



West End Players Guild News Release

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Inventing van Gogh to open WEPG's Season of St. Louis Premieres

ST. LOUIS, MO (Sept. 27, 2012) – West End Players Guild's 2012-2013 season, featuring four plays never before seen in St. Louis, opens October 5th with Steven Dietz's *Inventing van Gogh*, directed by Steve Callahan.

Jake Ferree plays the legendary artist Vincent van Gogh and Reginald Pierre plays modern-day artist Patrick Stone, who has been hired by an unscrupulous art authenticator to perpetrate the colossal fraud of creating Van Gogh's long-sought "lost" self portrait. The action flows back and forth between Van Gogh's late 19th century France and Patrick's studio in present-day New York. The plot combines elements of mystery and mysticism in a story about finding truth in art, fraud in art and truth in art fraud.

The cast of *Inventing van Gogh* also includes Ron Haglof, Nellie Ognacevic and Tom Kopp. All three play dual roles as characters in Van Gogh's 19th-century orbit and Patrick's 21st-century life.

Evening performances will be October 5-6 and October 11-13 at 8:00 p.m.; Sunday matinees will be October 7 and 14 at 2:00 p.m. New for the 2012-2013 season, WEPG has added a Thursday evening show to each run. All shows are in the theatre at the Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 Union Blvd. (just north of Delmar). The church offers ample free parking at the rear of the building, near the theatre entrance. Season tickets as well as individual tickets for all shows can be purchased on-line at www.WestEndPlayers.org.

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WEPG's season of St. Louis premieres continues with Chloe Moss's *This Wide Night*, directed by Sean Ruprecht-Belt, November 9-18. *Engaging Shaw*, directed by Robert Ashton, will be presented February 8-17. The 102nd season wraps with Michael Hollinger's *Opus*, directed by Jerry McAdams, April 5-14.

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.

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Patrick Stone (played by Reginald Pierre, L), a contemporary *avant-garde* painter, and Vincent van Gogh (Jake Ferree, R) confront each other across a century of time and a world of artistic differences -- each fearing that the other may be no more than a hint of impending madness. The scene is from the West End Players Guild's production of Steven Dietz's *Inventing van Gogh*, a St. Louis premiere to be performed October 5-14 in the theatre at Union Avenue Christian Church. (Photo by John Lamb)