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M E D I A R E L E A S E

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents

The Subject Was Roses

by Frank D. Gilroy

November 18 – December 12, 2010

Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theatre

Milwaukee, WI. ... Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (MCT) presents the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama **THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES** by Frank D. Gilroy, November 18 – December 12, 2010. This humorous and poignant memoir about a son returning home to his parents after World War II is the fourth offering in MCT's Pulitzer Prize series. C. Michael Wright directs MCT favorites **Nicholas Harazin, James Tasse** and **Tami Workentin**. **THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES** performs in the Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theatre in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward.

Expectations are high when Timmy Cleary comes home to his parents in the Bronx after serving his time in World War II. Of course Nettie and John are joyous and welcoming at first, but soon past conflicts resurface and the old game of tug of war begins.

Frank D. Gilroy's semi-autobiographical play, **THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES**, premiered on Broadway in 1964 featuring Jack Albertson as the father, Irene Dailey as his wife and Martin Sheen as their son. It went on to win the 1964 Tony Award for Best Play, the New York Drama Critic's Circle Award and the 1965 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. In 1968 the play was adapted by Gilroy for the screen and featured Jack Albertson, Patricia Neal and Martin Sheen. In February of this year, Martin Sheen returned to the play after four decades, this time as the father in an LA production at the Mark Taper Forum.

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Frank D. Gilroy enlisted in the army during WWII and served for two and a half years in the 89th Division. After the war, he attended Dartmouth College and the Yale School of Drama. He began his career as a TV writer in the 1950s and went on to direct and produce. His first play, WHO’LL SAVE THE PLOWBOY?, was produced in New York in 1962. Gilroy's other work includes screenplays for the films *Desperate Characters*, *The Gallant Hours* and *The Gig*. Gilroy has also written fiction, including the novel *From Noon Till Three*, which was adapted into a film starring Charles Bronson. Gilroy directed the film, in addition to writing the screenplay. In 1993, Gilroy wrote a prequel to THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES, titled ANY GIVEN DAY.

THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES is the fourth production in Milwaukee Chamber Theatre’s **Pulitzer Prize series**. As a part of MCT’s long-standing tradition of producing great literary works, in 2007-2008 Producing Artistic Director C. Michael Wright committed to producing a Pulitzer Prize-winning play for five consecutive seasons. Previous productions in the series have included the 1980 Pulitzer winner TALLEY’S FOLLY (2007-2008 season), 2007 winner RABBIT HOLE (2008-2009) and 1953 winner PICNIC (2009-2010.)

MCT Producing Artistic Director **C. Michael Wright** will direct. The cast features **Nicholas Harazin** (THE SWEETEST SWING IN BASEBALL, THE SUM OF US) as Timmy Cleary, **James Tasse** (BRIGHTON BEACH MEMIORS, DINNER WITH FRIENDS, WAITING FOR GODOT) as John Cleary and **Tami Workentin** (PICNIC, THE SUM OF US, WELL, BRIGHTON BEACH MEMIORS) as Nettie Cleary.

CAST

Timmy Cleary.....**Nicholas Harazin**
John Cleary.....**James Tasse**
Nettie Cleary **Tami Workentin**

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director..... **C. Michael Wright**
Scenic Designer **R. H. Graham**
Costume Designer.....**Michelle Terese Grimm**
Lighting Designer**Matthew J. A. Kerr**
Properties Designer.....**Nikki Kulas**
Sound Designer.....**Devin Nee**

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PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

November 18 – December 12, 2010					
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
	18 7:30 p.m. ^P	19 8:00 p.m. ^O	20 4:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	21 2:00 p.m.	
24 1:00 p.m.* 7:30 p.m. ^V	25 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	26 8:00 p.m.	27 4:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	28 2:00 p.m.	
Dec 1 7:30 p.m.	2 7:30 p.m. ^T	3 8:00 p.m.	4 4:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	5 2:00 p.m.	
8 1:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	9 7:30 p.m. ^T	10 8:00 p.m.	11 4:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	12 2:00 p.m.	

P = Preview; *O* = Opening; *T* = Talkback, after the show; * = Talk Theatre, before the show – an interactive discussion beginning at noon; *V* = ViewPoints - pre-show presentation beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Special Events:

- Pre-performance **ViewPoints**: a free, pre-show presentation by established co-therapists and licensed clinical social workers, **Michelle Waide and Gwen Werner**, titled “The War at Home” on Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre.
- Pre-performance **Talk Theatre**: MCT Producing Artistic Director C. Michael Wright will lead a lively and informative chat with MCT Production & Company Manager **Brandy Kline** beginning at 12:00 noon before the matinee on Wednesday, Nov. 24. Lunch served in The Skylight Bar & Bistro from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Post-performance **Talkbacks**: Post-show discussion with the cast following performances on Thursday, Dec. 2 and Thursday, Dec. 9.

THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES performances will take place November 18 – December 12, 2010 in the Broadway Theatre Center’s Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee’s Historic Third Ward. Single tickets, \$30-\$35, 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 are available online - 24 hours a day at **milwaukeechambertheatre.com**. Group, student and senior discounts are also available. Season ticket packages are still available and can be purchased by calling (414) 276-8842. For more information, visit milwaukeechambertheatre.com. **THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES** is co-sponsored by Michael & Shirley Mosesson and The Dental Offices of Dr. David Paris.

BIOGRAPHIES

NICHOLAS HARAZIN - *Timmy Cleary*

Nicholas Harazin returns to Milwaukee Chamber Theatre after appearing in *THE SUM OF US* and *THE SWEETEST SWING IN BASEBALL*. Other credits include work with American Players Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Renaissance Theaterworks, In Tandem Theatre, Milwaukee Shakespeare, Door Shakespeare and Forward Theater. He is also a founding member of the Milwaukee artist collective goats & monkeys. In the Twin Cities, he has worked with Theatre de la Juene Lune, Park Square, Emigrant Theatre, MN Jewish Theatre and Old Log Theatre.

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JAMES TASSE - *John Cleary*

James Tasse is a local actor, director and teacher. At Milwaukee Chamber Theatre he has appeared in BRIGHTON BEACH MEMIORS, DINNER WITH FRIENDS, UNDER MILKWOOD, THE HERBAL BED, WAITING FOR GODOT, ARMS AND THE MAN and TIMON OF ATHENS. He has also performed with Next Act Theatre, Milwaukee Shakespeare, Northern Stage, Indiana Repertory Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival. At Milwaukee Chamber Theatre he has directed THE BEAST ON THE MOON, THE CURE AT TROY, THE OLD SETTLER, VALLEY SONG, TEDDYKINS and THE GUYS. He teaches acting at the UW-Milwaukee and is a graduate of the Professional Theatre Training Program at UWM. He also appeared in the locally produced films *Wisconsin Death Trip* and *Tracks*.

TAMI WORKENTIN - *Nettie Cleary*

Tami Workentin returns to Milwaukee Chamber Theatre after directing JEEVES INTERVENES this past summer and performing as Rosemary Sydney in PICNIC, Joyce in THE SUM OF US, Joy/Dottie/Ensemble in WELL, Blanche in BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS and Patsy in KIMBERLY AKIMBO. She has also worked with Renaissance Theaterworks in STRING OF PEARLS and ELEEMOSYNARY, Milwaukee Shakespeare in TWELFTH NIGHT, First Stage Children's Theater in HANA'S SUITCASE, A CHRISTMAS STORY and BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre in A CHRISTMAS CAROL and SHEAR MADNESS, and Next Act Theatre in 7 STORIES, SIDEMAN, MINDGAME, BEA'S NIECE and THE GOODBYE PEOPLE. Regional work includes the Goodman Theatre, Court Theatre, Organic Theatre and Bailiwick Repertory Theater in Chicago, the inaugural season of Orlando Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare-in-the-Park Fort Worth and Taproot Theatre, Seattle. She also directed BARNEY & BEE with Renaissance Theaterworks.

C. MICHAEL WRIGHT – *Director, MCT Producing Artistic Director*

Since joining the MCT staff in 2005, Michael Wright has directed THE SWEETEST SWING IN BASEBALL, PICNIC, BROOKLYN BOY, RABBIT HOLE, TALLEY'S FOLLY, TRYING, TALKING HEADS, A WALK IN THE WOODS and JOE EGG, as well as two original works, DICKENS IN AMERICA and THE DALY NEWS. Before MCT, he served as associate artistic director of Next Act Theatre, where a long list of directing credits includes THE RETREAT FROM MOSCOW, "MASTER HAROLD"...*and the boys*, STONES IN HIS POCKETS, FALLEN ANGELS and HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE. Since moving to Wisconsin in 1988, he has directed over 60 productions. Highlights include THE SYRINGA TREE for American Players Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks and Delaware Theatre Company, LOBBY HERO for Madison Repertory Theatre, 110 IN THE SHADE for Skylight Opera Theatre and three incarnations of A NIGHT IN NOVEMBER for Next Act, Madison Rep and Riverside Theatre in Vero Beach, Florida. He has been acting professionally for 33 years and has appeared in regional theatres all across the country. His most recent performances have been as Dr. Alfred Feldmann in MCT's DUET FOR ONE and as Sancho Panza in Skylight Opera Theatre's MAN OF LA MANCHA. Last season, he was honored with an "Artist of the Year" award by the City of Milwaukee Arts Board.

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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