THE MARSH OFFERS LIFESAVING SHOW FREE OF CHARGE WITH BRIAN COPELAND'S

THE WAITING PERIOD

April 16 & June 11, 2026 in San Francisco
May 28, 2026 in Berkeley

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (3 April 2026) — Continuing its efforts towards suicide prevention, **The Marsh** has set its free performances of ***The Waiting Period*** for this spring both in San Francisco and in Berkeley. Now in its 11th year of offering no-cost performances, this ongoing suicide prevention project showcases the deeply moving and surprisingly funny show written and performed by award-winning playwright and actor **Brian Copeland**, developed with and directed by **David Ford**. ***The Waiting Period*** provides a look at a key turning point in Copeland's life — the mandatory 10-day waiting period before he could lay his hands on the newly purchased gun with which he planned to take his own life. Featuring humorous, poignant, and riveting insights, ***The Waiting Period*** will play **7:30pm Thursday, April 16 and June 11, 2026** at **The Marsh San Francisco, 1062 Valencia St, San Francisco** and **7:30pm Thursday, May 28, 2026** at **The Marsh Berkeley, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley**. Thanks to the support of generous donors, general admission tickets are FREE. Supporters may donate $50/$100 for reserved seats, funds which make it possible for others to see the show at no cost. To order free tickets or reserve seats, the public may visit **themarsh.org**.

"This play saves lives," said Copeland. "Since we started offering free performances at The Marsh in 2014, so many audience members have told me they suddenly recognized their own symptoms or those of a loved one, in time to intervene before they committed the ultimate harm to themselves and devastated their families."

The Waiting Period shares Copeland's personal experience with depression and suicidal thoughts, offering an honest, heartfelt look at the internal battles so many face in silence. Laced with surprisingly comic moments that serve as a buffer against the grim reality of his intentions, Copeland hopes this very personal, and ultimately redemptive, story will reach people who struggle with depression — often called the last stigmatized disease — as well as their families and loved ones. As critic Sam Hurwitt put it in *The Idiolect,* "It's a play I'd strongly recommend to anyone who is now or has ever been depressed or who knows someone in that situation. But honestly, it's such a strong piece that I'd recommend it just as heartily to anyone who's ever been human."

The Waiting Period opened in 2012 to overwhelming critical and audience response and has been lauded by survivors and co-survivors of depression. The show won a Theatre Bay Area (TBA) Award for Outstanding Production of a Solo Play in 2015. Copeland launched this series of free performances to provide an opportunity to reach those who need to see the show but have been unable to due to the price of admission. A number of people struggling with suicidal thoughts have told Copeland that seeing his piece has literally saved their lives.

ABOUT THE CAST AND CREATIVES

Brian Copeland (*Writer/Performer*) began his show business career at age 18, when he first stepped onto the comedy stage. He quickly rose to become a headliner at clubs and concerts nationwide, opening for artists such as Smokey Robinson, The Temptations, Ringo Starr, and Aretha Franklin, in venues ranging from The Universal Amphitheater to Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. He later expanded into television, with appearances on comedy programs for NBC, A&E, and MTV. Copeland spent five years as co-host of *KTVU*'s "Mornings on 2," and two years as host of the Emmy Award-winning afternoon talk show "7Live" on *KGO-TV*. His first network special, "Now Brian Copeland," premiered on *NBC* following "Saturday Night Live" for West Coast audiences in January 2015. In 1995, *KGO Radio* debuted "The Brian Copeland Show," which became the most listened-to program in its time slot with over 100,000 weekly listeners, thanks to his signature blend of humor and insight. Copeland made his theatrical debut in 2004 with *Not a Genuine Black Man*, a powerful exploration of race and identity that became the longest-running solo show in San Francisco history, with successful runs in Los Angeles, Off-Broadway, and more than 30 U.S. cities. His acclaimed works include *The Waiting Period*, a deeply personal look at depression; *The Jewelry Box*, *The Scion*, a true crime tale of privilege and murder; and *The Great American Sh*t Show,* created in collaboration with Charlie Varon. Copeland's debut crime fiction novel, *OUTRAGED*, was published by Black

Odyssey Media in April 2024 and nominated for the Macavity Award for "Best First Mystery." In fall 2025, Copeland was inducted into the Bay Area Radio Hall of Fame.

David Ford (*Director*) has been collaborating on new and unusual theater for three decades and has been associated with The Marsh for most of that time. The San Francisco press has variously called him "the solo performer maven," "the monologue maestro," "the dean of solo performance," and "the solo performer's best friend." A week rarely goes by when residents of the Bay Area cannot enjoy one of his productions. Collaborators include Geoff Hoyle, Brian Copeland, Charlie Varon, Echo Brown, Marilyn Pittman, Rebecca Fisher, Wayne Harris, Jill Vice, and Marga Gomez. Ford's work has been seen regionally at The Public Theater, Second Stage Theater, Theatre at St. Clement's, Dixon Place, Theatre for the New City (New York), Highways Performance Space (Los Angeles), and Woolly Mammoth Theatre Co. (Washington, D.C.). His work has also been featured in most of the fringe festivals in North America, and at theaters around the Bay Area including Berkeley Repertory Theatre, the Magic Theatre, and Marin Theatre. Ford's directing has garnered several "Best of Fringe" Awards and a Goldie Award.

ABOUT THE MARSH

The Marsh is known as "a breeding ground for new performance." Launched in 1989 by Founder and Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman, it annually hosts more than 500 performances across the company's two venues in San Francisco and Berkeley. A leading outlet for solo performers, The Marsh's specialty has been hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "solo performances that celebrate the power of storytelling at its simplest and purest." The *East Bay Times* named The Marsh one of the Bay Area's best intimate theaters, calling it "one of the most thriving solo theaters in the nation. The live theatrical energy is simply irresistible." In April 2020, The Marsh launched its digital platform MarshStream and hosted more than 700 live streams which provided 300 performers and its youth class participants a platform to continue discovering, developing, and producing art during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. Today, The Marsh presents both in-person live performances and content on its MarshStream, continuing to expand its reach to audiences onsite and around the world. The Marsh believes in the power of people's storytelling and has several classes for the public to create their own works as well as through its developing work performance series: Monday Night Marsh, Tell It on Tuesday, and Marsh Risings. The theater company also collaborates with over 25 San Francisco public schools, providing a year-round youth program serving students at its theater and in the classrooms.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: Continuing its efforts towards suicide prevention, **The Marsh** has set its free performances of ***The Waiting Period*** for this this spring both in San Francisco and in Berkeley. Now in its 11th year of offering no-cost performances, this ongoing suicide prevention project showcases the deeply moving and surprisingly funny show written and performed by award-winning playwright and actor **Brian**

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SHOWS: **7:30pm Thursday, April 16 in San Francisco**
7:30pm Thursday, May 28, 2026 in Berkeley
7:30pm Thursday, June 11, 2026 in San Francisco

WHERE: **The Marsh San Francisco**, 1062 Valencia St., San Francisco (between 21st & 22nd Streets)
Parking is available at New Mission Bartlett Garage at 21st St. between Mission & Valencia St.
BART Station (closest): Mission & 24th St.

The Marsh Berkeley, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley
Parking: Allston Way Garage, 2061 Allston Way between Milvia & Shattuck.
BART station (closest): Downtown Berkeley BART

TICKETS: Thanks to the support of generous donors, general admission tickets are FREE. Supporters may donate $50/$100 for reserved seats, funds which make it possible for others to see the show at no cost.

INFO: For information, the public may visit **themarsh.org**.

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PRESS: Contact Raymond Harris, CBCO Public Relations & Marketing
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PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here: cbpr.co/press/waitingperiod