

# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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## “Beautiful City”

Theatre Mir presents a darkly comic fable  
about urban development and conflicting interests

Chicago DCA Storefront Theater

March 4 – April 3, 2010

Theater Mir, in association with Chicago DCA Theater, presents the Chicago professional premiere of ***Beautiful City***. The production, written George F. Walker, comes to Chicago DCA Theater’s Storefront Theater at 66 E. Randolph Street, from March 4 to April 3, 2010. Members of the press are invited to the opening performance on Friday, March 5, at 7:30 pm.

“This is the future” begins this darkly comic fable about architects, urban developers, crime families, law enforcement, and even a witch, all fighting for the soul and vision of a city. Set in an urban landscape ripe for redevelopment, the parable blends off-kilter characters, fast-paced storytelling, and stinging social satire in a tale of greed, corruption, and civic responsibility.

Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm and Sunday afternoons at 3 pm. There is an additional performance on Monday, March 15. Post-show discussions will follow the performances on March 11, 20, and 26. See the related events below for more information on these.

Tickets for ***Beautiful City*** are \$25 for general admission, \$20 for seniors, and \$15 for students. For those in the theater industry, tickets to the Monday, March 15, performance are \$5. Discounts are available for Chicago Cultural Center Mosaic Members, theater industry affiliates, military personnel, ADA companions, and large groups. All tickets are available by calling 312.742.TIXS (8497), visiting [www.dcatheater.org](http://www.dcatheater.org), or stopping by the box office, open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 pm; Sundays, noon to 4 pm; and one hour prior to each performance.

***Beautiful City*** centers around Tony Raft, a developer from an organized crime family, and his vision for the city - one that includes a hermetically sealed live/shop/work mall connected by exclusive underground tunnels to shield the well-heeled from the truth of poverty and despair. The only problem is not everyone shares his vision. His prized architect Paul contracts a mysterious illness and is missing in action. His mother, Mary, the head of the mob family considers his vision a distracting waste of energy and money. Low-level street thug Rolly is stealing from him. Gina Mae, a witch, vows to fight against the corruption of her city. And detective Dian tries to maintain a semblance of order and control in the city.

Written by George F. Walker, one of Canada’s most prolific and celebrated playwrights, the play premiered at the Factory Theatre in Toronto in 1987 and is part of a trilogy of Walker plays about the changing urban landscape.

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### **Cast and Production Team**

***Beautiful City*** features Kurt Broucker, Yosh Hayashi, Jeremy Kahn, Megan Kohl, Stephen Loch, C. Sean Piereman, Kristen Secrist, Rachel Slavick, and Mira Vasiljevic.

Directed by Theatre Mir artistic director Rob Chambers, the show’s set design is by Marianna Csaszar, with lighting by Brandon Wardell, sound by Steve Dawson, and costumes by Whitney McBride. The Assistant Director is Jason C. Adams, and Production Stage Manager is Jen Poulin.

### **Related Special Events**

In association with this production, Theatre Mir and Chicago DCA Theater present the following FREE events:

#### **Post-show Discussions**

Thursday, March 11, with cast and director Rob Chambers

Saturday, March 20, with Dr. Michael Bennett, executive director of DePaul University’s Egan Urban Center

Friday, March 26, with Al Gini, contributor at WBEZ Chicago Public Radio and professor of philosophy and business ethics at Loyola University, Chicago

#### **A Line, a Cave, and a Beautiful City in Plato’s *Republic***

Sunday, March 14, at 1pm

Claudia Cassidy Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street

Socrates’ “beautiful city,” the political pattern of justice, emerges from the discussion in Plato’s *Republic*. The last, but most significant, feature of the just city is the figure of the philosopher-king, but are philosophy and politics compatible? Is the just city a realizable goal or is it an unrealizable image, a utopian dream? Presented by Professor Herman Sinaiko as part of the University of Chicago Works of the Mind lecture series

Theatre Mir was created in 2007 to actively engage audiences about issues affecting our world today – to entertain as well as to inform. Inspired by the Russian word “mir”, which means both peace and world, Theatre Mir’s mission is to create opportunities through entertainment and related education programs for artists and audiences to produce captivating theater focusing on current social and political concerns to inspire a dialogue with its audience. The company presented a production of “The Prisoner’s Dilemma” in 2008 at the Raven Theatre, and “The Arab-Israeli Cookbook” at the Chicago DCA Storefront Theater in 2009.

The Storefront Theater and the Studio Theater, its companion theater located in the Chicago Cultural Center at 78 E. Washington Street, comprise Chicago DCA Theater, an anchor of the downtown theater district. Chicago DCA Theater offers downtown audiences an off-Loop theater experience with an exciting look at the vibrant emerging theater companies that call Chicago home.

Discounted parking is available at Wabash Randolph Self Park at 20 E. Randolph. Patrons can receive the \$10 rate by validating their ticket at the Storefront Theater box office.

For more information about Theatre Mir’s ***Beautiful City*** and Chicago DCA Theater, call 312.742.TIXS (8497) or visit [www.dcatheater.org](http://www.dcatheater.org). The enhanced website features more about DCA Theater performances and programs, including a blog, photo galleries, and visitor information. More information on Theatre Mir is available at [www.theatremir.com](http://www.theatremir.com).

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Note to Press: Electronic images are available at [www.dcatheater.org/press](http://www.dcatheater.org/press) or by request.