



West End Players Guild News Release

News Media Contact:
Mark Abels - 314/504-0844
wepgnews@WestEndPlayers.org

Public information contact:
314/367-0025
www.WestEndPlayers.org

“Ripped from the headlines” –

West End Players Guild’s *Lonesome Hollow* offers a thought-provoking look at society’s relationship with sex offenders.

ST. LOUIS, MO (September 3, 2013) – What if the sex offender registry was not simply a computer database, but rather a real place where sex offenders were sent to live for terms ranging from indefinite to forever?

That is the question posed by Lee Blessing’s *Lonesome Hollow*, the first production of the West End Players Guild’s 2013-2014 season. It also is a question much in the news in St. Louis these days; as a front-page story in Sunday’s St. Louis Post-Dispatch revealed, Missouri has its own "Lonesome Hollow" in Farmington. There, 192 offenders live behind double-row fences topped with razor wire, permanently confined not for crimes they have committed but for crimes they might commit if released.

In Blessing's play, *Lonesome Hollow* is the name of a village in a remote part of America in the "soonish" future. It is a place where men convicted of sex offenses are sent to be permanently separated from the rest of society. Residents live on their own and may wander the town as they wish. But, as they quickly learn, they can never be free, and violation of an ever-changing code of rules can bring gruesome retribution.

Robert Ashton directs the show, which opens September 27 for a two-week run at the theatre in the Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 Union Ave. Mark Abels, Elizabeth Graveman, Rachel Hanks, Jeff Kargus and B. Weller comprise the cast.

"The Missouri General Assembly is getting ready to vote on overriding Governor Nixon's veto of a sex offender registry reform bill. Essentially, the Governor and the Legislature are arguing about who belongs on the registry, and who doesn't. That's one of the central questions posed by *Lonesome Hollow* and, as the play demonstrates, there are no easy answers," Ashton said.

"This show is for adults only. Be forewarned that it will not make you comfortable, but it will make you think," Ashton added.

B. Weller plays Nye, a remorseless serial child molester with no delusions about himself or his crimes. Jeff Kargus plays Tuck, a photographer whose "crimes" include having published art books of nude photos subsequently deemed pornographic by the state. Rachel Hanks plays Tuck's sister Pearl, who is torn between her desire to free her brother and her duty to protect her family. Elizabeth Graveman is Mills, a staff member with interesting issues of her own. Mark Abels plays Glover, the corporate administrator who wields power over them all.

Performances of *Lonesome Hollow* will be September 27-28 and October 3-5 at 8:00 p.m., with Sunday matinees September 29 and October 6 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased online at www.WestEndPlayers.org/tickets.

West End Players Guild is St. Louis's oldest continuously-operating theatre company, providing "big theatre in a small space" since November, 1911, and now presenting its second century of performances. For more information on our history, season tickets and volunteer opportunities, please visit us online at www.WestEndPlayers.org.

###