To do white hot drama, in a tiny black box, with a little red twist

Redtwist Theatre is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization

Michael Colucci
Artistic Director
Jan Ellen Graves
Managing Director
Johnny Garcia
Development Outreach Coordinator
Kevin McDonald
Literary Manager
Catherine Miller
Casting Director
Charles Bonilla
Box Office Manager

March 30, 2015
Contact: Michael Colucci 773-728-7529, michael@redtwist.org

PRESS RELEASE – CHICAGO

Redtwist Theatre presents

Arthur Miller’s rarely performed play

THE AMERICAN CLOCK
A Vaudeville
By Arthur Miller
Directed by Jan Ellen Graves

Opens Saturday, April 18, 2015, at 3pm (Press opening)
Thu, Fri, Sat, 7:30pm; Sun, 3pm thru Sun, May 17

Reprising our hit show from 2005—a cast of 19 playing over 50 characters

Highly Recommended – Hedy Weiss, 1/20/05, Chicago Sun-Times
Critic’s Pick – Kerry Reid, 1/21/05, Chicago Tribune

Rediscover some of the favorite songs from the ’20s and ’30s

Featuring Jeff-Award winners Brian Parry, Aaron Kirby along with other Redtwist Company members--Elizabeth Argus, Johnny Garcia, Debra Rodkin, and Michael Sherwin.

Arthur Miller’s timeless treasure, The American Clock, is a taut, uncompromising, yet highly compassionate microscope of the Great Depression, covering an entire society over many years, yet zeroing in on a few select lives as they climb a mountain of despair and reach for fresh air through the crushing underbelly of a crumbling society. Miller elevates the resilient spirit of everyday people through song and story, during the nation’s worst crisis of the 20th century. It was a time when people tried to make the best of it by gathering together to sing songs of hope and joy. Only one original song called “Sittin’ Around,” was included in the script. Arthur Miller suggests other songs from the era but the final music selection is unique to every production. This production includes “Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries,” “On the Sunny Side of the Street,” “I’m Sittin’ on Top of the World,” and more. The American Clock is not a musical. It’s a play with music that emerges from the souls of individuals who long for a ray of sunshine during the bleakest of times. Based in part on Hard Times by Studs Terkel, there are no superstars or tragic heroes. There is only you and me.

PRODUCTION HISTORY OF THE PLAY

The American Clock was first produced by the Harold Clurman Theatre in New York City in November, 1980, where it was performed at the Biltmore Theatre. It had a pre-Broadway run at the Spoleto Festival in South Carolina in May of that year. Given its large cast and the wide scope of its subject (American society during The Great Depression), the play is a substantial challenge to produce and thus is rarely presented on American stages. Miller himself found the play daunting to conceive and write. He began working on the script in the early 1970s and did not reach the final draft until the 1984 production at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, which was reinterpreted as “a vaudeville” with great success at the National Theatre in London in 1986 where it received two Olivier nominations (for Best Play, and Peter Wood for Best Director). The Chicago premiere was at Court Theatre in 1988, under the direction of Richard Russell.
Ramos. It has been produced once in Chicago since that time, at Redtwist Theatre (formerly Actors Workshop Theatre) in 2005 under the direction of Jan Ellen Graves.

CAST (in alphabetical order)
Brenton Abram-Copenhaver (Jesse Livermore, Frank Howard, Graham, Ralph, Ryan, Piano Mover)
Elizabeth Argus (Diana Morgan, Grace, Lucille)
Adam Bitterman (Durant, Judge Bradley, Mississippi Sheriff, Kapush)
Mark Bowman (Pianist)
Melonie Collmann (Rose Baum)
Abby Dillion (Harriet Taylor, Doris, Lucy)
Beau Forbes (Frank, Farmer, Sidney Margolies)
Caleb Fortune (Dr. Rosman, Joe, Charley)
Jeff Gamlin (Moe Baum)
Johnny Garcia (Tony, Brewster, Toland, Piano Mover)
Benjamin Kirberger (Waiter, Farmer, Quinn, Rudy, Dugan)
Aaron Kirby (Lee Baum)
Jerry M. Miller (Grandpa, Bidder, Bush)
Semaj Miller (Clarence, Bidder, Banks, Isaac)
Brian Parry (Arthur Robertson)
Debra Rodkin (Fanny, Irene)
Sarah R. Sapperstein (Thief, Miss Fowler, Edie)
Michael Sherwin (Clayton, Henry Taylor, Stanislaus)
Rebecca Wolfe (Mrs. Taylor, Isabel, Myrna)

Understudies
Stevie Chaddock (female understudy)
Mike Danovich (male understudy)
Hilary Hensler (female understudy)
J. Keegan Siebken (male understudy)
Stephen Smith (male understudy)

STAFF
Jan Ellen Graves (Director), Leah Slater (Assistant Director), Allison Queen (Stage Manager), Melissa Nelson (Assistant Stage Manager), Eric Luchen (Set Designer), Kathryn Lesko (Lighting Designer), Karli Blalock (Sound Designer), Allison M. Smith (Costume Designer), Angela M. Campos (Prop Designer), Catherine Miller (Casting Director), Jan Ellen Graves (Graphic Designer & Marketing), Charles Bonilla (Box Office Manager), E. Malcolm Martinez (Box Office Associate), Johnny Garcia (Box Office Associate/Associate Producer), Jan Ellen Graves & Michael Colucci (Producers)

SCHEDULE
Opens: Sat, April 18, 3pm, (Note: there is no 7:30pm performance on April 18)
Runs: Thu, Fri, Sat, 7:30pm; Sun, 3pm
Closes: Sun, May 17
Running Time: Approximately 2:20 total, which includes one intermission
Previews: $15; Wed, Thu, Fri, April 15, 16, 17, at 7:30pm
Tickets: Thursdays, $30; Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, $35 (seniors & students $5 off)

RESERVATIONS
Call: 773-728-7529
Reservation link: www.redtwist.org
Redtwist is located at 1044 W Bryn Mawr, 2 blks W of LSD, 2 blks E of the Red Line EL station
Street parking (paybox til 10pm; free Sundays) available on Bryn Mawr, side streets, & Broadway
Please reserve 48 hrs in advance. Credit cards accepted by phone and online to guarantee seating.

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