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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**PITTSBURGH NEW WORKS FESTIVAL LAUNCHES 20<sup>TH</sup> SEASON**

*Three World Premieres Feature Shoplifting, Audition, and Reminiscence Themes*

PITTSBURGH – Sept. 6, 2010 – The Pittsburgh New Works Festival launches its 20<sup>th</sup> main stage season with a weekend of new one-act plays from Thursday, Sept. 9, through Sunday, Sept. 12, at the Father Ryan Arts Center in McKees Rocks.

"The Joy of Theft" is a comedy with a conscience, in which a man who writes an ethics column gets a letter from a nursing-home resident and serial shoplifter. Written by James C. McKelly of Opelika, Ala., the play is produced by the Heritage Players and directed by Carol Shafer. The cast includes John E. Reilly, Lesa Donati, Cathy Gialloreto, Jennifer Luta, Lea Ann Gerkin, and Katie Keith.

In "Call Back," an actor seeking a leading role in a new play engages the playwright-director in both professional and personal queries and challenges. Produced by The Theatre Factory and directed by Nate Newell, the cast features J. Alex Noble, Pam Farneth, and Andy Nesky. Author is Jim Hinkley of Edmonds, Wash.

The final play is "Shaving Lessons and Half-Windsor Knots," in which a son nostalgically looks back on the lessons learned from his father. The play was written by F.J. Hartland of South Park,

who won PNWF's Outstanding Contribution by a Playwright award in 2005 for "Postcards from a Dead Dog," and whose plays have appeared in 10 of PNWF's 20 seasons. The play is produced by CCAC South. Lora Oxenreiter directs Jim Scriven, Dan Krack, and Ivy Steinberg.

The three plays will be presented Thursday, Sept. 9, at 8 pm; Friday, Sept. 10, at 8 pm; Saturday, Sept. 11, at 5 pm and 8 pm; and Sunday, Sept. 12, at 2 pm. After each Thursday evening performance, PNWF cordially invites audience members to join cast, crew, playwrights, and the board at parties known as Mingles.

### ***About PNWF***

The Pittsburgh New Works Festival is dedicated to encouraging the development of new plays. During its 20th season, PNWF will present original one-act plays for four consecutive weekends, Sept. 9 through Oct. 3, at Father Ryan Arts Center in McKees Rocks. Plays are produced by local theater companies. Tickets are available via ProArts, 412-394-3353 or [www.proartstickets.org](http://www.proartstickets.org).

PNWF would like to thank its media sponsor, WYEP. For more information, call 412-881-6888 or visit the website at [www.pittsburghnewworks.org](http://www.pittsburghnewworks.org).

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