



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Kathy Graves
612-928-7003
Kathy@parenteaugraves.com

For immediate release

www.tenthousandthings.org

Ten Thousand Things Announces Its 2011–12 Season

(Minneapolis, MN) —Ten Thousand Things Theater will offer a new adaptation of Carlo Goldoni’s *Il Campiello*, Shakespeare’s *As You Like It*, and a new play by Kira Obolensky—*Vasa Lisa*—for its 2011–12 season. In addition, the company will join with the Brooklyn, NY-based Theater of War Productions to present local staged readings of Sophocles’ *Ajax* for mixed military-civilian audiences.

“We are delighted that our next season is particularly focused on women—both in terms of opportunities for women actresses, playwrights, and directors, as well as opportunities to tell women’s stories,” says Artistic Director Michelle Hensley. “The line-up promises to create much richness and depth for all our audience members, both male and female!”

The season opens in October with Steven Epp’s new adaptation of *Il Campiello* by Carlo Goldoni. Directed by Michelle Hensley, the cast features Sarah Agnew, Nathan Keepers, Elise Langer, Randy Reyes, and Namir Smallwood. The commedia-inspired play centers on four scrappy, hard-working, hard-playing families whose daily lives on a small square are interrupted by the arrival of a mysterious wealthy stranger during Carnival. The show begins its tour to prisons, housing projects and homeless shelters October 13 and concludes with four weekends of public performances: October 28–30 at Open Book, November 4–6 and 11–13 at Plymouth Congregational Church, then back to Open Book November 18–20.

In February, Ten Thousand Things explores Shakespeare’s tale of those who have suffered great loss, their exile into the forest, and the hope and comfort they find there with William Shakespeare’s *As You Like It*. Lear de Bessonet, who directed *My Fair Lady* in 2010, returns to direct a cast featuring Aimee Bryant, Pearce Bunting, Maggie Chestovich, Bradley Greenwald, Will Harper and Kimberly Richardson. The show begins its tour February 2, with public performances at Open Book Thursdays–Sundays, February 16–March 11 (TTT will add a Thursday evening show to the run of *As You Like It* to accommodate audience demand).

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The 2011–12 Season concludes with a new play by Kira Obolensky with music by Peter Vitale. *Vasa Lisa*, based on Russian folk tales, traces the journey of a young woman who ventures into a dangerous woods to confront Baba Yaga the witch. Michelle Hensley will direct. Public performances are May 4–6, 11–13, 25–27 at Open Book, and May 18–20 at Minnesota Opera Center.

All three TTT productions will tour to prisons, housing projects, homeless shelters and other non-traditional locations both in the Twin Cities and in three greater Minnesota locations: Worthington, Rochester and Pine City.

In addition to its three-show season, TTT will join with Theater of War (TOW) Productions for local readings of Sophocles' *Ajax*. "This ancient play timelessly and universally depicts the psychological and physical wounds inflicted upon warriors by war," says TOW Artistic Director Bryan Doerries. "By presenting it to military audiences, our hope is to destigmatize psychological injury and open a safe space for dialogue about the challenges faced by service members, veterans, and their caregivers and families." Specific dates and locations of the readings (tentatively scheduled for November–December 2011) will be announced in September.

Tickets for Ten Thousand Things' 2011-12 season will go on sale in early September. More information is available at www.tenthousandthings.org.

ABOUT TEN THOUSAND THINGS

Ten Thousand Things productions bring lively, intelligent theater to people with little access to the wealth of the arts. This award-winning theater company invigorates ancient tales, classic stories, and contemporary plays through its search for honest, open interactions between actors and audience. Theater-goers experience the immediacy and vibrancy of theater through a performance in which there is no stage and actors perform in the middle of the audience, inches away from patrons. With minimal sets and costumes, the finest quality actors in the region fully engage the audience by distilling the story to its essence. Up close, with no distractions, audience members can observe facial expressions and body gestures in startling detail, lending an immediacy, authenticity and intimacy that no other theater in the nation provides. City Pages named TTT "2010 Best Small Theater" and Artistic Director Michelle Hensley "Best Director." Minnesota Monthly also recently chose Hensley as Best Director of 2010. The company also won the Sally Award for Vision in 2011.

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Ten Thousand Things Theater Company...
Because theater is richer when EVERYONE is in the audience.