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For immediate release Contact:

September 6, 2022 **Michael Robins**

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**ILLUSION ANNOUNCES THE FIRST PRODUCTION OF ITS 2022/2023 HOME SEASON**

***FIVE MINUTES OF HEAVEN***

**Minneapolis, MN**

Illusion is excited to announce the world premiere of ***Five Minutes of Heaven*** adapted for the stage by Michael Egan from the award-winning screenplay by Guy Hibbert, October 7 to 23, 2022 at our new home in the Center for Performing Arts.

Directed by Illusion’s Executive Producing Director *Michael Robins*, the Performing Company features *Pierce Bunting* as Alistair Little and *Michael Egan* as Joe Griffin. The play also features *Ansa Akyea, Shana Berg,* and *Laura Esping.*

The Creative Team capturing the world of the play includes *Michael Hoover* (Scenic Designer), *Garvin Jellison* (Lighting Designer), *Amber Brown* (Costume Designer), *Eric Howell* (Fight Director & Film & Video Consultant), *Ursula K.* *Bowden* (Properties Coordinator) and *Tree O’Halloran* (Stage Manager).

Carlyle Brown, Mellon playwright in residence at Illusion had this to say about ***Five Minutes of Heaven***, “*It is a taut, poignant, suspenseful drama that takes us into the heart of political violence and asks the question, truth and reconciliation, is there forgiveness? Is it possible?”*

***Five Minutes of*** Heaven is a play about the effects of violence and the possibility of reconciliation. The story is a fiction based on an actual event. In 1975 during the “Troubles” in Northern Ireland, Alistair Little, a 17-year-old member of the Protestant Ulster Volunteer Force, murdered Jim Griffin, a 19-year-old Catholic. Griffin’s younger brother Joe, who was 11 at the time, witnessed the killing. Joe is haunted by the killing.

Alistair Little goes to prison for 12 years and after being released becomes deeply involved in anti-violence, restorative justice and peacebuilding throughout the world. Years later, Joe and Alistair are invited by a Television Program promoting healing to meet for the first time since the killing. The Producers plan to film Alistair and Joe at their moment of reconciliation.

Playwright Michael Egan adapted **Five Minutes of Heaven** from Guy Hibbert‘s award -winning screenplay (BAFTA and Sundance ) which was released as a film by the same title in 2009.

**Tickets**

All tickets are NAME YOUR PRICE and can be purchased through Illusion’s web site: [www.illusiontheater.org](http://www.illusiontheater.org) or via phone at 612-339-4944.

**Location: Illusion Theater**

Illusion Theater is located on the corner of 38th and Pleasant Avenue South, Minneapolis - a few blocks east of 38th and Lyndale in the Center for Performing Arts. 3754 Pleasant Ave South. The Theater is wheelchair accessible. Please call the box office at 612-339-4944 for information and accommodation needs or go to www.illusiontheater.org.

**Performance Schedule:**

Opens Friday October 7 at 7:30pm Opening

Saturday October 8 at 7:30pm

Sunday October 9 at 2:00pm

Wednesday October 12 at 7:30pm

Thursday Oct 13 at 7:30pm

Friday Oct 14 at 7:30pm

Saturday Oct 15 at 7:30pm

Sunday Oct 16 at 2:00pm Matinee

Wednesday Oct 19 at 7:30pm

Thursday Oct 20 at 7:30pm

Friday Oct 21 at 7:30pm

Saturday Oct 22 at 7:30pm

Closes Sunday Oct 23 at 2:00pm Matinee

**About Illusion Theater**

Illusion Theater was founded in1974 and presents its season in its new home in the Center for Performing Arts in South Minneapolis. Since the beginning, Producing Directors Michael Robins and Bonnie Morris have led Illusion Theater in illuminating the illusions, myths, and realities of our times and in using the power of theater to catalyze personal and social change. Tree O’Halloran joined Illusion as Associate Producer in 2021. Illusion has generated over 500 plays, developed thousands of artists, and has created ground-breaking educational works. Plays developed at Illusion have been produced in theaters throughout the world. Illusion’s work has catalyzed conversations in living rooms, kitchens, coffee houses, and boardrooms, and has led to transformations in policy, in organizations, in students, and in individuals.