

West End Players Guild auditions for *Inventing Van Gogh* and *This Wide Night*

West End Players Guild will hold auditions for the first two plays of its 2012-2013 season on Saturday, July 7, at 12 noon at the theatre in the Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 Union Boulevard (just north of Delmar).

The plays to be cast are:

- Steve Dietz's *Inventing Van Gogh*, directed by Steve Callahan. Roles are available for four men (age range 20s to 50s) and one woman (20s). Show dates are October 5-14, 2012; tech week will be September 30-October 4.
- Chloe Moss's *This Wide Night*, directed by Sean Ruprecht-Belt. Roles are available for two women (20s-60s). Show dates are November 9-18, 2012; tech week will be November 4-8.

West End Players Guild is a non-Equity professional company; all actors will be paid a stipend. No appointment is required for the auditions. Auditioners are asked to bring a resume and a headshot for each director for whom they wish to read. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the scripts; sides will be provided at the audition. Ample free parking is available on the parking lot behind the church; auditioners should use the basement entrance to the theater from the parking lot.

Inquiries for the directors may be sent via email to wepgnews@WestEndPlayers.org.

Plot synopses and character descriptions for the two plays are as follows:

Inventing Van Gogh

PLOT SYNOPSIS: Jonas Miller, a brilliant and inspiring art professor had spent his life searching for a legendary lost final self-portrait by van Gogh. His student Patrick, who initially disdained van Gogh as “pure hype,” was persuaded to accompany his professor on a final effort to locate the painting in rural France. The search was futile and the professor died by gunshot in the very place and manner as had van Gogh. But was it suicide? Or had Patrick pulled the trigger?

This question hovers as the play opens and Patrick is approached by René Bouchard, an expert in exposing art forgeries. Bouchard seeks to enlist Patrick in a colossal fraud of his own -- the creation and “discovery” of van Gogh’s lost self-portrait.

As the play flows back and forth between Patrick’s studio and van Gogh’s France of the late 1800’s Patrick is visited by the memories (or the ghosts) of people from van Gogh’s life -- and from Patrick’s own.

We face questions in this play. Not only whether the forgery will be done and whether it will be believed, but deeper questions, such as: What makes a great artist? What makes an artist “great” (a quite different question)? Can an inspired forgery contain artistic truth?

CHARACTERS: Four men and one woman, doubling as indicated.

Patrick Stone, 30’s, a contemporary painter.

Vincent van Gogh, 30’s a painter.

Dr. Jonas Miller, 50’s, a van Gogh expert, Patrick’s mentor. Unkempt, full of passion.

Dr. Paul Gachet, 50’s, doctor, art enthusiast, van Gogh’s friend. Eccentric.

Hallie Miller, 20’s, Patrick’s one-time girlfriend, Miller’s daughter. Abandoned by both Patrick and her father she fled to California and lives a counter-culture life. (She appears in a tie-dyed skirt and a halter top.)

Marguerite Gachet, 20’s, Dr. Gachet’s daughter, in love with van Gogh.

René Bouchard, 40’s, an art authenticator. Nattily dressed, with a hint of a “continental” accent.

Paul Gauguin, 40’s, a painter.

This Wide Night

Plot Synopsis: *This Wide Night* is a tender portrayal of two damaged women trying to repair their broken lives. On her release from prison, Lorraine heads straight to her former cell mate Marie’s apartment. On the inside, they shared everything, but the friendship that once protected them now threatens to smother the fragile freedom they have found.

Characters:

Lorraine – 50s, has just been released after 12 years in prison.

Marie – 20s-30s, Lorraine’s former cellmate who has been out for some time and lives in a slovenly London apartment.

NOTE: The play is set in London, and both characters will speak with English accents.