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**TONY AWARD-WINNING SAN FRANCISCO MIME TROUPE  
OPENS 51<sup>ST</sup> SEASON WITH RIVETING SATIRE  
“POSIBILIDAD ”  
July 3-September 19, 2010**

SAN FRANCISCO (July 4, 2010) – The Tony Award-winning **San Francisco Mime Troupe** today opened its **51<sup>st</sup>** season with **POSIBILIDAD, or Death of the Worker**. **Wilma Bonet** (*Too Big To Fail*) directs **Velina Brown** (*Too Big To Fail, Veronique of the Mounties, Red State*), **Lisa Hori-Garcia** (*Too Big To Fail, GodFellas, Red State*), **Brian M. Rivera** (*Doing Good*), and **Michael Gene Sullivan** (*GodFellas, Making a Killing*), along with **Rotimi Agbabiaka** and **Maggie Mason** in this modern tale of two factories, telenovelas, and tango. Written by **Michael Gene Sullivan**, and featuring a live band under the direction of **Pat Moran** (music and lyrics), additional dialogue contributed by **Ellen Callas**, **POSIBILIDAD** plays **now through September 19** throughout the Bay Area in **San Francisco**, the **North Bay, East Bay, Peninsula, Santa Cruz**, and beyond. All shows are **free** and open to the public (unless otherwise noted). For a complete schedule and more information, the public may call **415.285.1717** or visit **www.sfmt.org**.

A small U.S. factory is shutting down. All of the workers are losing their jobs, and to add insult to injury, they have also lost their last two weeks of pay and retirement funds, which were raided over the years to pay stock dividends. On the final day of work, a pregnant employee, suddenly overtaken with labor pains, sits down on the job. Interpreting this as an act of defiance, The Boss calls security. The situation escalates and before anyone has a chance to think, the Workers have accidentally occupied the Factory!

During the negotiation process, The Boss tries intimidation, patriotism, and Red Scare tactics, while the Workers just try to figure out what the heck they’re doing. Some say wreck the place. Tea Baggers say it’s all the government’s fault. Others blame the Union. One Worker, an Argentine ex-pat, says they should consider running the Factory themselves and is immediately labeled a Commie. At night, as the

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occupying Workers entertain themselves with songs and stories, the Argentine comes forward again and tells the tale of a similar strike back home. As more of the Argentine’s story unfolds, the parallel plights of the American and Argentine Workers play out side by side. While the Americans struggle to keep their factory occupation from becoming politicized, the Argentine strike is deeply political. In the end, both the American and Argentine Workers are victorious, but which resolution will ultimately keep the power in the Workers’ hands?

**Wilma Bonet** returns to San Francisco Mime Troupe to direct **POSIBILIDAD**. An actress and Mime Troupe Collective member in the early 1980’s, Bonet directed last season’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production *Too Big To Fail*. She most recently directed Jose Rivera’s *School of the Americas* and Sandra Cisneros’s *The House On Mango Street* for Teatro Vision; other regional directing credits include productions at TheatreWorks, Asian American Theater, Women’s Will, TheaterFIRST, and Mixed Blood Theatre in Minneapolis, among others. As an actress, Bonet recently appeared at Marin Theatre Company in Octavio Solis’ *Lydia*, at the Mark Taper Forum in Luis Alfaro’s *Electricidad*, and at the Denver Center Theatre Company in Jose Cruz Gonzalez’s *September Shoes*; additional acting credits include productions at American Conservatory Theater, Campo Santo, California Shakespeare Theater, Thick Description, El Teatro Campesino, and the Old Globe. She is the recipient of a Bay Area Theatre Critics Award and Los Angeles Drama-Logue Award.

Playwright **Michael Gene Sullivan** joined the San Francisco Mime Troupe in 1988. In 1992, he became a Contributing Writer, and Resident Playwright in 2000. His scripts include *Red State* (2008 nominee, Best Original Script, San Francisco Bay Area Theater Critics Circle), and *Too Big To Fail* (2009 nominee, Best Original Script, San Francisco Bay Area Theater Critics Circle.) He has performed in, written, and/or directed over 20 San Francisco Mime Troupe productions. As an actor, Sullivan has also appeared in productions at the American Conservatory Theater, Denver Center Theater Company, Magic Theatre, TheaterWorks, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and San Jose Repertory Theatre, among others. He is also the author of the award-winning one person show, *Did Anyone Ever Tell You - You Look Like Huey P. Newton?*, and *1984*, the critically-acclaimed adaptation of George Orwell’s dystopic novel, which opened at the Actor’s Gang Theater under the direction of Tim Robbins. Sullivan is also a blogger for the political website *The Huffington Post*.

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San Francisco Mime Troupe composer, lyricist, and musician **Pat Moran** has worked with the Mime Troupe since 2005's production of *Doing Good*. Additionally, Moran is a teacher with the Mime Troupe's Youth Theater Project, a freelance musician, and a private guitar instructor. He can be seen performing regularly with a number of Bay Area bands, including Lord Loves a Working Man (2009 SF Weekly Best Soul/Funk/R&B Award Winner) and Khi Darag; he was a guest artist at the University of San Francisco in 2009.

Founded in 1959, the **San Francisco Mime Troupe** creates and produces socially relevant theater; their work is political satire and anything but silent. Winner of three OBIE awards and a Tony Award for Excellence in Regional Theatre, the **San Francisco Mime Troupe**, about which *The New York Times* stated, "Anyone concerned about the state of global politics -- and about the state of political humor -- should listen to the Mime Troupe's message," creates plays that make sense out of the headlines, close-up stories that make audiences feel the impact of political events on their personal lives. *The New York Post* called the Mime Troupe "America's oldest and finest street theater," with the *The Boston Globe* concurring, "You're never only watching a political theater piece, but rather a double barreled re-invention of politics and theater at once." To make this work accessible to the broadest audience possible, the Mime Troupe performs as a regional touring company, presenting their work at a price everyone can afford: free.

### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

#### **WHAT:**

The Tony Award-winning **San Francisco Mime Troupe** today opened its **51<sup>st</sup> season** with **POSIBILIDAD, or Death of the Worker**. A small U.S. factory is shutting down. All of the workers are losing their jobs, and to add insult to injury, they have also lost their last two weeks of pay and retirement funds, which were raided over the years to pay stock dividends. On the final day of work, a pregnant employee, suddenly overtaken with labor pains, sits down on the job. Interpreting this as an act of defiance, The Boss calls security. The situation escalates and before anyone has a chance to think, the Workers have accidentally occupied the Factory!

Parallel plights of American and Argentine Workers play out in this modern tale of two factories, telenovelas, and tango, directed by **Wilma Bonet** and featuring **Velina Brown** (*Too Big To Fail, Veronique of the Mounties, Red State*), **Lisa Hori-Garcia** (*Too Big To Fail, GodFellas, Red State*), **Brian M. Rivera** (*Doing Good*), and **Michael Gene Sullivan** (*GodFellas, Making a Killing*), along with **Rotimi Agbabiaka** and **Maggie Mason** who make their San Francisco Mime Troupe debuts.

### **SCHEDULE:**

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**SAN FRANCISCO:**

**Sunday, July 4, Dolores Park, 1:30 music, 2pm show - OPENING DAY**

Monday, July 5, Dolores Park, 1:30 music, 2pm show

Saturday, July 10, Glen Park, 1:30 music, 2pm show

Sunday, July 11, Golden Gate Park, Peacock Meadow, 1:30 music, 2pm show

Saturday, August 21, Washington Square Park, 1:30 music, 2pm show

Sunday, August 22, Yerba Buena Gardens, 1:30 music, 2pm show (ASL interpreter on site)

Saturday, September 4, Dolores Park, 1:30 music, 2pm show

Sunday, September 5, Dolores Park, 1:30 music, 2pm show

Monday, September 6, Dolores Park, 1:30 music, 2pm show

Friday, September 17, Marines Memorial Theatre, 7:30 music, 8pm show; for tickets

[www.marinesmemorialtheatre.tix.com](http://www.marinesmemorialtheatre.tix.com) (Special Benefit Performance)

**EAST BAY:**

Thursday, July 15, Montclair Ball Field, Montclair, 6:30 music, 7pm show

Saturday, July 17, Cedar Rose Park, Berkeley, 1:30 music, 2pm show

Sunday, July 18, Cedar Rose Park, Berkeley, 1:30 music, 2pm show

Saturday, July 24, Willard Park, Berkeley, 1:30 music, 2pm show

Sunday, July 25, Willard Park, Berkeley, 1:30 music, 2pm show

Wednesday, August 4, Lakeside Park, Oakland, 6:30 music, 7pm show

Thursday, August 5, Lakeside Park, Oakland, 6:30 music, 7pm show

Saturday, August 14, Live Oak Park, Berkeley, 1:30 music, 2pm show

Sunday, August 15, Live Oak Park, Berkeley, 1:30 music, 2pm show (ASL interpreter on site)

Sunday, August 29, Mosswood Park, Oakland, 1:30 music, 2pm show

Wednesday, September 15, Chabot College Performing Arts Center, Hayward, 6:30 music, 7pm show

**RICHMOND:**

Wednesday, August 25, Civic Center Plaza, 6pm music, 6:30pm show

**NEVADA CITY:**

Thursday, September 9, Nevada Theatre, 7pm music, 7:30pm show, for tickets visit

[www.paulemerymusic.com](http://www.paulemerymusic.com)

Friday, September 10, Nevada Theatre, 7pm music, 7:30pm show, for tickets visit

[www.paulemerymusic.com](http://www.paulemerymusic.com)

**DAVIS:**

Saturday, September 11, Community Park, 6:30 music, 7pm show

**SACRAMENTO:**

Sunday, September 12, Southside Park, 4:30 music, 5pm show

**NORTH BAY:**

Wednesday, July 14, Mill Valley Community Center, Mill Valley, 6:30 music, 7pm show

Wednesday, July 21, Veterans' Memorial Park, Napa, 6:30 music, 7pm show

Thursday, September 2, Sebastiani Theater, Sonoma, 7:00 music, 7:30pm show, for tickets call 707-996-9756

Sunday, September 19, Analy High School, Sebastopol, 6:30 music, 7pm show, for tickets visit [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)

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**UKIAH:**

Wednesday, July 28, Todd Grove Park, 6:30 music, 7pm show

**POINT ARENA:**

Thursday, July 29, Arena Theater, 7:30 music, 8pm show, for tickets visit [www.arenatheater.org](http://www.arenatheater.org)

**REDWAY:**

Saturday, July 31, Mateel Center, 7:30 music, 8pm show, for tickets visit [www.mateel.org](http://www.mateel.org)

**SANTA CRUZ:**

Saturday, August 7, San Lorenzo Park, 2:30 music, 3pm show

Sunday, August 8, San Lorenzo Park, 2:30 music, 3pm show

**PALO ALTO:**

Friday, August 27, Mitchell Park (South Field), Palo Alto, 6:30 music, 7pm show

Saturday, August 28, Mitchell Park (South Field), Palo Alto, 3:30 music, 4pm show

**PHOTOS:**

High-resolution art digital art for **POSIBILIDAD** can be accessed at

<http://www.sfmt.org/Press/photos.php>

**TICKETS:**

All shows are **free and open to the public** (unless otherwise noted). For more information, the public may call **415.285.1717** or visit [www.sfmt.org](http://www.sfmt.org).

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