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Girl Friday Productions
New Staging of a Rarely Produced Classic
Street Scene

Minneapolis, MN – A rich collage of universal dramas and dreams, **Elmer Rice's *Street Scene***, produced by **Girl Friday Productions** and directed by **Craig Johnson**, will open Thursday, July 7 at the Minneapolis Theater Garage. Winner of the 1929 Pulitzer Prize, this rarely produced masterpiece reveals the comedy and tragedy of daily life through the experiences of several working class families, many of them new immigrants to the city. Twenty-six actors tackle nearly 60 roles in this detailed slice of life. Teeming with humanity, ***Street Scene*** offers a bold ensemble exploration of American society.

Ambitious and groundbreaking for its time, ***Street Scene*** is strikingly relevant more than 80 years after its premiere. ***Street Scene*** explores the intertwined lives of the inhabitants of a New York City tenement and the adjacent neighborhood street in the late 1920s. Surprisingly intimate, natural and humorous, ***Street Scene*** reminds us of the nobility, passions and human failings common to us all. By placing in stark relief the disparities between rich and poor, the flawed attitudes toward newcomers, the drive to create a better life, and the simple yearning for kindness and love, the play prompts us to recognize the same stories taking place today just down our own block.

"I don't think people ought to belong to anybody but themselves... I want love more than anything else in the world. But loving and belonging aren't the same thing." – Rose Maurant in *Street Scene*

Noted Twin Cities' theatre artist **Craig Johnson** takes the helm of ***Street Scene***. Johnson has worked as an actor, director and writer since 1979 on over 150 productions, including directing Girl Friday Production's *Our Town* in 2007. His recent production of *Dancing at Lughnasa*, which he directed for Torch Theatre, was selected as a top show of 2010 by several media outlets. "Girl Friday is becoming known as the little company that does big plays," says Johnson. "It is exciting for me -- and for the production team and the ensemble -- to tackle such a large and rarely produced work as ***Street Scene***. The play considers, in part, what it means to be an individual... and what it means to be part of a larger community. The authenticity that Rice has created with this piece resonates well with today's world and we look forward to helping his creation soar for today's audience."

Street Scene will showcase Girl Friday's signature ensemble approach, featuring its largest cast to date. The ensemble of noteworthy veterans and newcomers includes:

Byron Adams, Indira Addington, Ellen Apel, Laurel Armstrong, Kirby Bennett, David Beukema, Brian Columbus, Gary DuBreuil, Shelby Flannery, Mary Fox, Wini Froelich, Dan Hopman, Jillian Jacobson, Eric Knutson, Katherine Kupiecki, Sam Landman, Bob Malos, David McMenemy, John Middleton, Anna Olson, Naveh Shavit-Lonstein, Collan Simmons, Anna Sundberg, Nathan Surprenant, Logan Verdoorn and Amanda Whisner. The artistic team of acclaimed Twin Cities' designers includes Ivey Award-winning scenic designer **Joel Sass**, lighting designer **Jen DeGolier**, sound designer **Katharine Horowitz**, properties designer **Erica Zaffarano** and costume designer **Kathy Kohl**. Girl Friday's producers are **Kirby Bennett** and **Anthony Paul**.

Following the July 17th matinee performance of **Street Scene**, the **University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center** will lead a panel discussion entitled: "Our Migration Stories: Historical and Contemporary." Participants will include Haven Hawley, program director for the Immigration History Research Center, and Christine "Kit" Gordon, dramaturge for Girl Friday Productions. The discussion is free and open to the public.

Girl Friday's production of **Street Scene** is made possible, in part, by funds provided by the **Metropolitan Regional Arts Council** through an appropriation by the Minnesota Legislature.

About Girl Friday Productions

Girl Friday Production's mission is to illuminate the human condition. We focus on creating artistically outstanding, thought-provoking theatrical experiences that will inspire audiences and nurture artists.

Founded in 2004, Girl Friday produced *Love Letters* and *Hate Mail* in 2004, *An Empty Plate in the Café du Grand Boeuf* in July 2005 (MRAC funded), and two acclaimed productions of the award-winning works of Thornton Wilder - *Our Town* in July 2007, and *The Skin of Our Teeth* in July 2009 (MRAC funded). *Our Town*, directed by Craig Johnson, was selected as one of the Pioneer Press' "Top Ten Shows of 2007 " and *The Skin of Our Teeth*, directed by Benjamin McGovern, was selected as a MinnPost "Favorite for 2009." **Street Scene** features the recognized qualities of a Girl Friday production: exceptional literature, humanity, relevance and stimulating theatricality.

Girl Friday Productions presents *Street Scene* by Elmer Rice

July 7-30, 2011

At the Minneapolis Theater Garage

711 West Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis, 55405

(on the corner of Lyndale Avenue South and Franklin Avenue)

Ticket Price

\$20 Discounts for students, seniors, groups and Fringe buttons

Reservations

(612) 729-1071

Performance Schedule (15 performances)

Thursday, July 7 at 7:30 pm opening and reception

Friday, July 8 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 9 at 7:30 pm

Thursday, July 14 at 7:30 pm

Friday, July 15 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 16 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, July 17 at 2:00 pm matinee and post-show panel discussion with the
Immigration History Research Center

Monday, July 18 at 7:30 pm industry night, pay what you wish

Thursday, July 21 at 7:30 pm post show discussion with cast and director

Friday, July 22 at 7:30 pm audio description and sensory tour

Saturday, July 23 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, July 24 at 2:00 pm matinee

Thursday, July 28 at 7:30 pm

Friday, July 29 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 30 at 7:30 pm closing

Web site

www.girlfridayproductions.org

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