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Youngblood Theatre to set both Milwaukee and Minneapolis ablaze with ARSON

Milwaukee, WI – Youngblood Theatre Company presents the world premiere of DRIVE ME TO ARSON by resident playwright Benjamin James Wilson from July 22-July 31 at the UWM Studio Theatre on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee main campus at 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

In **DRIVE ME TO ARSON**, young Avery Cannon is a run-of-the-mill, yet henpecked, poet by day and serial arsonist by night. Lost in a waking dream with no way out nor end in sight, Avey is accompanied by his aggravated girlfriend, a jaded psychiatrist and his patient, and a sardonic janitor who holds all the answers, or maybe none at all.

“With ARSON we have engaged ourselves in unique experience for our company,” says Artistic Director **Michael Cotey**. “Not only do we get to produce another world premiere of a play by our resident playwright, but we also get to take his play on the road.”

Following the Milwaukee run of ARSON, Youngblood will take the production to the Minnesota Fringe Festival for a five performance run at the University of Minnesota’s Rarig Center Thrust. Resident playwright **Benjamin James Wilson** previously made his debut in Youngblood’s inaugural season with GOD BRIDGE.

In conjunction with the Milwaukee-run of ARSON, Youngblood and the BloodCenter of Wisconsin will host a blood drive on Friday, July 23 in the INOVA Gallery from 2:00pm to 6:00pm, with a reception to follow. The INOVA Gallery is located on the second floor of the UWM theatre building. Those who donate blood will receive tickets to the performance that evening.

“Nobody knows more than us how important blood donations are,” says Cotey, referring to the January stabbing of co-founder **Andrew Edwin Voss** where ninety units of blood were used to save his life. “This is our way of saying thank you for saving our friend’s life. We hope it is the beginning of frequent blood drives sponsored by our company.”

The cast includes **Tess Cinpinski, David Rothrock, Rich Gillard, Tommy Stevens, and Andrew Edwin Voss.**

Tickets are **\$12** and are available at the door or by calling the UWM box office: 414-229-4308. For more information visit www.youngbloodtheatre.com.

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Drive Me to Arson

July 22 – July 31, 2010

A new play by resident playwright Benjamin James Wilson

Directed by Lillian Tillson

Featuring Tess Cinpinski, Rich Gillard, David Rothrock, Tommy Stevens, and Andrew Edwin Voss

SYNOPSIS

Young Avery Cannon is a run-of-the-mill, yet henpecked, poet by day and serial arsonist by night. Lost in a waking dream with no way out nor end in sight, Avey is accompanied by his aggravated girlfriend, a jaded psychiatrist and his patient, and a sardonic janitor who holds all the answers, or maybe none at all. Loosely based on a Rupert Brooke poem, this new play by Youngblood's resident playwright Benjamin James Wilson is both darkly comedic and slightly terrifying. You will never look at an ice-scraper or Zippo® lighter the same way again!

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE – all tickets \$12.00

July 22 – July 31, 2010					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			22	23	24
			8:00pm ^O	8:00pm ^B	8:00pm
26	27	28	29	30	31
		8:00pm	8:00pm	8:00pm	8:00pm ^C
O = Opening; B = youngBLOOD DRIVE; C = Closing					

VENUE

UW-Milwaukee Studio Theatre
2400 East Kenwood Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI 53211

TICKETS

UWM Box Office
414-229-4308
Available at the door 1 hour prior to curtain or in advance by phone.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT YOUNGBLOODTHEATRE.COM

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About YOUNGBLOOD THEATRE COMPANY

Youngblood Theatre Company's mission is to support Milwaukee's emerging theatre artists by creating unique professional experiences for early-career actors and technicians.

In little over a year, Youngblood has achieved local and national attention for its cutting edge ensemble performances. The core company, comprised of University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee acting program graduates aggressively debuted in July of 2009 with a three-play festival (DAVID'S REDHAired DEATH, SAVAGE IN LIMBO, and the world premiere of GOD BRIDGE written by co-founder and resident playwright Benjamin James Wilson).

Performed at three different Milwaukee venues, Youngblood's inaugural productions surprised theatre-goers and critics alike with high caliber performances and staging.

In October 2009, Youngblood participated in the national reading of THE LARAMIE PROJECT: TEN YEARS LATER along with 150 other theatre companies worldwide. Youngblood was one of two Wisconsin entities to participate and the only Milwaukee company to host the reading.

Youngblood's latest productions, RED LIGHT WINTER by Adam Rapp and SPIRITS TO ENFORCE by Mickie Maher, both achieved regional acclaim. In response to SPIRITS TO ENFORCE, Paul Kosidowski of Milwaukee Magazine stated:

“But once the revels have ended, you feel like something earth-shattering has taken place...one of the pleasures of Spirits to Enforce is the thrill that Milwaukee now has a theater company to take on a piece like this...It's unlike anything you've seen in Milwaukee in quite a few years. And...it's more than welcome.”

This summer Youngblood will continue its mission to support emerging artists by debuting another world premiere play by resident playwright Benjamin James Wilson: DRIVE ME TO ARSON. Following the show's initial run in Milwaukee the company will then take to the Minnesota Fringe Festival in Minneapolis and return for another thrilling season of daring theatre by the next generation of Milwaukee theatre.

“The company has the potential depth to be another Theater X, and with time and stellar mentoring, Youngblood could be a future Steppenwolf.” – Third Coast Digest

Visit YoungbloodTheatre.com for ticket details and more information.

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