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PRESS CONTACT:

Ann Filmer (773) 307-1563 cell, ann@16thstreettheater.org

Tony Fitzpatrick returns to Steppenwolf on 16th Street's **THIS TRAIN**

CHICAGO, MAY 4, 2010 – 16th Street Theater is proud to announce the return of **Tony Fitzpatrick** in ***THIS TRAIN*** directed by 16th Street Theater Artistic Director Ann Filmer performing at Steppenwolf's Merle Reskin Garage Theatre, 1624 N. Halsted St. in Chicago, **July 15 – August 1, 2010** with a press opening of **Thursday, July 15 at 7:30 PM.**

There are bums. There are tramps. There are hobos. And then there's Tony. Some guys just can't fit in. Fine artist, poet and storyteller **Tony Fitzpatrick** delves into the Hobo Alphabet for a musically-entertaining, visually-rich and never dull night of theater. With returning side-kick Stash: aka Stan Klein, mean-guitarist John Rice, and new guest vocalist Kat Eggleston.

Fitzpatrick's ***THIS TRAIN*** was developed with **Ann Filmer** for 16th Street where all tickets were sold-out before it even opened in its premiere in Berwyn. Now ***THIS TRAIN*** returns with some additional material, an intermission (so Tony may take a smoke break), and with Kat Eggleston coming in from Seattle.

TONY FITZPATRICK

Tony Fitzpatrick is an artist, poet and actor whose artwork can be found in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, the National Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C., the Museum of Contemporary Art in North Miami, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

His recent exhibitions include solo shows in New York City's P.S.1 - MoMA and Pierogi Gallery in 2007 and in the Sidney Yates Gallery of the Chicago Cultural Center in 2008. In the same year his work was also shown at the First Biennial in New Orleans at Prospect One. In 2009 he has had one-person exhibitions in New York City at Dieu Donne, in New Orleans at Ammo Gallery, in Illinois at the Rockford College Museum, in Austin at Slugfest Gallery, and in Los Angeles at Billy Shire Gallery. In January of 2010 he will be exhibiting new work at Pierogi Gallery in New York City.

His work has also appeared on album covers including The Neville Brothers' *Yellow Moon* and Steve Earle's *El Corazon* and *The Revolution Starts Now*.

Tony has made a living as a radio personality, construction worker, and as a film, stage and television actor. He has appeared in 15 major motion pictures including *The Fugitive*, *Married to the Mob*, *Mad Dog and Glory* and *Philadelphia*. Recently he appeared in *The Promotion* directed by Steven Conrad.

In 1991, Tony earned the Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Actor in Prop Theater's production of *Mass Murder*. In the summer of 2003, Tony starred in Lookingglass Theatre's inaugural production of *Race*, an adaptation of a Studs Terkel novel directed by David Schwimmer.

Tony has published seven books including three collections of art and poetry: *The Hard Angels* (1988), *Dirty Boulevard* (1998) and *Bum Town* (2001); a collection of etchings entitled *Tony Fitzpatrick: Max and Gaby's Alphabet* (2001) and three collections of drawing-collages entitled, *The Wonder: Portraits of a Remembered City, Volume 1* (2005), *The Wonder: Portraits of a Remembered City, Volume 2*, *The Dream City* (2006), and *The Wonder: Portraits of a Remembered City, City of Monsters, City of Ghosts* (2008).

Tony Fitzpatrick was born in Chicago in 1958 where he lives today with his wife and two children.

JOHN RICE

A 30 year veteran of the Chicago Music Scene, John has appeared on recordings by Mavis Staples, Steve Earle, Jon Langford, Blind Boys of Alabama, Wilco, Rosie Flores, and John Martyn. His multi-instrumental skills have been prominently displayed in a long list of midwestern bands including Jump N The Saddle, The Rattlers, Special Consensus, and The Sundowners. John has also worked as "gun for hire" for the likes of Roger Miller, Marianne Faithful, Billy Corgan, Ken Nordine, Vassar Clements, and Jim Lauderdale. He has contributed music to the films *The Guardian*, *Uncle Nino*, *Secondhand Lions*, and *The Slaughter Rule*. John has also played on more than 2000 television and radio jingles. Theater credits include "The Remembered City" (Steppenwolf) "Floyd and Clea" (Goodman) "Pump Boys and Dinettes" (Forum).

KAT EGGLESTON

Kat is one of the most accomplished guitarists and singer/songwriters in the folk, Celtic and traditional music genres. Kat has released five CDs to date, three of which are available from Waterbug Music, one from Redwing Music, and the most recent--*Speak*--in August 2009 as an independent release. Also an actor, teacher and hammered dulcimer player, Kat has been a lead singer with The Otters and with Bohola, and recorded a duo CD with Kate MacLeod. She has played live and on recordings with David Bromberg, Bohola, the David Munnely Band, Niamh Parsons, Jim Tullio, Tom Dundee, Dennis Cahill, Michael Smith, Brooks Williams, Andrew Calhoun, and many others. She has toured in Europe, Australia, Ireland, England, and Scotland as well as the U.S. After nearly 20 years in Chicago as a performing singer-songwriter and musical theater artist (including two seasons in Michael Smith's *Snow Queen* at Chicago's Victory Gardens Theater), she returned to her home community of Vashon Island in 2008 to be close to her beloved father.

ANN FILMER

16th Street Theater founder/Artistic Director Ann Filmer developed and directed the premiere of ***THIS TRAIN*** for 16th Street in Berwyn where it played for 2 sold-out weeks. She is a director, choreographer, dramaturg and theatre producer with a passion for new work. She was the 2004-05 recipient of the Michael Maggio Directing Fellowship at the Goodman Theatre where she directed David Mamet's *Almost Done*, *Reunion* and *Dark Pony*. She has directed over 40 productions in Chicago at such theatres as Red Orchid (Brett Neveu's *Eric La Rue*), Shattered Globe (*House of Blue Leaves*), Live Bait (*Us and Them*), Stage Left (*Spare Change, In Times of War*), Chicago Dramatists, CollaborAction, Circle (*Golf*), Porchlight and The Aardvark (*The Last Barbecue*). Ann is the editor of the anthology "New Plays from Chicago," as well as the creator and Artistic Director of Chicago's *Estrogen Fest*. Ann recently developed and directed Rohina Malik's *Unveiled* for Victory Gardens.

STAN KLEIN [stash]

has spent many years preparing, installing, and making art. His last position for years was assistant to the late painter Ken Noland. He has in the past worked extensively with Andrew and Jaime Wyeth. Although he had spent some time as Vito Desalvo, he welcomes playing himself. He and Tony have known each other and been friends for over 25 years. He has recently returned to Chicago with daughter, Ivy, and their dog, Ella G.

PRODUCTION INFO

The design team for *THIS TRAIN* includes Lighting Designer **Mac Vaughey** (*The Last Barbecue, S-E-X-OH!, Fires in the Mirror, Kita y Fernanda, MACHOS*) and Projection Designer Kristin Reeves (*The Scarlet Ibis, Fires in the Mirror*) Stage manager is **Jennifer Aparicio**. Full bios and photos available at www.16thstreettheater.org

Recognized by the Chicago Reader as **Chicago's Best Emerging Theater 2009**, 16th Street Theater is dedicated to telling the stories of ALL in our community. Go to www.16thstreettheater.org

FACT SHEET

THIS TRAIN

written and performed by Tony Fitzpatrick
with musicians Kat Eggleston and John Rice
and Stash: aka Stan Klein
Directed by Ann Filmer

RUNNING TIME:

100 minutes including one intermission

WHEN:

3 weeks only!

July 15 – August 1, 2010

Thursdays & Fridays @ 7:30 PM, Saturdays @ 5:00 & 8:30 PM, Sundays @ 7:00 PM

Press Opening: Thursday, July 15, 2010 @ 7:30 PM

WHERE:

Steppenwolf's Merle Reskin Garage Theatre
1624 N. Halsted St.
Chicago, IL 60614

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

\$22 Tickets now on sale.

Online – www.steppenwolf.org

In Person - Steppenwolf Theatre Company, 1650 N. Halsted Chicago, IL 60614

Ticket and Information Hotline – (312) 335-1650

HOW MUCH:

General Admission: \$22

Call (312) 942-2422 for \$17 tickets for groups of 10 or more

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