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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **June 26, 2024**

PRESS PAGE: sfmt.org/press-americandreams

PRESS PHOTOS: sfmt.org/press-photos

TRAILER: sfmt.org/press-media

AUDIO CLIPS: sfmt.org/press-media

Audio Clip 1. (0:55) *Day One* – Andre Amarotico, Michael Gene Sullivan, Mikki Johnson

Audio Clip 2. (1:16) *The War On Thought* - Mikki Johnson

The Tony Award-Winning San Francisco Mime Troupe

Opens their 65th Season with:

AMERICAN DREAMS - A New Musical

Was Democracy Just a Dream?

July 4 - Sept. 8, 2024

<https://www.sfmt.org>

facebook.com/sfmimetroupe

instagram.com/SFTroupers

twitter.com/SFTroupers

Schedule by Date: sfmt.org/press-schedule-by-dates

Schedule by Area: sfmt.org/press-schedule-by-area

(Schedules can be accessed on the SFMT press page): sfmt.org/press-americandreams

The San Francisco Mime Troupe (SFMT) pleased to announce the full cast and creative team for their new show for Summer 2024 – **AMERICAN DREAMS – A New Musical**. - Was Democracy Just a Dream? - written by **Michael Gene Sullivan**, Music and Lyrics by **Daniel Savio**, Directed by **Velina Brown**, Music Director - **Dred Scott**.

AMERICAN DREAMS - A New Musical runs July 4 – Sept. 8, 2024

Opening: Thurs. July 4, 2024 - Dolores Park - San Francisco

Running throughout the Bay Area in SF, Mill Valley (Marin), Ukiah (Mendocino), Cotati (Sonoma), East Bay, Palo Alto, Santa Cruz, San Jose, and Davis **July 4 – Sept. 8, 2024**.

All shows are FREE and open to the public unless otherwise listed.

Ticketed performance: Z Space: Tues. July 16, 2024 (Indoors);

Cal Shakes, Bruns Amphitheater: Thurs. July 18, 2024 *

Some shows will require RSVPs: Ukiah High School, Cafetorium: Thurs. July 11, 2024 (Indoors);

Davis HS, Richard Brunelle Performance Hall: Thurs. July 25, 2024 (Indoors); Hal Todd Theatre, Hugh Hall, SJSU: Aug. Thurs. 29, 2024 (Indoors).

* The Bruns Amphitheatre is located at 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda CA 94563, which is about 7 miles from Berkeley and Oakland, just off Highway 24. There's free parking onsite, or you can take BART to the Orinda

SF Mime Troupe Presents – *AMERICAN DREAMS* - A New Musical - Summer 2024

station and catch the free shuttle to the theatre, which runs every 20 minutes beginning at 5:00 pm (before the performance), and after the show. Carpooling is encouraged.

For a complete schedule and more information, visit sfmt.org or call **415-285-1717**.

Additional info on SFMT and community organizations is available at info. tables at each of our park shows.

***AMERICAN DREAMS* - A New Musical Was Democracy Just a Dream?**

Subject of the show:

The American Dream. It used to mean a job, a house, a car, a spouse, 2.5 kids, and a .4 dog. But what does it mean now? For some it is a good tide raising all boats, for others it is a tsunami that destroys everything. For some it is unity, for others it is dissolution. A handshake or a gun. One citizen's dream has become another's nightmare, and those who fan the flames of the differences will gladly profit while democracy burns.

Short Synopsis:

As a Black man tired of failed Liberal promises Gabriel Pearse is ready to give up. But will a Conservative victory be his dream come true? For his daughter, Paine, it's a nightmare! Or will A.I. catch fire before the election, like her boyfriend Oliver sees when he sleeps. Do androids dream of electronic voting? Or was democracy just a dream all along? But whether you're asleep or Woke what some see as nightmares others see as... American Dreams.

Longer Synopsis:

The American Dream. It used to mean a job, a house, a car, a spouse, 2.5 kids, and a .4 dog. But what does it mean now? For Gabriel Pearce, a Black man tired of liberal failures, on the day after the presidential election it means victory! Giving up on progressivism wasn't easy, but casting his vote for a Conservative who promises to be grateful could mean a dream come true. However, for his daughter Paine - a teacher at a university caught between protesting students and threats to funding - it's a nightmare! Or was the lost election just a dream? Or will A.I. catch fire, like Paine's boyfriend Oliver sees in his nightmares? Do androids dream of electronic voting? Can we create the utopia of justice activist student Emma hopes for, or is the present just a dream within a dream within a dream? But whether you're asleep or Woke what some see as nightmares others see as... American Dreams.

***AMERICAN DREAMS* - A New Musical Was Democracy Just a Dream?**

Written by: Michael Gene Sullivan

Music and Lyrics: Daniel Savio

Director: Velina Brown

Music Director: Dred Scott

The show runs 80 min. – no intermission.

AMERICAN DREAMS* - A New Musical** features a four-person cast that includes veteran SF Mime Troupe collective members: **Andre Amarotico (*Oliver, Harold*); **Michael Gene Sullivan*** (*Gabriel Pearse, Chancellor Quisling*); and features **Lizzie Calogero*** (*Melie Higgins, Emma*); **Mikki Johnson** (*Paine Pearse*).

SFMT Band: **Caroline Chung** (*Bass*); **Daniel Savio** (*Keyboards*); and **Dred Scott** (*Drums, Percussion, additional keyboards*).

Bios: sfmt.org/press-bios

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** The Actors and Stage Manager employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*

To arrange an interview with writers, actors, or anyone from the SF Mime Troupe Collective, please call or e-mail publicist Lawrence Helman at 415-336-8220 heytheresells@gmail.com

Tech credits for *AMERICAN DREAMS* - A New Musical include:

Fight Chorographer: **Brian Herndon**; Scenic Designer: **Carlos Aceves**; Costume Designer: **Brooke Jennings**; Props: **Lena Seagrave**; Sound Designer / Engineer: **Taylor Gonzalez**; Scenic Painter: **Kristy Arroyo**; Technical Director: **Pietro Calogero**; Poster Design: **Pablo Mica**; Prod. Stage Manager: **Karen Runk***; Booking Coordinator: **Junelle Taguas-Utumoengalu**; Tour Manager: **Terri Demartini**; Publicity: **Lawrence Helman**; Photography: DavidAllenStudio.com.

Character Descriptions:

Gabriel Pearse - An accountant. An older Black voter who has decided liberal policies and politicians have failed to make real change.

Paine Pearse - A young Black adjunct college history professor, granddaughter of Gabriel.

Melie Higgins - CEO of a small technology company.

Oliver - A software engineer and environmentalist. Dating Pearse, works for Higgins.

Harold - An accountant. Co-worker of Gabriel, and a MAGA enthusiast .

Emma - a history student, and activist organizer. Student of Pearse.

Chancellor Quisling - Chancellor of the college Pearse works at.

Q: Why do you call yourself a Mime Troupe if you talk and sing?

We use the term "mime" in its classical and original definition, "The exaggeration of daily life in story and song." It is a form of popular theater that is as old as the marketplace itself. From the ancient Greek and Roman farces to the Renaissance commedia dell'Arte to modern Chinese Opera, using archetypes comically to illustrate people's issues is a time-honored worldwide tradition. Our broadly drawn characters are instantly recognizable allowing the audience to immediately engage in the action. **Our work is political satire and anything but silent.** SF MIME TROUPE HISTORY: sfmt.org/press-history

News - SF Mime Troupe 2024:

1. **AMERICAN DREAMS - A New Musical** has been made possible by contributions from The Don Stevens Laugh and Love Fund; California Arts Council, Grants for the Arts; and Individual Donors. All Berkeley shows presented in cooperation with The Aurora Theater Company.

2. **NEW LOCATIONS** - SFMT is very happy to be working with our fellow Bay Area theatre, the renown California Shakespeare festival, this summer. Both of our companies are committed to the idea of a real theatre *community*, in which we all work together to serve all of our audiences. We are also looking forward to beginning a relationship with San Jose State University, bringing our shows not only to their student body, but to their entire university family! And please note: With the closure of JFK drive in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, it is now too expensive for us to bring the SFMT truck into the park. This year's Golden Gate Park performance will be in the adjacent Panhandle. Long-time Troupe fans will remember that we used to perform

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in the Panhandle between Lyon and Central streets annually, and we are pleased to be returning. The SFMT will be there bringing the revolution to our audience in The Haight and the Western Addition.

3. *A RED CAROL* – A Christmas Carol. A Greedy Old Man changes his ways, and the world is a better place. The End. But that is not what Charles Dickens wrote. As our country increasingly becomes an economic dystopia of abject poverty, obscene wealth, and a cruel disdain for those in need, *A RED CAROL* re-examines not just how greed and desperation is degrading our humanity, but also the stories that helped shape that humanity. “A Christmas Carol” is one of those. Dickens created a revolutionary ghost story which demanded comfortable audiences see the oppressed for who they really are - victims of not one greedy man but of a system designed to oppress, to erode our shared humanity.

But *A RED CAROL* isn't just about the struggle against oppression, it's about showing the multi-generational, multi-ethnic world we live in, the strength of our diversity, and the joy of community. *A RED CAROL* gives us a chance to reclaim a classic activist story, while reaching new audiences. We will offer free performances during the run to make sure that those who the show is about - the average worker, the first time audience member, the students, the families who could never afford to attend a show together - can all come see a Christmas classic they think they already know resurrected as the revolutionary piece it was intended to be.

Calendar Editors:

WHAT:

**The Tony Award-Winning San Francisco Mime Troupe Opens their 65th Season with:
AMERICAN DREAMS - A New Musical
Was Democracy Just a Dream?**

Subject of the show:

The American Dream. It used to mean a job, a house, a car, a spouse, 2.5 kids, and a .4 dog. But what does it mean now? For some it is a good tide raising all boats, for others it is a tsunami that destroys everything. For some it is unity, for others it is dissolution. A handshake or a gun. One citizen's dream has become another's nightmare, and those who fan the flames of the differences will gladly profit while democracy burns.

Synopsis:

As a Black man tired of failed Liberal promises Gabriel Pearse is ready to give up. But will a Conservative victory be his dream come true? For his daughter, Paine, it's a nightmare! Or will the climate catch fire before the election, like her boyfriend Max sees when he sleeps. And what about AI? And do androids dream of electronic voting? Or was democracy just a dream all along? But whether you're asleep or Woke what some see as nightmares others see as... American Dreams.

TIX: All shows are **FREE and open to the public unless otherwise listed.**

Ticketed performance: Z Space: Tues. July 16, 2024 (Indoors);
Cal Shakes, Bruns Amphitheater: Thurs. July 18, 2024

Some shows will require RSVPs: Ukiah High School, Cafetorium: Thurs. July 11, 2024 (Indoors);
Davis HS, Richard Brunelle Performance Hall: Thurs. July 25, 2024 (Indoors); Hal Todd Theatre, Hugh Hall, SJSU:
Aug. Thurs. 29, 2024 (Indoors).

The show runs 80 min. – no intermission.

For more info. call 415- 285 -1717 or visit www.sfmt.org

SF Mime Troupe Presents – *AMERICAN DREAMS* - A New Musical - Summer 2024

VENUES:

SFMT performs in parks & some theatres (outdoor and indoor) throughout the Bay Area in SF, Mill Valley (Marin), Ukiah (Mendocino), Cotati (Sonoma), East Bay, Palo Alto, Santa Cruz, San Jose, and Davis - July 4 – Sept. 8, 2024.

INFO: Call 415- 285 -1717 or visit <https://www.sfmt.org>

PRESS PAGE: sfmt.org/press-americandreams

PHOTOS: High-resolution photos for *AMERICAN DREAMS* - A New Musical can be accessed at sfmt.org/press-photos

TRAILER: sfmt.org/press-media

AUDIO CLIPS: sfmt.org/press-media

Audio Clip 1. (0:55) *Day One* – Andre Amarotico, Michael Gene Sullivan, Mikki Johnson

Audio Clip 2. (1:16) *The War On Thought* - Mikki Johnson

WEB PAGE: <https://www.sfmt.org>

SFMT Promo: youtube.com/watch?v=FGXjsVWv1rM

Schedule by Date: sfmt.org/press-schedule-by-dates

Schedule by Area: sfmt.org/press-schedule-by-area

(Schedules can be accessed on the SFMT press page): sfmt.org/press-americandreams

SF Mime Troupe Presents – AMERICAN DREAMS - A New Musical - Summer 2024

CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING - by Date:

SF MIME TROUPE SCHEDULE SUMMER 2024 - AMERICAN DREAMS - A New Musical

Dolores Park - Opening Day

Thurs., July 4 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)
19th & Dolores Sts., San Francisco 94110

Ticket Info: FREE
(\$20 suggested donation)

Live Oak Park

Sat., July 6 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)
Sun., July 7 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)
1301 Shattuck Ave. & Berryman St., Berkeley 94709

Ticket Info: FREE
(\$20 suggested donation)

Ukiah High School, Cafetorium (Indoors)

Thurs., July 11 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30)
1000 Low Gap Rd, Ukiah, CA 95482

Ticket Info: FREE / RSVP:
sfmt.org/rsvp-ukiah
(\$20 suggested donation)

Cubberley Community Center

Sat., July 13 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)
4000 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto 94303

Ticket Info: FREE
(\$20 suggested donation)

Washington Square Park

Sun., July 14 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)
Filbert St & Stockton Sts., San Francisco 94133

Ticket Info: FREE
(\$20 suggested donation)

Z Space (Indoors) (Ticketed show)

Tue., July 16 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30)
450 Florida St., San Francisco 94110

Ticket Info: \$20
zspace.org/sfmt

Cal Shakes, Bruns Amphitheater (Ticketed show)

Thurs., July 18 – 7:00 pm (Music 6:30)
100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda 94563

Ticket Info: \$20
sfmt.org/calshakes

Live Oak Park

Sat., July 20 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)
Sun., July 21 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)
1301 Shattuck Ave. & Berryman St., Berkeley 94709

Ticket Info: FREE
(\$20 suggested donation)

Davis HS, Richard Brunelle Performance Hall (Indoors)

Thurs. July 25 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30)
315 W 14th St., Davis 95616

Ticket Info: FREE / RSVP:
sfmt.org/rsvp-davis
(\$20 suggested donation)

McLaren Park, Sutter Soccer Pitch

Sat., July 27 - 2:00 pm show (Music 1:30)
1150 Wayland St., San Francisco, 94134

Ticket Info: FREE
(\$20 suggested donation)

Precita Park

Sun., July 28 - 2:00 pm show (Music 1:30)
3200 Folsom St., San Francisco 94110

Ticket Info: FREE
(\$20 suggested donation)

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Lakeside Park - (Lake Merritt) in front of the Edoff Memorial Bandstand

Wed., July 31 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30)

Thurs., Aug. 1 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30)

666 Bellevue Ave. (at Perkins St.) Oakland 94610

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

La Plaza Park (Downtown)

Sat., Aug. 3 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)

Old Redwood Hwy (at West Sierra Ave), Cotati 949361

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

Yerba Buena Gardens

Sun., Aug. 4 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)

745 Mission & 3rd Sts., San Francisco 94103

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

Mill Valley Community Center, on the Back Lawn

Wed., Aug. 21 - 7:00 pm (Music 6:30)

180 Camino Alto (at East Blithedale), Mill Valley 94941

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

Cedar Rose Park

Sat., Aug. 24 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)

Sun., Aug. 25 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)

1300 Rose St. (at Chestnut St.), Berkeley 94702

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

Hal Todd Theatre, Hugh Hall, San Jose State Univ. (Indoors)

Thurs., Aug. 29 - 7:00 pm show (Music 6:30)

220 E San Fernando St., San Jose 95112

Ticket Info: FREE / RSVP:

sfmt.org/rsvp-SJSU

(\$20 suggested donation)

Panhandle

Sat., Aug. 31 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)

Lyon St., between Oak and Fell Sts., San Francisco 94117

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

Dolores Park

Sun., Sept. 1 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30)

Mon., Sept. 2 - 2:00 pm (Music 1:30) (Labor Day)

19th & Dolores Sts., San Francisco 94110

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

London Nelson Community Center - Outdoors

Sat., Sept. 7 - 3:00 pm show (Music 2:30)

Sun., Sept. 8 - 3:00 pm show (Music 2:30)

301 Center St., Santa Cruz 95060

Ticket Info: FREE

(\$20 suggested donation)

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SF Mime Troupe Presents – *AMERICAN DREAMS* - A New Musical - Summer 2024

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE by AREA:

SF MIME TROUPE SCHEDULE SUMMER 2024 - *AMERICAN DREAMS* - A New Musical

Opening Day -

Thurs., July 4 Dolores Park, San Francisco 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

SAN FRANCISCO:

Thurs., July 4 Dolores Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., July 14 Washington Square Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Tues., July 16 Z Space (Indoor Show) 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

Tickets \$20 – zspace.org/sfmt

Sat., July 27 McLaren Park, Sutter Soccer Pitch 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., July 28 Precita Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., Aug. 4 Yerba Buena Gardens 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sat., Aug. 31 Panhandle 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., Sept. 1 Dolores Park 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Mon., Sept. 2 Dolores Park (**Final Bay Area Show**) Labor Day 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

EAST BAY:

Sat., July 6 Live Oak Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., July 7 Live Oak Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Thurs., July 18 Cal Shakes, Bruns Amphitheater 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

Tickets \$20 – sfmt.org/calshakes

Sat., July 20 Live Oak Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., July 21 Live Oak Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Wed., July 31 Lakeside Park (Lake Merritt), Oakland 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

Thurs., Aug. 1 Lakeside Park (Lake Merritt), Oakland 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

Sat., Aug. 24 Cedar Rose Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

Sun., Aug. 25 Cedar Rose Park, Berkeley 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

NORTH:

UKIAH:

Thurs., July 11 Ukiah High School, Cafetorium, Ukiah 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

(Indoor Show) Free – suggested donation \$20 RSVP at sfmt.org/rsvp-ukiah

COTATI:

Sat., Aug. 3 La Plaza Park (Downtown), Cotati 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

MARIN:

Wed., Aug. 21 Mill Valley Community Ctr., (*Back Lawn*) 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

DAVIS:

Thurs., July 25 Davis HS, Richard Brunelle Performance Hall 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show

(Indoor Show) Free – suggested donation \$20 RSVP at sfmt.org/rsvp-davis

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SOUTH:

SAN JOSE:

Thurs., Aug. 29 Hal Todd Theatre, Hugh Gillis Hall, SJSU, San Jose 6:30 pm music, 7:00 pm show
(Indoor Show) Free – *suggested donation \$20 RSVP at sfmt.org/rsvp-SJSU*

PALO ALTO:

Sat., July 13 Cubberley Community Center, Palo Alto 1:30 pm music, 2:00 pm show

SANTA CRUZ:

Sat., Sept. 7 London Nelson Community Center (*Outdoors*), Santa Cruz
2:30 pm music, 3:00 pm show

Sun., Sept. 8 London Nelson Community Center (*Outdoors*), Santa Cruz
2:30 pm music, 3:00 pm show

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