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

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents

Heroes

by Tom Stoppard

Adapted from Gerald Sibleyras's *Le Vent des Peupliers*

November 23 - December 18, 2011

Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theatre

Milwaukee, WI. ... Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (MCT) presents the Milwaukee premiere of **Tom Stoppard's HEROES**, November 23 – December 18, 2011. Stoppard adapted the play from *LE VENT DES PEUPLIERS* by Gerald Sibleyras. Milwaukee theatre veterans **Richard Halverson, Daniel Mooney** and **Robert Spencer** take on the roles of three war veterans in this comic drama. **HEROES** performs in the Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theatre in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward.

Set in central France in 1959, **HEROES** is about a trio of cantankerous World War I vets, who spend their days on the terrace of a remote French hospital exchanging barbs. Although their bodies might not be cooperating fully, they become rejuvenated by dreaming up an escape plan to the poplars beckoning in the distance. Stoppard's adaptation is at once funny and poignant, clever and whimsical.

A prolific playwright, Stoppard is known for writing serious comedies. He is also known for his many play adaptations. **HEROES** premiered in 2005 and was adapted from the original French play *LE VENT DES PEUPLIERS* (*The Wind in the Poplars*) by Gerald Sibleyras. **HEROES** continues Stoppard's trademark style with a gentle observation of old age, memory and future hope told rather comically through the story of three aging veterans.

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British playwright **Tom Stoppard** has written for TV, radio, film and the stage and is considered to be a master of comic invention, visual humor and remarkably witty wordplay. He had his first major success with ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD, which won the 1968 Tony Award for Best Play. He later adapted it for the 1990 film version, which he also directed. He won the Tony Award for Best Play three more times with TRAVESTIES (1976), THE REAL THING (1984) and THE COAST OF UTOPIA trilogy (2007). His numerous other plays include THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND, JUMPERS, ENTER A FREE MAN, EVERY GOOD BOY DESERVES FAVOR, ROUGH CROSSING, HAPGOOD, ARCADIA, THE INVENTION OF LOVE and ROCK ‘N’ ROLL. His screenplays include *Brazil*, *Empire of the Sun* and *Billy Bathgate*. He collaborated with Marc Norman on the screenplay for *Shakespeare in Love* which won the Academy Award for Best Screenplay in 1999.

MCT Producing Artistic Director **C. Michael Wright** will direct HEROES. Wright didn't have to look far to cast his trio of veterans. Local actors and Milwaukee Chamber Theatre favorites **Richard Halverson** (TRYING, ANDROCLES AND THE LION, TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT), **Daniel Mooney** (MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS, TAKE ME OUT, MISALLIANCE) and **Robert Spencer** (AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS, BROOKLYN BOY, A WALK IN THE WOODS) will play Gustave, Philippe and Henri respectively.

CAST

Gustave**Richard Halverson**
Philippe **Daniel Mooney**
Henri**Robert Spencer**

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director **C. Michael Wright**
Scenic Designer **Keith Pitts**
Costume Designer **Kim Instenes**
Lighting Designer **Holly Blomquist**
Sound Designer **Chris Guse**
Properties Master **Nikki Kulas**

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PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

November 23 – December 18, 2011				
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
23 7:30 p.m. ^P	24 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	25 8:00 p.m. ^O	26 4:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	27 2:00 p.m.
30 7:30 p.m. ^V	Dec 1 7:30 p.m. ^T	2 8:00 p.m.	3 4:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	4 2:00 p.m.
7 1:00 p.m.*	8 7:30 p.m. ^T	9 8:00 p.m.	10 4:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	11 2:00 p.m.
14 1:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	15 7:30 p.m. ^T	16 8:00 p.m.	17 4:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	18 2:00 p.m.

P = Preview; *O* = Opening; *T* = Talkback; *V* = ViewPoints; *= Talk Theatre

Special Events:

--Pre-performance **ViewPoints**: a free, pre-show presentation by Milwaukee VA Medical Center psychologist **Dr. Heather M. Smith**, entitled “*Aging American Heroes: Resilience, Relationships, and Well-Being*” on Wednesday, November 30 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 Properties Master Nikki Kulas beginning at 12:00 noon before the matinee on Wednesday, December 7 in the Skylight Bar & Bistro. Lunch is served from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

--Post-performance **Talkbacks**: Post-show discussion with the cast following performances on Thursday, Dec. 1, Thursday, Dec. 8 and Thursday, Dec. 15.

HEROES performances will take place November 23 – December 18, 2011 in the Broadway Theatre Center’s Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee’s Historic Third Ward. Tickets, \$31-\$36, 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. **HEROES** is sponsored by John E. Holland and Konrad Kuchenbach.

BIOGRAPHIES:

RICHARD HALVERSON – *Gustave*

Richard Halverson returns to MCT after performing in TRYING, ANDROCLES AND THE LION, TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT, THE APPLE CART, THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL and ARMS AND THE MAN. He has a masters degree in music history and theatre arts from the University of Minnesota. After a stint in the army, he joined The Cleveland Play House as an apprentice. The following year he joined Actors’ Equity and remained a member of the Play House for 30 years. During that time he also performed with Missouri Rep, Kansas City Lyric Opera and Chautauqua Opera. He arrived in Milwaukee in 1988 and has since worked at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Next Act Theatre and Skylight Opera Theatre.

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DANIEL MOONEY – *Philippe*

Daniel Mooney returns to MCT where he has been seen in MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS, TAKE ME OUT, MISALLIANCE, HAY FEVER, HOMEBODY/KABUL, HOTEL ON MARVIN GARDENS, MEDEA, LOVE LETTERS, MAJOR BARBARA and WAITING FOR GODOT. In addition to 20-some years with Milwaukee Repertory Theater, he has worked with Next Act Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, First Stage, Skylight Opera Theatre and Theatre Gigante. He has also worked with many of America's oldest and largest theaters including Victory Gardens Theatre, Seattle's Intiman Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Chicago's Court Theatre, Evanston's Northlight, Houston's Alley Theatre, Cleveland Play House and Pittsburgh Playhouse. In a career of nearly 40 years, he has appeared in well over 200 productions. He has toured throughout America and Japan, performed in Russia and with The Royal Exchange Theatre in England. He has been seen on *Law & Order* and also in the film *The Untouchables*.

ROBERT SPENCER – *Henri*

Robert Spencer returns to MCT where he previously appeared in AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS, BROOKLYN BOY and A WALK IN THE WOODS. His Broadway credits include BYE BYE BIRDIE, ENTER LAUGHING, VIA GALACTICA and SEXTET. Off Broadway he was in THE FANTASTICKS, SING MUSE and THE MANHATTAN ARRANGEMENT. He has worked at many regional theatres throughout the country, including 12 seasons at American Players Theatre. Local audiences may have seen him at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Next Act Theatre, Skylight Opera Theatre, Milwaukee Shakespeare and First Stage Children's Theater.

MICHAEL WRIGHT – *Director, MCT Producing Artistic Director*

Since joining the MCT staff in 2005, C. Michael Wright has directed DRIVING MISS DAISY, THE LION IN WINTER, THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES, 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 directing credits include 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, Michael has directed over 60 productions at companies including American Players Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Madison Repertory Theatre and Skylight Opera Theatre. Michael has been acting professionally for 34 years and has appeared in regional theatres all across the country. His most recent performances have been as Philip in MAURITIUS and Dr. Alfred Feldmann in DUET FOR ONE both at MCT and as Sancho Panza in MAN OF LA MANCHA at Skylight Opera Theatre. In 2009, Michael 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