



West End Players Guild News Release

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Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation Challenge Grant to West End Players Guild

ST. LOUIS (August 30, 2010) – In November, 1911, The Players offered their first evening of theatre in St. Louis’s west end. Eighteen years later The Players had grown into a busy and prosperous company when a new competitor opened up a few miles east on Grand Avenue – the Fox Theatre. In the arts, however, competition is a good thing, and over the years both The Players (now the West End Players Guild) and the Fox became entrenched and successful in the St. Louis theatre scene.

This year West End Players Guild presents its 100th season of “big theatre in a small space” and today the Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation announced that it has joined in the celebration with a \$1,000 challenge grant to WEPG. The grant is conditioned on WEPG raising another \$1,000 from new donors during the coming months.

“A century of theatre is a remarkable achievement and we are pleased to honor WEPG with this grant,” said Kathryn Ballard, the foundation’s executive director. “We are especially pleased to be associated with WEPG’s upcoming season of four shows, which includes a St. Louis premiere and a special emphasis on women’s issues and women playwrights.”

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The 2010-2011 season opens in late September with Jeffrey Hatcher's literate cat-and-mouse drama, *A Picasso*. In November, WEPG presents *A Woman's Place*, an evening of four one-act plays about ordinary women in extraordinary circumstances. In February, WEPG presents Shelagh Stephenson's *The Memory of Water*, a black comedy that proves that death can reveal the absurdity of life. The season wraps in April with the St. Louis premiere of Kathryn Chetkovitch's *Acts of Love*. All performances are at the Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 Union Ave. To make a donation to West End Players, buy season or single tickets to our shows, or for more information on the season please visit our website at www.WestEndPlayers.org.

“The St. Louis theatre scene is healthier and livelier than ever, thanks in no small part to the support generous funders like the Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation have shown to small companies like ours. We are honored by the confidence the foundation has shown in us and very happy to once again welcome the foundation to our family of donors. With their help, we'll be staging one of the best seasons in our century-long history,” said Renee Sevier-Monsey, president of WEPG's board of directors.

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