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West End Players Guild presents Theresa Rebeck's spellbinding thriller ***Mauritius***

ST. LOUIS (March 22, 2010) – West End Players Guild wraps up its 99th season in April with Theresa Rebeck's taut thriller about stamp collecting, ***Mauritius,*** directed by Sean Ruprecht-Belt.

And no, stamp collecting is not an odd subject for a "taut thriller." In ***Mauritius***, two feuding half-sisters inherit a stamp collection that may (or may not) include the crown jewels of philately – the inestimably valuable Mauritius one-penny and two-penny "post office" stamps. One sister's desire to sell the stamps and reap the fortune draws them into the world of a seedy trio of collectors with lots of money and few scruples. The story, wrote Ben Brantley in his New York Times review of the play's Broadway premiere in 2007, "unfolds in a series of Darwinian power shifts with staccato dialogue in which it's impossible to tell who has the upper hand or who's scamming whom."

Sarajane Alverson headlines the cast as Jackie, the sister for whom selling the stamps would be a one-way ticket to a new life. Allison Hoppe plays Mary, the sister who abandoned her mother and half-sister only to mysteriously re-appear in time to share the estate. Stephen Peirick is Dennis, an oily character who helps Jackie navigate the backwaters of the collecting world (or may be leading her to ruin by another client – you decide). Charles Heuvelman plays Philip, a stamp shop owner with his own plans for the stamps and past scores to settle. Matt Hanify plays Sterling, a sociopathic collector with money to burn and no regrets about ruining lives or breaking bones to get what he wants.

Mauritius will be presented Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m., April 16-25. All performances are at the theatre in the Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 Union Blvd. There is free parking in the lot behind the building (adjacent to the theatre entrance). Tickets are $18 and are available at the box office or on-line at www.WestEndPlayers.org. Reservations and more information also are available by phone at 314/367-0025.

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Who do you trust? After her mother's death, Jackie (played by Sarajane Alverson) realizes that the stamp collection she has inherited includes the two most valuable stamps in the world. Dennis (played by Stephen Peirick) knows the collecting world and can help Jackie sell the stamps quickly and quietly for millions of dollars. But can she trust him? You won't know until the final curtain – and even then, you won't be sure. The story unfolds in Theresa Rebeck's ***Mauritius***, directed by Sean Ruprecht-Belt and presented by the West End Players Guild. (PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN LAMB)

Tough as nails. Sterling (played by Matt Hanify, L) is rich, determined and not afraid to break bones to get what he wants. What he wants are the two most valuable postage stamps in the world, which happen to be in the stamp album that belongs to Jackie (Played by Sarajane Alverson). Dennis (played by Stephen Peirick) is an agent who is helping Jackie – or maybe he is setting her up to be done in by Sterling. The twists and turns unfold at breakneck speed in the West End Players Guild's production of Theresa Rebeck's ***Mauritius***, directed by Sean Ruprecht-Belt. (PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN LAMB)

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