



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 1, 2009

THEATRE OF THE PRESENT PRESENTS:

## **Season Two: Growing Roots**

### **Project SF: The Science Fiction Fair**

H.G. Wells' *The Invisible Man*

&

Karel Capek's *R.U.R (Rossum's Universal Robots)*

**October 16, 17, 22, 23 & 24, 2009 @ 8pm**

**October 17 & 24, 2009 @ 2pm**

**@ the John Waldron Arts Center Rose Firebay**

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### **Project K: The Josef K Files**

Franz Kafka's *The Trial*

With excerpts from Plato's *Apology*

**January 22, 23, 28, 29 & 30, 2010 @ 8pm**

**January 23 & 30, 2010 @ 2pm**

**@ the John Waldron Arts Center Rose Firebay**

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### **Project P: The Property Line Punch-Out**

Edna St. Vincent Millay's *Aria da Capo*

&

Bloomington Playwright Albert Powell's *Sandcastle in the Sky*

**April 9, 10, 15, 16 & 17, 2009 @ 8pm**

**April 10 & 17, 2009 @ 2pm**

**@ the John Waldron Arts Center**

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# **Project S: The Sophocles Revival**

*Oedipus Rex*

&

*Antigone*

**July 2010: Dates and Times TO BE ANNOUNCED**

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## **Media Advisory**

### **WHO**

Theatre of the People (TOP)

### **WHAT**

Season Two: Growing Roots. Making modern art for community's sake.

### **WHEN**

2009-2010. Projects will be presented in October 2009, January, April and July 2010.

### **WHERE**

Projects SF, K and P will be at the John Waldron Arts Center Rose Firebay.

Project S locations are TBA.

### **WHY**

To increase public awareness of humanitarian issues through the presentation of artistic experiences and other educational opportunities. By the People and For the People, TOP is Bloomington's inclusive community theatre.

## **Press Release**

Bloomington, IN

Theatre of the People (TOP) is proud to announce Season Two: Growing Roots. TOP will present four experimental community theatre projects as part of TOP's new "Community Chalkboard" program that includes process-oriented ensemble artwork that is volunteer-feedback driven and guided by evidence-based assessment to ensure the "human value" of dramatic storytelling benefits all TOP participants in an inclusive and nurturing environment.

“There are so many fabulous opportunities for theatre in this community. Sometimes actors are excluded from creating artwork because they are a little rough around the edges, or their resume is lacking, or perhaps they are cast often but always as the same type of character,” says Bloomington resident and IU alumna Hannah Moss, TOP’s Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director. “TOP is a great environment to smooth those jagged edges and add much-needed performance work to the artist’s resume, especially because TOP participants are assigned project challenges that encourage them to strengthen their weaknesses and to highlight their strengths beyond their typecast comfort zones.”

TOP’s approach of creating theatre art as an ongoing “process” instead of focusing primarily on the finished “product” introduced more than 70 local artists during TOP’s Inaugural 2008/2009 Season to the opportunities and challenges of ensemble-constructed community artwork. TOP’s inclusive environment is based on the philosophy that every human being has inherent creative potential and TOP’s theatre art process is open to community members of all ages, types, experience levels and backgrounds.

“What sets TOP aside is the organization’s ability to stand strong in our philosophy and style, and not cave when reviews are so-so or when the audience is a little thin. We are new, so most people might not realize at first that we aren’t aiming to make flashy sets and expensive costumes that mask the true art of storytelling,” Moss continued. “We are aiming to highlight the individual artist’s involved and the ongoing organic process of live ensemble storytelling. When audiences witness the spectacle of a TOP performance, they too are participating in the fruits of a process in which all folks have a voice within a space that everyone is respected.”

The “Community Chalkboard” program aims to accept any and all individuals willing and able to participate in TOP’s mission. The only prerequisite for participation in a TOP production is a team-first attitude and the ability to treat other artists with dignity and respect regardless of any preconceived notions or stereotyped misperceptions about other people. More importantly, TOP directors are chosen for their ability to facilitate the project process based on participant feedback and not dictate an artistic vision that is then imposed upon the group of artists.

“TOP is a unique community theatre in Bloomington in that the true heart and soul of every project is the totality of group participation,” says Bloomington resident and IUPUI alumni David Nosko, TOP’s Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director. “TOP values the quality of each TOP participant and believes that the quality of each TOP production is reflected in the collective effort, enthusiasm, and human spirit shared with audiences

during every performance. TOP does not pretend to be anything other than a nurturing environment for artists to take positive risks with the goal of presenting creative and innovative community artwork that is truly 'By' and 'For' the people."

TOP's Season Two was selected specifically to include a variety of works from different time periods, written in different countries and from various points of view, to provide as many theatre art opportunities as possible and to accommodate as many local artists as is willing. Included in TOP's Season Two is classical theatre refreshed to highlight relevant and resounding stories modernized for today, dramatic stories from world-famous writers adapted from novels to the stage, and a new One-Act Play from Bloomington playwright Albert Powell.

By offering all willing participants, including Bloomington residents and IU students, multiple interactive opportunities for personal empowerment and positive creative expression, the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District (BEAD) is one step closer to becoming a full-fledged reality.

"TOP offers a social service to Bloomington and to the other theatre companies. TOP believes that providing a place for artists to improve their craft and to develop self esteem, all theatre companies and the overall community audience gets the benefit of a more skilled and talented pool of local artists," Moss says. "At the end of the day what can audiences expect to see this season from TOP? A whole lot of unexpected and a mighty dash of brave. And a dedicated group of artists who is asking nothing more than for the opportunity to entertain their neighbors."

## **SEASON TWO: GROWING ROOTS**

### *PROJECT SYNOPSIS*

**Project SF: The Science Fiction Fair** will be presented October 16, 17, 22, 23 & 24, 2009 at the John Waldron Arts Center Rose Firebay. This One-Act Double Feature of Playing God couples *The Invisible Man* by H.G. Wells with *Rossum's Universal Robots (R.U.R.)* by Karel Capek.

*The Invisible Man* is the story of a scientist whose experiment goes horrible awry when he accidentally turns himself invisible without a remedy. As he flees to a different town and hides in an Inn hoping to cure himself, mysterious things begin happening in the town and he seems to be the primary suspect.

*R.U.R.*, written in the 1920s, is the strange foretelling of a society manned by Human-like Androids (Or, Robots, as the term then became coined). Once the robots become self-aware they seek their own blueprints to enrich and lengthen

their lives. The balance of power shifts and soon it is the humans that are left begging for their lives.

**Project K: The Josef K Files** will be presented on 22, 23, 28, 29 & 30, 2010 at the John Waldron Arts Center Rose Firebay. Adapted from Franz Kafka's unfinished novel, *The Trial*, this full length piece tells the story of a man who finds himself on trial for an unknown crime and accused by unknown witnesses. While he jumps through various legal hoops in his quest to discover what is happening, he finds that nothing is quite as it seems. His only hope is to snap out of this nonsensical world and the ending of the story is quite unforeseen.

**Project P: The Property Line Punch-Out** will be presented on 9, 10, 15, 16 & 17, 2010. This double feature of neighborly love features *Aria da Capo* by Edna St Vincent Millay, and *Sandcastle in the Sky* by Bloomington Playwright Albert Powell.

*Aria da Capo* is a Commedia del Arte play that serves as a powerful allegory as well as an extremely witty commentary on natural resources and the simple workings of complex geopolitics. By turns touching and hilarious, this one-act is timeless and well-timed for today's waning natural resources.

*Sandcastle in the Sky*, a world premiere by Bloomington playwright Albert Powell, tells the simple story of a neighborhood dispute that arises from neighbors in conflict over the placement of a property line. A situation that most property owners can relate to, this small neighborly dispute quickly gets out of hand when both neighbors are supported on by a myriad of ill-intentioned characters who involve the entire neighborhood in a not-so-neighborly fight for survival.

**Project S: The Sophocles Revival** will be presented in July 2010, location and specific dates to be announced. This Double Feature of Wisdom Unwound includes Oedipus Rex and Antigone, both written by Sophocles circa 400BC.

*Oedipus Rex* is the myth of a King who rises and falls from power in the most unfortunate of ways – by killing his father and wedding his mother. Finally becoming aware of the horrible situation he unwittingly chose for himself, he stabs out his eyes and leaves utter chaos for his two sons and two daughters to sort out after his death.

*Antigone* is a continuation of this tale, although it begins after the sons of Oedipus kill one another to inherit his throne. Antigone, one of the two daughters left to mourn, finds herself asserting what small might she has to stand up for what she feels is right under the tyranny that her uncle Creon bestows on the Kingdom.