

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

T Bone N Weasel, presented by Theatre Pro Rata
Written by Jon Klein
Directed by Amber Bjork
Performing March 3-18, 2012, at The Gremlin Theatre,
2400 University Ave, St. Paul, MN 55114
(full performance calendar below)
Information: (612) 874-9321 or info@theatreproprata.org

Press contact: Ben Tallen, 612-743-8796 or ben@theatreproprata.org

PRO RATA PRESENTS JON KLEIN'S UNDERDOG COMEDY *T BONE N WEASEL*

JAN 10, 2012 (Twin Cities, Minnesota) - On March 3, 2012 Pro Rata will open *T Bone N Weasel*, by Jon Klein, at The Gremlin Theatre, in St. Paul, MN.

THE PLAY:

T Bone N Weasel is a tragic-comic tale of two recent parolees trying to put their lives back together as they travel through South Carolina. Their experiences with a range of characters in the state (all played by one actor) reflect a microcosm of the United States—full of life and energy, but still confronting its racist past and present, its religious obsessions, and its consistent challenges to those on society's margins. It's a tight and funny script that also presents hard questions regarding prejudice, ignorance, and the double-edged sword of color-blindness.

THE PRODUCTION:

The Gremlin Theatre is outfitted to resemble an off-road junkpile, setting the play among the things that people throw away and pick up again with the intention of fixing but never getting around to it. Although the characters are sharp and vibrant, they're set against the faded background of a weathered whitewashed billboard, the feel of a shelved polaroid, and twang of a down-and-out guitar.

THE ARTISTS:

T Bone N Weasel features **Mark Benzel** (cast member of the Ivey Award winning production *7 Shot Symphony*) as Weasel, **Theo Langason** as T Bone, and Pro Rata Company Member **Ben Tallen** as the Everyman. *T Bone N Weasel* is directed by Pro Rata Artistic Associate, **Amber Bjork**, who says of the production: "I love the characters. Not just T Bone, Weasel, and everyone they meet, but also the abstract characters underneath: the dusty back roads of South Carolina, the hand of fate that smacks them around, and the unlikely but completely endearing partnership between these two guys." Individuals are available for interview/comment by request.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

T Bone N Weasel was developed at Midwest Playlabs, a program of The Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis. It was originally produced by Quicksilver

Pictured: Mark Benzel, Theo Langason. Credit: Charlie Gorrill.
High-resolution copy available for download at
<http://www.theatreproprata.org/pressroom.htm>

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Stage, Minneapolis, in December 1986. The play's professional premiere, under the direction of Steven Dietz, was at Actors Theatre of Louisville where it was presented as part of the Eleventh Annual Humana Festival of New American Play May 6-22, 1987. Subsequent productions include those at Studio Arena Theatre in Buffalo, Victory Theatre in Los Angeles, Market Street Theatre in Philadelphia, Pocket Sandwich Theatre in Dallas, and Fells Point Corner Theatre in Baltimore—it has been produced more than a hundred times in regional theatres. It was also adapted by the playwright for a TNT network film starring Gregory Hines and Christopher Lloyd. Theatre Pro Rata is delighted to bring the show back to its place of inception.

THEATRE PRO RATA:

Since 2001 Pro Rata, Latin for "in proportion," has created intimate, captivating theater, using a love for the play as the primary connection between the stage and the audience. This has allowed Theatre Pro Rata to pursue classics and contemporaries, tragic dramas and black comedies. Recent accolades for Pro Rata include three year end mentions for *Waiting for Godot* (2011, *Star Tribune*, *Pioneer Press*, and *City Pages*), set design for *Killer Joe* (2008, *City Pages*), Julie Ann Nevill's cross-gender performance in *The Life of Galileo* (2009, *Lavender Magazine*), and overall production for *Metamorphoses* (2008, *Lavender Magazine*). Theatre Pro Rata utilizes a unique sliding scale for all ticketing, allowing patrons to name their own price from \$14 to \$41.

PRESS ONE LINE:

"Pro Rata stages *T Bone N Weasel*, the hilarious story of a pair of road tripping underdogs just trying to get by."

PRESS BLURB:

"T Bone and Weasel are fresh out of jail and on the road to a new life, new choices, new luck. Until their attempt at knocking over a liquor store for easy money is thwarted... and then that luck goes south. Their choices are always the wrong ones, and their life becomes dependent on their unlikely partnership. Sidestepping prejudice, outrunning the law, and shaking a crab or two out of a pant leg, they hustle their way across South Carolina, looking for an honest break."

**** FULL PERFORMANCE CALENDAR DETAILED HERE****

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Saturday, March 3 @ 7:30 (opening night)
Sunday, March 4 @ 3:00 (ASL/AD/Pay What You Can Performance)
Monday, March 5 @ 7:30 (Pay What You Can Performance)

Thursday, March 8 @ 7:30
Friday, March 9 @ 7:30
Saturday, March 10 @ 7:30
Sunday, March 11 @ 3:00

Thursday, March 15 @ 7:30
Friday, March 16 @ 7:30
Saturday, March 17 @ 7:30
Sunday, March 18 @ 3:00 (closing)

All performances at The Gremlin Theatre,
2400 University Ave, St. Paul, MN 55114
General admission tickets on a sliding scale from \$14 to \$41.
For reservations, please call (612) 874-9321, or email
info@theatreproprata.org, or visit our website at
<http://www.theatreproprata.org> for more information.

This activity funded, in part, by the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

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*Pictured: Mark Benzel, Theo Langason. Credit: Charlie Gorrill.
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