

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ADDITIONAL INFO:** <http://www.strawshop.org>

**TICKETS:** <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/260668> or 800-838-3006 (24-hour phone sales)

## **Strawshop classic *This Land | Woody Guthrie* returns for Guthrie's centennial**

Strawshop introduces "vanishing discount" ticket pricing

**This Land | Woody Guthrie**, adapted and directed by Greg Carter  
from the drawing, writing, and music of Woody Guthrie

**Strawberry Theatre Workshop**

at the Erickson Theatre Off Broadway

1524 Harvard Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122

**September 6 – October 6, 2012**

Thursday – Saturday at 8:00 & Sunday at 2:00

**Press Night: Thursday, September 6 at 8:00 PM**

(Press tickets also available Friday, September 7 and Saturday, September 8 at 8:00 PM)

(Seattle) – Following hard on the heels of their successful revival of Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, Strawshop continues a season of agitation and propaganda with a second company classic, *This Land | Woody Guthrie*, a play for actors and puppets derived from the music, drawing, and writing of folk legend Woody Guthrie. Strawshop's 2004 production of *This Land* was the company's first show.

Woody Guthrie would have been 100 years old this year. What would he have thought of the America we've made? Guthrie's America, like ours, was embattled. His, like ours, was rocked by brutal violence, tarnished by bigotry and divisiveness, and alienated by ostentatious wealth and bitter, abject poverty. Yet, his songs describe a patriotism rooted in a deep love for Americans and a resolute belief in the idea of America, battered though it may be. "In a single lyric," says adapter/director Greg Carter, "Woody will tear your flag down and give you a reason to pick it back up." In *This Land*, puppets inspired by the photographs of famed dustbowl photographer Dorothea Lange bring sculptural dimension to Guthrie's messages of hope and activism, dignifying his archetypes just as he always sought to dignify and honor the ordinary Americans he sang about. The *Seattle P-I* called the 2004 production a "uniquely sophisticated...ritual celebrating human solidarity."

### **About the Artists**

*This Land* features **Bhama Roget** (Seattle Rep's *God of Carnage*, Re-bar's *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*) in her Strawshop debut, **Don Darryl Rivera** (Teatro Zinzanni's *Zirkus Fantasma*, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre's *Disney's Aladdin*), **Rob Burgess** (Strawshop's *Inherit the Wind*, lyricist for SCT's *Harold and the Purple Crayon*) and **Margaret Savas** (Strawshop's *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, Spyglass Puppet Theatre). Returning cast members from the 2004 production include celebrated director and performer **Sheila Daniels** (director of Strawshop's *Breaking the Code*, TPS Gregory Award for Outstanding Director 2010 and 2011), and **Clark Sandford** (Book-It's *Prairie Nocturne*). **Edd Key** reprises his role as Musical Director.

The Seattle Times said in 2004: “Several dozen Guthrie songs are performed here with conviction and twangy beauty, under the expert direction of Edd Key. (A native of Kentucky, Key clearly knows this music in his bones.)”

Lighting design is by **Jessica Trundy** (WET’s *Crave*, zoe|juniper’s *there ain’t no easy way out* at On the Boards). Sound design is by **Evan Mosher** (Strawshop’s *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, “Awesome” the band). Costume design is by **Ron Erickson** (Cornish Costume Design Area Head, Seattle Opera Wardrobe Head). The original puppets from the Minneapolis production were designed by Greg Carter and Paul Chamberlain. New characters, designed by Carter and **Katherine Stromberger** have been added to the puppet company for this production.

Strawshop’s founding Artistic Director **Greg Carter** helms the production as adapter, director, and scenic designer. Carter learned puppets at In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre in Minneapolis, where he originated *This Land*. Strawshop directing credits include *Inherit the Wind*, *Gutenberg*, *An Enemy of the People*, and *The Laramie Project*, for which he was nominated for a 2009 TPS Gregory Award for Outstanding Director.

### **About our *Vanishing Discount* Ticketing**

Strawshop is introducing a pioneering new pricing model for this show: the vanishing discount. **Every single seat will be discounted** for every week of the run except closing week, with the discount starting at two-thirds off full price (or \$10) during opening week and gradually “vanishing” (tickets for the second week will be \$15, for the third week \$20, the fourth \$25) until closing week, when only full price (\$30) tickets will be available. Strawshop hopes that these savings will encourage patrons to attend early in the run.

### **About Strawberry Theatre Workshop**

Founded in 2004 by Greg Carter, Strawberry Theatre Workshop is a professional theatre collective dedicated to socially engaged work of the highest caliber. Strawshop is a **Stranger Genius Award** winner, a four-time Seattle Times Footlight Award winner, and the only company to be nominated for a Theatre Puget Sound Gregory Award for Outstanding Production every year since the awards’ inception in 2009. Strawshop is one of three companies selected to operate the new 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Arts center, slated to open in 2014.

**Tickets for *This Land* | Woody Guthrie:** <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/260668>

#### **TICKET PRICES:**

Opening week (Sept 6,7,8,9): \$10 – 2/3 off full price

Second week (Sept 13, 14, 15, 16): \$15 – half off

Third week (Sept 20, 21, 22, 23): \$20 – 1/3 off

Fourth week (Sept 27, 28, 29, 30): \$25 – \$5 off

Closing week (Oct 4, 5, 6): \$30 – full price

Group discounts available throughout run

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1524 Harvard Avenue

Seattle, WA 98122

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