

West End Players Guild
Big Theatre in a Small Space



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West End Players Guild to open its 2009-10 season with an evening of *Tomfoolery*

ST. LOUIS (September 4, 2009) – Rogue states building nuclear weapons! The environment in peril! Teen sexuality out of control! A war on drugs -- and drugs are winning! The Catholic Church in crisis! All stories ripped from the headlines – of fifty years ago.

That’s the stuff of *Tomfoolery*, a relentlessly witty musical revue featuring more than two dozen songs by Tom Lehrer, the popular math professor-turned-satirist who entertained American audiences in the 1950s and 1960s. West End Players Guild presents *Tomfoolery* for a three-week run September 25 through October 11.

Lehrer, who also wrote music for NBC’s satirical news program “That Was The Week That Was,” stepped away from his songwriting and performing in the late 60s to return to full-time teaching. In 1978, Cameron Mackintosh and Robin Ray sought Lehrer’s blessing to produce a stage show featuring Lehrer’s “greatest hits.” Lehrer agreed, and the result was *Tomfoolery*, which had its New York premiere in 1981.

The WEPG production features Jane Abling, Matt Anderson, Andrew Hampton, Chuck Lavazzi and Elisabeth Zimmerman. Cindy Duggan directs the show, Charlie Mueller is the musical director and Russ Bettlach is the set and costume designer.

“Political satire sometimes doesn’t stand the test of time, but Lehrer’s songs seem as timely today as they were when he first performed them in coffee houses and concert halls decades ago,” said Renee Sevier-Monsey, president of WEPG. “It’s irreverent and very funny, and just what you would expect from a songwriter who once joked that he stopped doing political satire when the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Henry Kissinger, making political satire obsolete.”

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Tickets are \$20 at the box office, online at www.WestEndPlayers.org or by phone at 314/367-0025. Friday and Saturday performances (and a special Thursday performance on October 8) are at 8 p.m. Sunday performances are at 2 p.m. All shows are in the theater at Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 Union Boulevard, St. Louis. There is ample free parking in the lot behind the church, just a few steps from the theater entrance.

WEPG also will present a FREE preview of *Tomfoolery* at 7:00 p.m. Friday, September 18th, as part of the Third Degree Glass Factory's monthly "Third Friday" event. Third Degree Glass Factory is located at 5200 Delmar in St. Louis.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: A photo of the *Tomfoolery* cast is attached below. Copies of this and other photos suitable for reproduction can be obtained by contacting Mark Abels at 314/504-0844 or wepgnews@WestEndPlayers.org



Matt Anderson (at the piano) and (L-R) Chuck Lavazzi, Jane Abing, Elisabeth Zimmerman and Andrew Hampton do the Vatican Rag in the West End Players Guild production of Tom Lehrer's *Tomfoolery*. *Tomfoolery* will be performed Sept. 25-Oct. 11 at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, with a special bonus performance on Thursday, Oct. 8, at 8 p.m., at Union Avenue Christian Church. For tickets and more information, visit www.WestEndPlayers.org or call 314/367-0025. (PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN LAMB)