Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents

**Things Being What They Are**
by Wendy MacLeod

**November 20 – December 15, 2013**

Broadway Theatre Center’s Studio Theatre

Milwaukee, WI … Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (MCT) presents the Milwaukee premiere of **THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE** by Wendy MacLeod, November 20 – December 15, 2013. Michael Cotey makes his MCT main stage directing debut with this “bromantic” comedy featuring Dan Katula and Ryan Schabach. THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE performs in the Broadway Theatre Center’s Studio Theatre in Milwaukee’s Historic Third Ward.

In **THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE**, the minute Bill moves into his new condo, while preparing for the arrival of his wayward wife, his nosy neighbor Jack appears at the door - looking for some beer and sympathy. MacLeod’s play is a comic and wistful exploration of love, loss, and the needs that bring people together and drive them apart.

UW-Milwaukee graduate Michael Cotey makes his MCT main stage debut after directing MISDIRECTED HAPPINESS in our 2010-2011 Young Playwrights Festival showcase. He was the founding artistic director of Youngblood Theatre where he directed several productions. He has also directed at Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Illinois Wesleyan University and First Stage. As an actor, Cotey has performed with the Utah and Illinois Shakespeare Festivals, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, First Stage, Next Act Theatre, In Tandem Theatre and Youngblood Theatre.

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The cast of two features Dan Katula as Jack Foster and Ryan Schabach as Bill McGinnis. Katula returns to MCT after appearing in BUS STOP, MOON OVER THE BREWERY, KIMBERLY AKIMBO and DIRTY BLONDE. A UW-Madison graduate, Schabach makes his MCT debut after performing at numerous theatres throughout Wisconsin.

THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE premiered at Seattle Repertory Theatre in 2003 and later that year had a sold out run at Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theatre. Chris Jones’ Chicago Tribune review of Steppenwolf’s production noted “Despite (or maybe it's because of) its origin in a female mind, this funny, charming and rather moving little sleeper of a play probes the vulnerabilities of heterosexual, middle-class, decaying maleness with … good humor, affection and incisive accuracy.”

Playwright Wendy MacLeod is best known for her play THE HOUSE OF YES which became an award-winning Miramax film starring Parker Posey, earning a Special Jury Award at the Sundance Film Festival. Her other plays include FIND AND SIGN, JUVENILIA, THE WATER CHILDREN, SCHOOLGIRL FIGURE, SIN and APOCALYPTIC BUTTERFLIES. Her prose has appeared in The Washington Post, The International Herald Tribune and POETRY Magazine. A New Dramatist alumna and a graduate of the Yale School of Drama, she is the playwright-in-residence at her alma mater, Kenyon College in Ohio.

CAST
Jack Foster ............................................................................................................................... Dan Katula
Bill McGinnis .................................................................................................................. Ryan Schabach

PRODUCTION STAFF
Director ............................................................................................................................... Michael Cotey
Scenic Designer .................................................................................................................. Steve Barnes
Costume Designer .......................................................................................................... Eleanor Cotey
Lighting Designer ........................................................................................................ Ross Zentner
Properties Master ........................................................................................................... Nikki Kulas
Sound Designer ............................................................................................................... Phil Wooding

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PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>20 7:30 p.m. <strong>PWYC</strong></td>
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**PWYC** = Pay-What-You-Can preview; **P** = Preview; **O** = Opening; **T** = Talkback; **V** = ViewPoints; **=* Talk Theatre

SPECIAL EVENTS:

--Pre-performance ViewPoints: A free, pre-show presentation entitled “Dude, A Girl Wrote That,” featuring a panel of female playwrights, including Fly Steffens and Gwendolyn Rice on Wednesday, November 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre.

“Dude, A Girl Wrote That”
When it comes to giving a character his voice, some say we can only write what we know. Others say anything’s possible with imagination and skill. But just how does a playwright go about creating a character whose voice is about as different from her own as it gets? In celebration of Wendy MacLeod’s “ bromance,” THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE, join a panel of playwrights who also happen to be women, including Fly Steffens and Gwendolyn Rice, as they tackle character voice: writing for guys, avoiding the pitfalls of stereotype and cliché as they create any character, running plays with actors to “hear” dialogue, devising plays, and more! Call it the pre-game show.

--Pre-performance Talk Theatre: A lively and informative chat with Director Michael Cotey and Costume Designer Eleanor Cotey beginning at 12:00 noon before the matinee on Wednesday, December 4 in the Skylight Bar & Bistro.

--Post-performance Talkbacks: Post-show discussion with the cast following performances on Thursday, December 5 and Thursday, December 12.

THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE performances are November 20 – December 15, 2013
(Opening Night: Friday, Nov. 22) in the Broadway Theatre Center’s Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee’s Historic Third Ward. Tickets are available Monday through Saturday from noon-6:00 p.m. at the Broadway Theatre Center Box Office, 158 N. Broadway, or by phone at (414) 291-7800. Tickets can be purchased online - 24 hours a day at milwaukeechambertheatre.com. Group, student and senior discounts are also available. For more information, visit milwaukeechambertheatre.com. THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE is co-sponsored by the Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation, Inc. and The Dental Offices of Dr. David Paris.

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BIOGRAPHIES:

DAN KATULA – Jack Foster
Dan Katula returns to MCT where previous roles include Will in BUS STOP, Warren in MOON OVER THE BREWERY, Buddy in KIMBERLY AKIMBO, Angus in THE DRAWER BOY and Charlie in DIRTY BLONDE. He has appeared locally with First Stage Children's Theater, Renaissance Theaterworks and Bunny Gumbo/Combat Theatre. He has also worked regionally with Door Shakespeare; The Cleveland Playhouse; GEVA and the Agean Theater in New York; and Monomoy Theater on Cape Cod. His work as a puppet builder was featured in the Milwaukee productions of WHO KILLED SANTA and he built the elephant for MCT’s AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS.

RYAN SCHABACH – Bill McGinnis
Ryan Schabach makes his MCT debut in THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE. In Wisconsin he has performed with Next Act Theatre, In Tandem Theatre, Door Shakespeare, Third Avenue Playhouse, Forward Theater Company and Milwaukee Repertory Theater. Recent credits include Tom in THE GLASS MENAGERIE, Ken in RED and the recurring role of Buttons in four original PANTOS at Stages Rep. Ryan spent three seasons with the Utah Shakespeare Festival and nine seasons with Unity Theatre. He graduated from the UW-Madison MFA acting program.

MICHAEL COTEY - Director
Michael Cotey makes his Milwaukee Chamber Theatre main stage directing debut after directing in the 2010-2011 Young Playwrights Festival showcase. He was the founding artistic director of Youngblood Theatre (2009-2013) where he directed CARTOON and SPIRITS TO ENFORCE, which both appeared on ‘Best of the Season’ lists in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and THE FLU SEASON, which was featured in American Theatre Magazine in a profile on playwright Will Eno. His other directing credits include Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Illinois Wesleyan University and First Stage. As an actor, he has worked with the Utah and Illinois Shakespeare Festivals, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, First Stage, Next Act Theatre, In Tandem Theatre and Youngblood Theatre. He graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a BFA in theatre. This spring he will return to UWM to direct CEMENTVILLE.

MILWAUKEE CHAMBER THEATRE
Founded in 1975, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (MCT) produces intimate, high-quality, professional theatrical works of literary merit that engage and challenge the audience, while employing and nurturing principally local theatre artists. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director C. Michael Wright and Managing Director Kirsten Mulvey, MCT performs at the Broadway Theatre Center in Milwaukee’s Historic Third Ward. For more information, visit www.milwaukeechambertheatre.com