorian Melodrama, both from Brandeis University. She is a proud board member of the Dramatists Guild, a Contributing Editor to the Harvard Review, an Associate Artist of the Roundabout Theatre Company, a Playwright Adviser and Board Member of the LARK and has taught at Brandeis University and Columbia University. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two children.

Margarett Perry (Director) is an award-winning director of new plays. She has directed and developed new work Off-Broadway and in regional theatres across the country as well as in Scotland and London.

Perry is the Resident Director at the Kitchen Theatre having directed more than 20 productions including *Sunset Baby*, *Seminar*, *Cock*, *Private Lives*, *The Motherfucker with the Hat*, *Paloma*, *Old Times*, *A Marriage Minuet* and world premieres by Brian Parks, Rob Ackerman, Rachel Axler and Brian Dykstra. She is a regular at the Human Race in Dayton where she has directed numerous productions including *One Slight Hitch*, *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike*, *Other Desert Cities*, *God of Carnage*, *The Retreat From Moscow*, *Painting Churches* and the world premiere of Michael Slade's *Under a Red Moon*. Perry was the Producing Artistic Director of Access Theater in NYC where she directed and produced numerous plays and world premieres. She is an Artistic Fellow at The Lark where she has worked with a variety of writers developing new plays. She is currently in development with Center Theatre Group on Brian Dykstra's hip hop play, *Used to Was (Maybe Did)*. www.margaretperry.com

San Francisco Playhouse

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—which has developed several new plays that have garnered the Glickman Award for playwriting and others that have gone on to be produced in New York—the Playhouse has become a significant player in presenting emerging 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.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: Between the smell of sizzling garlic and balsamic drizzle, tempers are boiling over on the onstage kitchen. Chef Harry has poured his heart into his intimate Brooklyn restaurant, and it is finally paying off. A rave review has New Yorkers flocking through his doors and selling out every table. But is this the success he has been dreaming of? A world premiere play from award-winning playwright Theresa Rebeck (*Seminar*, *SMASH*), *Seared* is a play about success, loyalty, and survival.

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

THE SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

Seared

Continued:

TICKETS: For tickets (\$20-\$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/seared/>