



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The San Francisco Premiere of *Story of My Life*
Book by Brian Hill, Music and Lyrics by Neil Bartram**

San Francisco, September 1, 2011 — NCTC is proud to present the San Francisco Premiere of *The Story of My Life* by Brian Hill and Neil Bartram. The show will run from January 20, 2012 through February 26, 2012: Wednesday through Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 2pm. All performances will take place at The New Conservatory Theatre Center (Walker Theatre), located at 25 Van Ness Ave., near Market St. in San Francisco. Tickets are \$25-\$45 each, and are available at the NCTC Box Office (415) 861-8972, or online at www.nctcsf.org.

The Story of My Life follows the friendship of Alvin and Thomas, two men from a small town. These lifelong friends are reunited after Alvin's mysterious death. In the abstract world of his mind, Thomas struggles to write Alvin's eulogy while recounting the many turns their lives have taken since meeting as children. Alvin searches through the manuscripts and stories in Thomas' mind to lead him on a journey of remembrance - of their differences and of Alvin's struggles to be accepted as "different." Through music and song, these two friends recount their adventures, explore their past dissonance, and ultimately discover what is at the base of every strong friendship - Love.

Neil Bartam is the composer and lyricist of *The Story of My Life* (which received **four Drama Desk Award nominations**), *The Nightingale and the Rose*, and *Somewhere in the World*, which ran for five seasons at the Charlottetown Festival. Each of these projects was completed in collaboration with writer Brian Hill. Their adaptation of Carlo Collodi's *The Adventures of Pinocchio* was commissioned by Chicago Shakespeare Theater for their 2011 season. Neil and Brian's musical *Not Wanted On The Voyage* received a developmental production at Northwestern University's Barber Theatre as part of the American Music Theatre Project under the direction of Amanda Dehnert. *Clara's Piano* was developed at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival under the direction of Susan H. Schulman. Neil's awards include a **Jonathan Larson Foundation Award**, a Dramatist's Guild Fellowship, and as a performer, a Canadian Dora Award. Cast albums include *Somewhere in the World* and *The Story of My Life* (PS Classics). Neil is a member of the Dramatists Guild, ASCAP, and is an alumnus of the BMI Lehman Engel Music Theatre Workshop. Neil is published by Warner/Chappell.

Brian Hill, formerly an award-winning actor, now devotes his time to writing and directing. For the Stratford Shakespeare Festival he directed *Gilbert and Sullivan's Patience*, and was Associate Director of *Man of La Mancha* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. He was Associate Director of the Toronto, Vancouver, and Canadian national companies of *Forever Plaid*, the U.S. national tour of *Sunset Boulevard*, and the first national tour of *The Sound of Music*. For Disney Theatrical Productions he directed the final reading of *High School Musical 2*, was resident director of *The Lion King* (Toronto and New York), and associate director of *The Little Mermaid*. With composer and lyricist Neil Bartram he has written the books for *Not Wanted on the Voyage*, *The Nightingale and the Rose*, *Clara's Piano*, *Somewhere in the World* (a five season hit at the Charlottetown Festival), and *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, which was commissioned by Chicago Shakespeare Theater for their 2011 season. *The Story of My Life*, which premiered on **Broadway in 2009**, earned four Drama Desk Award nominations including outstanding musical, outstanding music and lyrics, and outstanding book of a musical.

Director Dennis Lickteig (director) recently directed *Parade* for Palo Alto Players. Past directing projects include *The Busy World is Hushed*, *Anita Bryant Died for Your Sins*, *The Sugar Witch*, *Thrill Me*, *Farm Boys*, *Theatre District*, and *Harvey Milk –The Musical* at New Conservatory Theatre Center; *The Story of My Life* at Contra Costa Theatre; *Do I Hear A Waltz?* at Mountain View Players; *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *The King and I* at Broadway By the Bay; *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Anything Goes* with Contra Costa Musical Theatre; *Closer Than Ever* and *A Little Night Music* at Hillbarn Theatre; *Hello, Dolly* at Diablo Theatre Company; and *The Boys from Syracuse* with 42nd Street Moon. As Artistic Director for Peninsula Center Stage, Lickteig directed *Company*, *Camelot*, *Brigadoon*, *Candide*, *West Side Story*, and *The Sound of Music*.

Joe Simiele (musical director) most recently worked on *White Christmas* at Diablo Theater Company. Simiele has also had the pleasure of working on *Chicago*, *Big River* and *The Story of My Life* with Contra Costa Civic Theater and *All Shook Up*, and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* at Tri-Valley Repertory Theater. Simiele also works closely with the Castro Valley Theater Academy.

The Story of My Life features an **ensemble of two** accomplished actors. **William Giammona** (Thomas) was recently seen at the New Conservatory Theatre Center in *Waiting for Giovanni*, *The Busy World is Hushed*, and *The Sugar Witch*. Giammona has also been seen in *Chicago* at Hillbarn Theatre, *Hello, Dolly!* at Diablo Theatre Company, and *The Boys from Syracuse* at 42nd Street Moon. **Coley Grundman** (Alvin) has appeared in *Titanic* at Stage 1 Community Theatre in Newark, California. He was also seen in *Destry Rides Again*, *Coco*, and *Pardon My English* at 42nd Street Moon, *Ragtime* at Alameda Civic Light Opera and *Shopping! The Musical* at the Shelton Theatre.

During the run of the show, theatre lovers can enjoy a plethora of **special events**:

- *Low-cost previews* take place on Friday, January 20; Saturday, January 21; Sunday, January 22; Wednesday, January 25; Thursday, January 26 and Friday, January 27.
- *Press Night* will take place on Friday, January 27.
- *Opening Night* will take place on Saturday, January 28.
- *A Free Onstage Insight* discussion will be taking place after the Sunday Matinee performance on February 5.

New Conservatory Theatre Center has been in operation for thirty years in San Francisco. Under founding Artistic Director Ed Decker, the theatre has grown to become the only theatre in the nation offering a full season centered on theatrical work for youth and the **Queer and Allied community**. The theatre's **mission** is to champion innovative, high quality productions and educational theatre experiences for youth, artists, and the queer and allied communities to affect personal and societal growth, enlightenment, and change. New Conservatory Theatre is known for its gay-positive productions, its foundational **anti-bullying** work with youth, and its welcoming environment for new and emerging local artists.

Story of My Life

FACT SHEET

WHO: Written by Brian Hill

Music and Lyrics by Neil Bartram

Directed by Dennis Lickteig

Musical Direction by Joe Simiele

Starring Will Giammona (Thomas) and Coley Grundman (Alvin)

WHAT: *The Story of My Life* the San Francisco Premiere of the Broadway Hit

WHERE: New Conservatory Theatre Center (Walker Theatre)
25 Van Ness Avenue @ Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

WHEN: **January 20, 2012 – February 26, 2011**
Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8pm
Sundays at 2pm

SPECIAL EVENTS: Press Night: Friday 1/27 @8pm
Opening Night: Saturday 1/28 @8pm
OnStage Insight Series: Following the 2pm matinee performances on Sunday 2/5 and 2/19

COST: \$25-\$45 (subject to change)

Discounts: Groups of 10 or more, contact 415-861-8972 or boxoffice@nctcsf.org
Half-price tickets are available 10 minutes prior to the show for students with I.D

PHOTOS: http://www.nctcsf.org/press_room/story_of_my_life.htm

TICKETS: Box Office (415) 861 8972, or online at www.nctcsf.org.