

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2016

CONTACT: Rebecca Moder
Marketing Director
414.278.7780 | rebecca.moder@nextact.org



Next Act Theatre presents World Premiere this November

Milwaukee, WI – This November Next Act Theatre will present the long-awaited World Premiere of **unSILENT NIGHT by John Kishline**. This ingenious tale of broadcast suspense will be trimmed with the season's music, stories, nostalgia and the possibility of redemption. It will run November 17 - December 11, 2016 at Next Act's home, 255 S. Water St., in Walker's Point.

It is December 24, 1953 in Milwaukee. Frank is wrapping up his annual, offbeat Christmas Eve radio show at WNXT. Producer Liz has just left for her snowy drive to the Oostburg in-laws; all is reasonably calm. As Frank is signing off for the night he's surprised by an unexpected visitor. The troubled intruder has much on his mind. Frank jumps back on the air, turning to his listeners for help.

"The modern miracle of radio brought thousands of people a magical connection to other worlds, a lifeline that told them they weren't alone. The airwave conversation still works," says Producing Artistic Director David Ceasarini.

This Next Act original will contrast the nostalgia-laced memories of holidays-gone-by with a more realistic view from the street brought into the studio by the visitor. His name is Earl, an African American Korean War vet, who is desperately seeking help to reconcile the many conflicts and burdens he carries as an ex-soldier and a black man in 1950s America. unSILENT NIGHT is a revealing conversation in which all parties derive a better understanding of one another. That's where the redemption comes in.

Opening night is Friday, November 18. Tickets range from \$28 - \$38 and may be purchased by calling 414-278-0765 or visiting www.nextact.org.

Edward Morgan will direct the production. He has also worked closely with Mr. Kishline in the writing and development of this project. The cast features **Andrew Muwonge** as Sgt. Earl Venable,

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Molly Rhode as Liz, **Doug Jarecki** as station manager Roger Hufnagle and others, and **David Cecsarini** as Frank.

The production team includes longtime resident Scenic Designer **Rick Rasmussen** (THE TAMING, BRAVO, CARUSO!, BACK OF THE THROAT), Lighting Designer **Michael Van Dreser** (BRAVO, CARUSO!, IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE LIVE RADIO SHOW, PERFECT MENDACITY), Costume Designer **Dana Brzezinski** (BRAVO, CARUSO!, BACK OF THE THROAT, WELCOME HOME, JENNY SUTTER), Props Co-Designers **Shannon Sloan-Spice** and **Heidi Salter** (THE TAMING, MOTHERHOOD OUT LOUD, TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992), and Sound Designer and Next Act Producing Artistic Director **David Cecsarini**. Resident Production Stage Manager is **Jessica Connelly**.

The mission of Next Act Theatre is to engage the hearts and minds of audiences with compelling and intimate theatre productions to stimulate thought, foster the exchange of ideas and promote the development of new perspectives. Next Act Theatre celebrates 27 years of professional theatre.

UNSILENT NIGHT is generously sponsored by Sheldon & Marianne Lubar. Next Act Theatre's 2016-17 Season is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. Next Act Theatre is a proud member group of the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF).

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Fact Sheet

Who: Next Act Theatre
What: unSILENT NIGHT by John Kishline
Where: Next Act Theatre, 255 S Water St, Milwaukee, WI 53204
When: November 17 – December 11, 2016 (see calendar below for show times)
Description: December 24, 1953, Milwaukee – Frank is wrapping up his annual, offbeat Christmas Eve radio show at WNXT. Producer Liz has just left for her snowy drive to the Oostburg in-laws; all is reasonably calm. As Frank is signing off for the night he's surprised by an unexpected visitor. The troubled intruder has much on his mind. Frank jumps back on the air, turning to his listeners for help. Next Act brings you an ingenious tale of broadcast suspense trimmed with the season's music, stories, nostalgia and the possibility of redemption.
Ticket Prices: \$28 weekday matinees | \$38 weekend matinees | \$33 all other performances
Ticket Office: 414-278-0765 or online www.nextact.org

The Ticket Office is open daily, noon to 5 pm or until show time.

November 17 – December 11, 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				17 PREVIEW 7:30	18 OPENING 7:30	19 4:30 P 8:00
20 2:00 7:00		22 7:30 P/T	23 1:30 7:30 P	24 THANKSGIVING	25 7:30	26 4:30 8:00
27 2:00 P/T			30 1:30 7:30	1 7:30 P/T	2 7:30	3 4:30 8:00
4 2:00 P/T	5 PWYC 7:30		7 7:30	8 7:30 T	9 7:30 P	10 4:30 8:00
11 2:00	P = Personal Preview (Begins 30 minutes prior to curtain) T = Talkback PWYC = Pay What You Can					