



626 E. Kilbourn, Suite 802
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3237

(414) 347-1685

Fax (414) 347-1690

mpt@milwaukeepublictheatre.org
www.milwaukeepublictheatre.org

Media Contact

Barbara Leigh

414-347-1685

barbara@milwaukeepublictheatre.org

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

Azeeza Islam,

OMT/AMT Director

414-349-5219

azeezaislam@yahoo.com

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NEW MUSICAL TURNS TRASH INTO TREASURE

An original blues/hip-hop musical features life-sized puppets made from found objects and recycled material at Lincoln Center of the Arts on Friday, May 7. Milwaukee Public Theatre's (MPT) ***One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure*** is about values, recycling, and the preservation of a healthy environment.

In the story, young Abraham finds that the trash his mother has been nagging him to take out has a life of its own. Creatures emerge and teach him valuable lessons through rhythm, song, and movement. He discovers treasure among the thrown-away objects and in the part he can play in building a better tomorrow.

Playwright/Director Azeeza Islam, MPT's Associate Artistic Director, has assembled an exciting artistic team. Music Director Ernie Brusubardis leads the professional ensemble of Larry Reed and Sheri Williams Pannell on vocals, Duane Stuermer on bass, Marcus Gibbons, on drums and Olusegun Sijuwade on sax and flute. The multi-cultural cast includes young adult and student performers: Joshua Brantley, Samuel Buchanan, Stephanie Holt, Sonya King, Lynaira Navarro, Andrew Parchman, Michael Reece, Tulsi Shah, Dion Smith, and Kristofer Thompson

Students from Lincoln Avenue, Pierce, Fratney and Auer Avenue elementary schools and Lincoln Center of the Arts created small puppets and other art objects from cast-away materials in Recycled Art Workshops led by Set Designer/Puppeteer Ron Scot Fry. Lincoln Avenue students also participated in Trashion Fashion workshops with Recycled Fashion Designer Angela Smith as part of MPT's "Trash to Treasure" project.

- A public show is scheduled for Friday, May 7th at 7:00 pm at Lincoln Center of the Arts, 820 E. Knapp Street, Milwaukee. The play runs about 60 minutes. There is ample free parking in a well-lit lot. Ticket prices are family-friendly at \$5 for children, seniors and people with disabilities and \$10 for adults. Group discounts are available. Contact MPT at 414-347-1685 or angela@milwaukeepublictheatre.org.
- Environmental groups are invited to display literature and talk about their activities. Those interested in supporting this project should contact MPT Director Barbara Leigh at 414-347-1685 or barbara@milwaukeepublictheatre.org.
- MPT's "Trash to Treasure" project activities continue into the summer, with more Recycled Art and Trashion Fashion workshops as well as parade puppet and float workshops in Milwaukee neighborhoods. These activities will tie in to the 2nd Annual All-City People's Parade on Labor Day.

The production is partially funded by the Elizabeth Brinn Foundation, the Faye McBeath Foundation, the Gardner Foundation, the Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors Youth Foundation, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation Abert Fund, Milwaukee County CAMPAC, the Helen Bader Foundation, Milwaukee Public Schools Partnership for the Arts, the United Performing Arts Fund, and numerous individuals and organizations. More information on MPT is available at www.milwaukeepublictheatre.org.

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