



**Teatro del Pueblo**  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TEATRO DEL PUEBLO presents:

### **The 9th Annual Political Theatre Festival: February 25 - March 13, 2010**

MINNEAPOLIS & SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA – For the ninth successive year, Teatro del Pueblo confronts those topics which most other theatres politely avoid when they take to the stage during the 2010 Political Theatre Festival: “Across the Divide.” Traverse the divisions between gender and geography. Delve into the debates on justice and immigration. Laugh until you cry. The festival opens at the Gremlin Theatre in St. Paul, February 25 – March 7, and concludes March 11 – 13, at Intermedia Arts in Minneapolis.

This year’s festival is comprised of three series of plays by a range of local and national Latino playwrights. Series A and B, three plays each, alternate performances from February 25 through March 7 at the Gremlin Theatre in St. Paul. For Series C, Teatro teams up with Pangea World Theater and the Intermedia Arts Catalyst Series to present *NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue*, a special performance by Miamian artist Teo Castellanos. It closes the festival, playing from March 11 to 13 at Intermedia Arts in Minneapolis. Republican or Democrat, Latino or not, audiences are sure to leave the 2010 Political Theatre Festival with fresh insights and a deeper understanding of important socio-political issues of our day.

#### **Series A:**

*THE AMERICAN IS DREAMING*, written by Ignacio Zulueta, directed by Nels Lennes

This interactive, improv-based show follows the Immigration and Naturalization process for citizenship in America. No two performances are alike, as each performance is altered based on the audience’s input throughout the play.

*WHATEVER AND DELICATELY*, written by Pia Wilson, directed by Dionne Lavolette

Two women with very different perspectives on life find themselves in a long conversation in the ladies’ restroom of an upscale Mexican restaurant. Their conversation reveals how wrong first impressions can be when one takes the time to look beyond the surface.

*AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES*, written by Dominic Orlando, directed by Brian Balcom

A *New York Times* article gives the name of an illegal immigrant who died while she was being detained by the Division of Immigrant Health Services. Her family’s lawyer seeks out answers about her death, but the Immigration and Naturalization Services Manager denies any involvement with this dark case.

February 25 and 27 at 8pm, February 28 at 7pm, March 5 at 8pm, and March 7 at 2pm  
at the Gremlin Theatre, 2400 University Ave., St. Paul, MN 55114

#### **Series B:**

*EMBASSY OF THE AMERICAS*, written by Dominic Orlando Matt Sciple

One man’s trying ordeal to get an entrance visa into the US at the American embassy becomes a test of wills. He must decide whether it is worth it to follow all the rules and procedures, regardless of whether or not they make sense. He wants to become an American because he loves America, but is that enough?

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*SARITA, THE FROWNING IMMIGRANT*, written by Guillermo Reyes, directed by Harry Waters, Jr.

A girl from El Salvador comes to Los Angeles and undergoes a series of surgeries to restore her smile. This piece touches on the ironies of life as an immigrant in the US and how a simple smile can change your life.

*THE FREE MARKET*, written by Dominic Orlando, directed by Brian Balcom

A man is unexpectedly confronted by his past late one night when an undocumented visitor shows up and reminds him of his prior transgression. The audience decides who is the criminal and who, the victim?

February 26 at 8pm, February 28 at 2pm, and March 3, 4, and 6 at 8pm  
at the Gremlin Theatre, 2400 University Ave., St. Paul, MN 55114

**Series C:**

*N.E. 2<sup>nd</sup> AVENUE*, written and performed by Teo Castellanos

This one-man play inspired by the diverse personalities in Miami was the recipient of the prestigious 2003 Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. A jitney (a small, Caribbean bus) becomes a metaphor for a journey that takes the audience through the bumpy streets of Miami. With poignancy and humor, the profoundly rich and textured mix of Miamian cultures emerges: Cuban, Haitian, Jamaican, Puerto Rican, Jewish, Gay/Lesbian, and African American. *N.E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue* brings voices to Miami's marginalized urban populations, exploring underlying issues of racism and social injustice, acknowledging the differences among us and ultimately discovering the common threads that bind us together.

March 11 – 13 at 8pm  
at Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55408

**Tickets:**

Advanced tickets are available for purchase at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/13486> or by calling 1-800-838-3006. General admission tickets are \$15 a piece; \$12 for Students, Seniors, and Fringe Button-holders; and \$11 for groups of 10 or more. (To make group reservations or reservations for educational matinéés, call 651-224-8806.)

Pay-what-you-can performances will be held Feb. 25 at 8pm; Feb. 28 at 7pm; and Mar. 3 at 8pm. No reservations will be taken these nights unless tickets are purchased in advance for regular price.

The Political Theatre Festival is made possible by the Star Grant from the City of Saint Paul and by the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council through an appropriation by the MN Legislature. Pangea World Theater is a NPN Partner of the National Performance Network (NPN). This project is made possible in part by support from the NPN Performance Residency Program. Major contributors of NPN include the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency), the MetLife Foundation and the Nathan Cummings Foundation.

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