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### **The 9th Annual Political Theatre Festival:** Pay-what-you-can performances make theatre affordable for all

MINNEAPOLIS & SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA – Tonight, at 8:00pm, the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, the Teatro del Pueblo opens its 9<sup>th</sup> annual Political Theatre Festival at the Gremlin Theatre in St. Paul, Minnesota. What's unique about tonight's performance, however, is how tickets are being sold: on a first-come, first-serve, pay-what-you-can basis.

Reflective of Teatro's strong commitment to economic and social justice, a pay-what-you-can ticketing system allows those to attend who might not otherwise be able to afford a ticket to the show. "As part of our mission, it is important for us to be accessible to the community," says Al Justiniano, Artistic Director of Teatro del Pueblo. "Even though we are a nonprofit organization and rely heavily on funding to survive, we want to make sure the economically disadvantaged are not excluded from our conversations."

This year's festival is comprised of three series of plays by a range of local and national Latino playwrights, all united within the theme of "Across the Divide." The plays traverse geo-political divides and confront the infamous "gender gap," among other social justice issues. 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.

Series A will be presented at this evening's pay-what-you-can performance. In addition, two more pay-what-you-can nights are scheduled: the 7pm performance of Series A on Sunday February 28, and the 8pm performance of Series B on Wednesday, March 3.

More information may be found on Teatro's web site, [www.teatrodelpueblo.org](http://www.teatrodelpueblo.org). Reservations for the festival's regular performances may be made 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, call 651-224-8806.)

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