



STEPPINGSTONE THEATRE
55 Victoria Street North, St. Paul 55104

For immediate release

Media Contacts: Robyn Priestley, (651) 292-0321, robyn@tripodservices.com
Christine Shyne (651) 225-9265, christine@steppingstonetheatre.org
Images available.

World Premiere

My Grandmother's Tsotchkes: Tales of a Gambling Grandma

by Stuart Pimsler

produced in collaboration with Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater
music by Gary Rue

March 12-28, 2010

In this warm and intimate story, a young girl learns all about her Russian Jewish grandmother through the trinkets Grandma collected throughout her life. Each one of those tsotchkes—a bag of pennies, a box of chess pieces, an old black shoe, and a glass ring—magically transport the girl into adventurous stories of her grandma's flight from Russia to America.

Told primarily through energetic dance and movement choreographed by Stuart Pimsler, **My Grandmother's Tsotchkes** tells the stories of the traditions that sustain families generation to generation. Based on the wonderful children's book, *Tales of a Gambling Grandma* by Dayal Kaur Khalsa, Stuart Pimsler's stage adaptation is a moving tribute to everyone's family story, reflected in the immigrant experience of one feisty grandma and her descendants.

Stuart Pimsler, the playwright of **My Grandmother's Tsotchkes: Tales of a Gambling Grandma** says, "As a young boy growing up in New York City, I spent much time with my Grandmother who lived a short subway ride from my home. My Grandmother, like many immigrants of her generation, brought many things with her when she came to America. She brought her childhood stories, often filled with life lessons and set in a world unfamiliar to me. My Grandmother also brought her beloved keepsakes, most of which were only as valuable as the memories they recalled. She told me that these keepsakes had a special name in her Yiddish tongue – "tsotchkes".

"Years later, in discovering the magical world of children literature as a rookie father, I came upon the books of Dayal Kaur Khalsa. An illustrator turned author, Ms. Khalsa had also spent her childhood in New York City before becoming a Canadian citizen. Ms. Khalsa's, *Tales of a Gambling Grandma*, drew me into the familiar world of my youth through her whimsical, painterly images and the heartfelt relationship shared between a Russian grandmother and May, her American granddaughter. The wit and love conveyed in Grandma's mentoring of May, 'Always keep borscht in the refrigerator in case the

Cossacks come to your house in Queens!’ compelled me to want to bring their relationship to life. It is an honor to be the first playwright in the United States to adapt one of Ms. Khalsa’s books for the stage.

Stuart goes on to say, “I am greatly looking forward to this first-time collaboration with SteppingStone Theater who has generously agreed to help present this world premiere.”

SteppingStone’s productions are professionally created and produced, with talents drawn from the best in the Twin Cities and throughout the U.S. The young actors are rigorously trained, but remain fresh and vibrant, bringing their joy and sense of fun to all SteppingStone’s productions. Enjoyed by all ages, adults as well as children, SteppingStone’s productions are affordable, high-quality entertainment.

Performance Information:

All performances of are **My Grandmother’s Tsotchkes** in SteppingStone’s new theatre, a beautifully renovated 100-year-old architectural gem located at 55 Victoria Street North, one block north of Summit Avenue in the Historic Hill District of St. Paul.

My Grandmother’s Tsotchkes is appropriate for all ages. SteppingStone Theatre is fully-accessible to persons with disabilities, and has regularly-scheduled ASL & Audio Described performances. Interpreters can be scheduled for other performances at no additional cost upon request. For more information, call 651-225-9265.

Ticket Prices:

Adults: \$11.00

Children & Seniors: \$9.00

Groups 20+: \$7.00 (scholarships available)

Purchase your tickets in advance online and pay just \$7.00 per ticket

(buy before 8:00pm Thursday evenings for weekend shows)

Performance times and tickets are available at (651) 225-9265 or www.steppingstonetheatre.org.

SteppingStone Theatre is Saint Paul's professional theatre for young audiences, serving tens of thousands of diverse youth, families and educators each year. The theatre has become a premier destination for affordable theatre education and entertainment, and has received numerous local and national awards including the Aurand C. Harris Children's Theatre Award, Sally Ordway Irvine Award for Education, and the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Award.

A theatre serving nearly 70,000 youth, families, and educators from diverse ethnic, social and economic backgrounds each year itself, SteppingStone has become a premier destination for interactive, youth-centered theatre.

Dates & Times

Friday, March 12 – 7 pm

Saturday, March 13 – 7 pm

Sunday, March 14 – 3 pm

Tuesday, March 16 – 10 am & noon

Wednesday, March 17 – 10 am & noon

Thursday, March 18 – 10 am & noon

Friday, March 19 – 7 pm (Audio Described performance)

Saturday, March 20 – 7 pm

Sunday, March 21 – 3 pm (ASL Interpreted performance)

Tuesday, March 23 – 10 am & noon

Wednesday, March 24 – 10 am & noon

Thursday, March 25 – 10 am & noon

Friday, March 26 – 7 pm

Saturday, March 27 – 7 pm

Sunday, March 28 – 3 pm

*SteppingStone Theatre – Magic Happens Here!
Affordable, High-Quality Theatre for All Ages*