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Press Release:

**SAN FRANCISCO FRINGE FESTIVAL PRESENTS
THE OLDEST LIVING CATER WAITER: MY LIFE IN THREE COURSES
BY MICHAEL PATRICK GAFFNEY. DIRECTED BY KEN SONKIN.**

SAN FRANCISCO, Monday, August 1, 2016 – As part of the 25th Anniversary of The San Francisco Fringe Festival, Michael Patrick Gaffney performs his original one-man show, *The Oldest Living Cater Waiter: My Life in Three Courses*. In this hour-long comedy/drama, Gaffney offers up delicious insights into his complicated and hilarious careers as both a professional actor and a high-end waiter to the stars. *Cater Waiter* delves into one man's light and darkness with physical comedy, song, dance, and Shakespeare. This versatile performer shares hilarious stories about his two careers, playing a multitude of characters, all the while contemplating his dream of a life in the theater.

Twelve years in the making, Gaffney started writing about his experiences preparing exquisite meals and preparing numerous characters for the stage. "I don't know which is worse: an actor's nightmare or a waiter's? Not surprisingly, I have them both." He was encouraged to workshop the piece and over the last few years, *Cater Waiter* has been further developed and performed at Berkeley Playhouse's Julia Morgan Theater and at ZBelow.

From the moment he first donned his waiter tuxedo, Gaffney says, "I felt quite dapper. Like Fred Astaire in "The Gay Divorcee," or Anthony Hopkins in "Remains of the Day," or David Niven in... anything. It felt a little like a costume. It felt right." Once his catering career took off, he found he could support himself with a flexible schedule while maintaining "the life of an artist." He has spent years working multi-million dollar affairs for such notables as Bono, The Edge, Christy Turlington, Harry Belafonte, Larry Ellison, Barbara Boxer, Condoleezza Rice, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and President Barack Obama.

From his earliest days clowning in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma to performing at birthday parties in LA to finally getting his Actors' Equity card in San Francisco, Gaffney has parlayed his talents into being one of the most sought after Bay Area actors. "I love the theatre... it's my home away from home. The honor and reverence I bestow upon it. ...and I guess I bring that same reverence to cater waiting. I try to honor each event that I work with the same discipline and passion. Each occasion is a performance... and so I play my part."

Running time: 1 hour. No intermission.

PianoFight: Main Stage

- **Fri. Sept. 9 at 8:30pm**
 - **Thur. Sept. 15 at 7pm**
 - **Sat. Sept. 17 at 8:30pm**
 - **Fri. Sept. 23 at 7pm**
- PianoFight
144 Taylor Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Tickets

To purchase advance tickets to one of the four performances, visit www.sffringe.org/oldest/ or call Fringe Hotline: (415) 673-3847. Tickets are \$12. At the door: Cash only.

Michael Patrick Gaffney* (Actor, Playwright)

Last summer, Michael played “Eli Whitney” in a sold out run of *Anything Goes* with Center Rep. Some of his favorite roles include “Vice Principal Douglas Panch” in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Half the citizens of Tuna, Texas in *Greater Tuna, A Tuna Christmas*, and *Red, White & Tuna*, “Herbie” in *Gypsy*, and “The Man-in-Chair” in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Other theatre companies he has worked with include: Shotgun Players, Aurora Theatre, San Jose Stage Co., Word for Word, Contra Costa Musical Theatre, Playwright’s Foundation, and 42nd Street Moon. He is a proud member of Actors’ Equity Association. Michael has also had the good fortune of working with some of the best catering companies in the Bay Area including Paula LeDuc Fine Catering and Hugh Groman Catering. Next year, Michael will be re-creating the role of “Eli Whitney” in *Anything Goes* for Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre in Pleasanton.

Ken Sonkin* (Director)

Ken is an actor/director whose work has been seen at A.C.T., Berkeley Rep, SF Playhouse, Magic Theater, Center REP, Sonoma Rep, Broadway by the Bay, San Jose Stage Company, CCCT, Pacific Resident Theater (LA), Grove Shakespeare Festival (LA), Seacoast Rep (NH), Denver Center, and Pennsylvania Centre Stage. He holds an MFA from A.C.T. and is a member of PlayGround and The Playwrights’ Lab. Directing credits: *Wild Boy* (world premiere), *Angels in America*, *Metamorphoses*, *Sleuth*, *The Three Musketeers*, *Take Me Out*, *Twelfth Night*, *Tartuffe*, *Humble Boy*, *Summerland* (world premiere), *Incorruptible*, *The Subject Was Roses*, *A Southern Christmas* (world premiere), *The Full Monty*, and *The Producers*. Ken teaches Acting and Careers in Theater at USF.

* Member of Actors’ Equity Association

San Francisco Fringe Festival

Fresh, exciting theatre for open-minded audiences

September 9-24, 2016

Celebrating its 25th Anniversary, the San Francisco Fringe Festival brings fresh, daring, exciting theatre of all varieties to open-minded audiences of all persuasions. Often over-the-top and under-the-radar of traditional theatre, “The Fringe” whose motto is No Risk, No Art, has its rabid devotees – and wins more fans every year. Most performances run under an hour and Fringe Fans have fun trooping from venue to venue, seeing as many shows as they can in one day.

The 2016 San Francisco Fringe Festival, September 9-24 (every day but Mondays), brings 38 shows to San Francisco’s EXIT Theatreplex, 156 Eddy Street and to PianoFight, 144 Taylor Street. Both venues are within walking distance of Union Square and the Powell Street BART station. For complete listings of venues, shows and times go to www.sffringe.org or get the “San Francisco Fringe Fest” mobile app at The Apple App Store or Google Play. You can also call the Fringe Hotline at (415) 673-3847. Tickets are \$12 (at the door, cash only) or less per show, with a ten-show Frequent Fringer pass at \$85 and a five-show pass at \$45. Online sales are available at the Fringe web site, www.sffringe.org

For More Information Contact:

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Fringe photos @ www.sffringe.org/photos/