

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS
AN ANIME-INFUSED ADVENTURE EXPLORING INFAMOUS SEASONING

EXOTIC DEADLY: OR THE MSG PLAY

By Keiko Green

Directed by Jesca Prudencio

January 30 – March 8, 2025 (*opening night: February 5*)

Northern California Premiere

SAN FRANCISCO PLAYHOUSE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (16 December 2024) — **San Francisco Playhouse** will ring in 2025 with the Northern California Premiere of **Keiko Green’s *Exotic Deadly: Or the MSG Play***. Set in 1999, Japanese American high schooler Ami is trying to fit in with her American peers and she is devastated to discover her family helped create MSG, the supposedly addictive and dangerous ingredient that’s gained infamy. When a mysteriously cool new girl arrives at school, Ami vows to find the truth and save the world from MSG. Spiced with anime and 90s pop culture influences, this whimsically wacky time-traveling adventure is a riotous romp through teenage crushes, family legacies, and the magical properties of instant ramen. ***Exotic Deadly: Or the MSG Play*** will perform **January 30 – March 8, 2025** (*opening night: February 5*) at San Francisco Playhouse 450, Post Street. For tickets (\$35-\$135) and more information, the public may visit sfplayhouse.org or call the box office at **415-677-9596**.

Exotic Deadly: Or the MSG Play received its World Premiere at The Old Globe, where it was called “wildly funny. Smart and hilarious” by *The San Diego Union-Tribune* while *BroadwayWorld* declared it “frenetic and fantastical.” **Jesca Prudencio**, who directed the show at The Old Globe, reunites with Green to helm the San Francisco Playhouse production.

San Francisco Playhouse has assembled a cast of talented actors for this imaginative new play. **Ana Ming Bostwick-Singer** (she/ her) makes her Playhouse debut as Actor 1, who plays Ami. She has previously performed with The Actors’ Gang, South Coast Repertory, and Ojai Playwrights Conference. Her film and TV credits include Netflix’s “The Lincoln Lawyer,” ABC’s “General Hospital,” *Forelock*, and the short film *Only Here and Now*.

Francesca Fernandez (she/her) makes her Playhouse debut as Actor 2, who plays Exotic Deadly, a rebellious and cool new girl. Fernandez was seen in Off-Broadway productions with Roundabout Theatre Company, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Pipeline Theatre Company, Daryl Roth Theatre, and 59E59. Regionally, she has appeared onstage at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, California Shakespeare Theater, Dorset Theatre Festival, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Two Rivers Theatre, Southern Rep Theatre, and New Orleans Shakespeare Festival. Her film and TV credits include “Law & Order: SVU” and “Blue Bloods.”

James Aaron Oh (he/him) makes his Playhouse debut as Actor 3, who plays Ami’s grandfather Ojichan and Ami’s brother Kenji among others. Oh has appeared onstage at Berkeley Repertory

Theatre, Center Repertory Company, New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Jose Stage Company and Oklahoma City Repertory Theatre.

Receiving a San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle (SFBATCC) Award for her performance as Xi Yan in *Chinglish*, **Nicole Tung** (she/her) returns to the Playhouse as Actor 4, who plays Ami's Mom and other roles. She has also performed with TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, Center Repertory Company, San Jose Stage Company, Aurora Theatre Company, American Musical Theatre of San Jose, Foothill Music Theatre, Hillbarn Theatre, Magic Theatre, Palo Alto Players, and San Jose Repertory Theatre.

An understudy for *Chinglish*, **Edric Young** (he/him) returns as Actor 5, who plays Ben, one of Ami's classmates, among other roles. He has previously performed with Oakland Theatre Project and Marin Theatre.

Seen as Chris in *The Play That Goes Wrong*, Richard Hannay in *The 39 Steps*, and Bing and Judge Xu Geming in *Chinglish*, **Phil Wong** (he/him) returns as Actor 6, who plays Matt, one of Ami's classmates, among other roles. Wong was a Guest Artist in the Tony Award recipient National Tour of *Freestyle Love Supreme*, and has appeared onstage at American Conservatory Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, California Shakespeare Theater, ACT Contemporary Theatre, Z Space, Shotgun Players, Hillbarn Theatre, Los Altos Stage Company, Palo Alto Players, and Ray of Light Theatre. He is also the co-founder of Bay Area Theatre Cypher, a collective of local hip-hop theatre artists, and his play *Sic, Heung, Mei* was developed at Berkeley Repertory Theatre's Ground Floor.

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Exotic Deadly: Or the MSG Play features scenic design by **Heather Kenyon**; lighting design by **Michael Oesch**; costume design by **Kathleen Qiu**; sound design by **James Ard**, and properties design by **Laurel Enos**.

CREATIVE TEAM:

Keiko Green (Playwright) is a playwright, screenwriter, and performer whose plays include *Exotic Deadly: Or the MSG Play*, *Sharon*, *Hometown Boy*, *Nadeshiko*, *The Bed Trick*, and *You Are Cordially Invited to the End of the World*. Her work has been produced/developed by the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, The Kennedy Center, National New Play Network, Atlantic Theatre Company, Ensemble Studio Theatre, The Playwrights Realm, Seattle Repertory Theatre, The Old Globe, ACT Contemporary Theatre, and Cygnet Theatre, among others. As a screenwriter, she wrote on Apple TV's upcoming "Margo's Got Money Troubles" and Hulu's "Interior Chinatown," which began streaming in November 2024.

Jesca Prudencio (Director) is a director, choreographer, and educator dedicated to developing new theatrical happenings that explore the tension and bridges between cultures. She has a passion for pushing boundaries by experimenting in documentary theatre, immersive theatre, and entertainment. Prudencio has developed original works at The Kennedy Center, La Jolla Playhouse, The Old Globe, The Playwrights Realm, East West Players, National Alliance for Musical Theatre, La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, The Public Theater, and The Movement Theatre Company and directed productions for TheaterWorksUSA, Steppenwolf Theatre

Company, Geffen Playhouse, San Diego Repertory Theatre, and Mixed Blood Theatre. She was the inaugural recipient of The Julie Taymor World Theater Fellowship and was named a 2021 Woman To Watch on Broadway by the Broadway Women's Fund.

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.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: **San Francisco Playhouse** will ring in 2025 with the Northern California Premiere of **Keiko Green’s *Exotic Deadly: Or the MSG Play***. Set in 1999, Japanese American high schooler Ami is trying to fit in with her American peers and she is devastated to discover her family helped create MSG, the supposedly addictive and dangerous ingredient that’s gained infamy. When a mysteriously cool new girl arrives at school, Ami vows to find the truth and save the world from MSG. Spiced with anime and 90s pop culture influences, this whimsically wacky time-traveling adventure is a riotous romp through teenage crushes, family legacies, and the magical properties of instant ramen. ***Exotic Deadly: Or the MSG Play*** received its World Premiere at The Old Globe, where it was called “wildly funny. Smart and hilarious” by *The San Diego Union-Tribune* while *BroadwayWorld* declared it “frenetic and fantastical.” **Jesca Prudencio**, who directed the show at The Old Globe, reunites with Green to helm the San Francisco Playhouse production.

WHEN: Previews: Thursday, January 30– Tuesday, February 4, 2025
Opening: Wednesday, February 5, 2025
Closes: Saturday, March 8, 2025

SHOWS: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 7pm
Wednesdays: 2pm & 7pm

Fridays: 3pm & 8pm
Saturdays: 3pm & 8pm
Sundays: 2pm

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

TICKETS: Single tickets (\$35-\$135) for *Exotic Deadly: Or the MSG Play* and 2024-25 Season subscriptions are currently available. For tickets and more information, the public may visit <https://www.sfplayhouse.org/sfph/2024-2025-season/exotic-deadly-or-the-msg-play/> or call the box office at 415-677-9596.

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PRESS: Contact Lauren Goldfarb, Carla Befera & Co. lauren@cb-pr.com

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