

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS  
PRESCIENT POP-ROCK MUSICAL PORTRAYAL  
OF POLITICS AND POWER

# EVITA

June 27, 2024 – September 7, 2024 (opening night: July 3, 2024)  
SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE, SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (9 May 2024) — **San Francisco Playhouse**'s 2023-24 season will conclude with **Andrew Lloyd Webber** and **Tim Rice**'s Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *Evita*. This captivating musical explores the life and meteoric rise of First Lady of Argentina Eva Perón, transforming from a poor child to an ambitious actress, to the most powerful woman in Latin America as the wife of military leader-turned-president Juan Perón. San Francisco Playhouse Artistic Director and Co-Founder **Bill English** stages this powerful pop-rock musical with musical direction by **Dave Dobrusky** and choreography by **Nicole Helfer**. *Evita* will perform **June 27, – September 7, 2024 (opening night: July 3, 2024)** at San Francisco Playhouse 450, Post Street. For tickets (\$30-\$125) and more information, the public may visit [sfplayhouse.org](http://sfplayhouse.org) or call the box office at **415-677-9596**.

Premiering in the West End in 1978 starring Elaine Paige in the title role, *Evita*'s Broadway production ran for nearly four years and won Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Original Score, Best Book of a Musical, and Tony Awards for stars Patti LuPone and Mandy Patinkin. *Evita* was adapted into a 1996 film directed by Alan Parker, featuring an iconic cast including Madonna, Antonio Banderas, and Jonathan Pryce, and was recognized with two Golden Globe Awards. *The Guardian* lauded the musical as “Audacious and fascinating. A beautiful score from Andrew Lloyd Webber,” while *The Hollywood Reporter* deemed it “a ravishing spectacle.” London's *Evening Standard* declared the show “always newly relevant.”

**San Francisco Playhouse** has assembled a thrilling cast of talented actors to bring this acclaimed musical to life. **Sophia Alawi** (she/her) stars as Eva Perón, a fiery and fearless woman who becomes the First Lady of Argentina. Alawi returns to the Playhouse where she was seen in *Groundhog Day: The Musical*, for which she won the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle (SFBATCC) award for Best Featured Actress, as well as *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night*. She has appeared onstage at regional theatres such as 42nd Street Moon, Hillbarn Theatre, Theater Under the Stars, and Playhouse on Park. Alawi's TV credits include “Law & Order: SVU.”

Seen in last season's *A Chorus Line*, **Alex Rodriguez** (he/him) returns to the Playhouse as political activist Che. Seen in the national tour of *Miss Saigon*, he won Theatre Bay Area (TBA) Awards for his performances in Ray of Light's *Triassic Park*, Bay Area Musicals' *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and Broadway By the Bay's *Evita*. He has choreographed and directed productions for Berkeley Playhouse and Ray of Light Theatre, where he also serves as Artistic Associate.

**Peter Gregus** (he/him) makes his Playhouse debut as Juan Perón, an army officer who rises to

become the President of Argentina. Gregus originated the role of Bob Crewe in the Tony Award-winning musical *Jersey Boys*, which he played for the entire 11-year run. Other Broadway performances include *Ain't Broadway Grand* and the Tony Award-winning *Contact*. Seen in the national tour of *A Bronx Tale: The Musical*, his regional theatre appearances include shows at La Jolla Playhouse, New York City Center, Provincetown Theater and New Bedford Festival Theatre. His TV credits include Bill Blass in Netflix's "Simply Halston," HBO's "Show Me A Hero," and Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report."

Seen in the Playhouse's *Guys and Dolls*, **Jurä Davis** (he/him) returns to the Playhouse as Agustin Magaldi, a charming man with whom Eva has her first love affair. Davis's regional theatre credits include The North Carolina Theatre, Walnut Street Theatre, and Piedmont Players Theatre.

**Chanel Tilghman** (she/they) makes her Playhouse debut as Perón's Mistress. Tilghman has performed at regional theatres including American Conservatory Theater, Center Repertory Company, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Berkeley Playhouse, Ray of Light Theatre, Shotgun Players, Lucky Penny Productions, and Contra Costa Civic Theatre. She has also participated in readings of new works with Boise Contemporary Theater's BIPOC Playwright's Festival, San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company, and Lorraine Hansberry Theatre.

**Malia Abayon, Christine M. Capsuto-Shulman, Chachi Delgado, Gabriella Goldstein, César Lino, Dian Sitip Meechai, Deanalís Arocho Resto, River Bermudez Sanders, and Nicholas Tabora** round out the cast as the chorus.

#### **PRODUCTION TEAM:**

*Evita* features music direction by **Dave Dobrusky**, choreography by **Nicole Helfer**, scenic design by **Heather Kenyon**, lighting design by **Michael Oesch**, costume design by **Abra Berman**, sound design by **James Ard**, properties design by **Blue Hephaestus**, projections design by **Sarah Phykkit**, wig design by **Laundra Tyme**, live cam consultation by **Adam Elder**, fight choreography by **Dave Maier**, dramaturg and cultural consultation by **Juan Rebuffo**, and tango consultation by **Marcelo Solis**. **Alicia Lerner** is the stage manager with **Jo Davita Ortiz** as assistant stage manager.

#### **CREATIVE TEAM:**

**Andrew Lloyd Webber's** (Music) work has been seen on world stages for more than 50 years, with musicals including *Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Evita*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Starlight Express*, *Love Never Dies*, *School of Rock*, and, most recently, *Bad Cinderella*. He shares the record for most shows running on Broadway simultaneously with Rodgers and Hammerstein. He is one of the select group of artists with EGOT status, having received an Emmy, four Grammys (including Best Contemporary Classical Composition for *Requiem*), an Academy Award, and eight Tony Awards (including the 2018 Special Tony for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre). He has also won seven Olivier Awards and a Golden Globe – and his honors include a Classic Brit award for Outstanding Contribution to Music, the Praemium Imperiale, the Richard Rodgers Award for Excellence in Musical Theatre, a BASCA Fellowship, and the Kennedy Center Honor.

**Tim Rice** (Book and Lyrics) has been writing lyrics for musical theatre for more than 40 years. His credits include work *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Evita* with Andrew Lloyd Webber; *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *King David* with Alan Menken, *Chess* with Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus of the pop group ABBA; and *The Lion King*, *Aida*, and *The Road to El Dorado* with Sir Elton John. He has achieved EGOT status, having won an Emmy, five Grammy Awards, three Academy Awards, and three Tony Awards.

**Bill English** (Director) is the co-founder and artistic director of **San Francisco Playhouse**. Alongside co-founder Susi Damilano, he has guided its growth from a bare-bones storefront to the second-largest nonprofit theatre company in San Francisco. English designed the Playhouse's first theatre space at 536 Sutter Street and reconfigured its current space from a 700-seat hall into the current gracious and intimate 199-seat venue. Over the last twenty years, he has served as director, actor, scenic designer, and sound designer, winning SFBATCC nominations or awards in each of those categories. Bill is also an accomplished musician and builder. Milestone accomplishments include introducing Pulitzer Prize winner Stephen Adly Guirgis to the Bay Area by directing three of his plays; commissioning over thirty playwrights including Theresa Rebeck, Aaron Loeb, Lauren Gunderson, Lauren Yee, and Christopher Chen; and developing World Premieres from workshops to Sandbox Series to Mainstage Season to Off-Broadway (including the Off-Broadway transfers of *Ideation* and *Bauer*), and presenting the very first production of *Grounded* by George Brant which later played at the Public Theater. He coined the phrase "the empathy gym," which drives everything at the Playhouse.

#### **SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE:**

Founded by Bill English and Susi Damilano in 2003, **San Francisco Playhouse** has been described by *The New York Times* as "a company that stages some of the most consistently high-quality work around" and deemed "ever adventurous" by *The Mercury News*. Located in the heart of the Union Square Theater District, San Francisco Playhouse is the city's premier Off-Broadway company, an intimate alternative to the larger more traditional Union Square theater fare. The 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, as well as three consecutive San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards for Best Entire Production in the Bay Area. *KQED/NPR* recently described the company as "one of the few theaters in the Bay Area that has a mission that actually shows up on stage. Artistic Director Bill English's commitment to empathy as a guiding philosophical and aesthetic force is admirable and by living that mission, fascinating things happen onstage." The 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.

*Evita* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Really Useful Group. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

#### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** San Francisco Playhouse's 2023-24 season will conclude with **Andrew Lloyd Webber** and **Tim Rice**'s Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *Evita*. This captivating musical, set in Argentina between 1934-1952, explores the life and meteoric rise of First Lady of Argentina Eva Perón, transforming from a poor child to an ambitious actress, to the most powerful woman in Latin America as the wife of military leader-turned-president Juan Perón. San Francisco Playhouse Artistic Director and Co-Founder **Bill English** stages this renowned musical.

*Evita*

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber  
Book and Lyrics by Tim Rice  
Directed by Bill English  
Music Direction by Dave Dobrusky  
Choreography by Nicole Helfer

**WHEN:** Previews: Thursday, June 27 – Tuesday, July 2, 2024  
*Opening: Wednesday, July 3, 2024*  
Closes: Saturday, September 7, 2024

**SHOWS:** Tuesdays and Thursdays: 7pm  
Wednesdays: 2pm & 7pm  
Fridays: 8pm  
Saturdays: 3pm & 8pm  
Sundays: 2pm

**WHERE:** San Francisco Playhouse (450 Post Street, San Francisco)

**TICKETS:** Single tickets (\$30-\$125) and subscriptions are currently available for San Francisco Playhouse's 2023-24 Season. For more information, the public may visit <https://www.sfplayhouse.org/sfph/2023-2024-season/evita/> or call the box office at 415-677-9596.

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**PRESS:** Contact Lauren Goldfarb, Carla Befera & Co. [lauren@cb-pr.com](mailto:lauren@cb-pr.com)

**PHOTOS:** Downloadable high-res photos are available: <http://cbpr.co/press/evita>