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FIRST STAGE'S NEW PLAY WORKSHOP

THE BORROWERS
Directed by Desiree Rosas

Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, 325 W. Walnut Street, Milwaukee
Saturday, February 26 at 7 p.m.

For everyone ages 8 and up.

Milwaukee, Wis. (February 23, 2011) – First Stage Children's Theater's presents its latest New Play Workshop of THE BORROWERS on Saturday February 26 at 7 p.m. at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, 325 W. Walnut St. in Milwaukee. Tickets to New Play Workshops are free to First Stage subscribers and \$5 to the general public, available for purchase at the door up to one hour before the start of the performance.

New Play Workshops are staged readings of new plays in consideration for upcoming seasons. Following the performance, audience members can participate in an extended talk-back, where they have the opportunity to provide our Artistic Director with feedback and input into the future production of the play.

THE BORROWERS, based on the book by Mary Norton and adapted for the stage by Charles Way, is the story of Arriety Clock, who lives a quiet little life with her parents under the floorboards. They just "borrow" whatever they may need from the humans above until the boy

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who lives upstairs sees Mr. Clock. That is how the whole world changes shape. Forced to flee the house to save themselves, the Clocks begin the journey of a lifetime out in the wide, and ever so large, world. As they struggle to survive, they make new friends and learn that, maybe, the world isn't such a scary place after all.

Director Desiree Rosas is currently the Company Manager for First Stage. She has worked in many capacities at First Stage from actor, stage manager, and teaching artist. Desiree also directed First Stage's Multi-Cultural School Assembly Tour and TOMAS AND THE LIBRARY LADY in 2010. Along with working at First Stage, Desiree has worked with Skylight Opera Theatre, Milwaukee Public Theatre and The Mask and Puppet Theater. Desiree completed her BA in theatre from Doane College in Nebraska.

The adult cast of THE BORROWERS includes **Karen Estrada** as Homily, **Dan Katula** (member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers) as Pod and **Marcy Kearns** as Mrs. Driver/Aunt Lupy. Young performers include **Julia Vascan** of Glendale as Arriety, **Hans Wiersholm** of Whitefish Bay as Boy, **Rebecca Messnik** of Milwaukee as Gypsy Boy/Egglestina and **Joe Esten** of Cedarburg as Campfurl/Spiller/Uncle Hendreary.

For more information of New Play Workshops or other programs of First Stage Children's Theater, call 414.267.2961, email info@firststage.org or visit www.FirstStage.org.

First Stage Children's Theater is Milwaukee's premier, professional family theater. Founded in 1987, the mission of the company is to touch hearts and transform lives by creating exceptional theater experiences for young people and families through professional theater productions, Theater Academy training that teaches life skills through stage skills, and dynamic in-school education programs that promote learning through theater. First Stage is a member of the Theater Wisconsin and Milwaukee Arts Partners, and is a cornerstone member of the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF).

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