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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE FROM DARK & STORMY PRODUCTIONS

DARK & STORMY PRODUCTIONS ANNOUNCES VENUE

FOR ITS UPCOMING PRODUCTION OF

The Receptionist
By Adam Bock
A REGIONAL PREMIERE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ARTSPACE

AT THE TRAFFIC ZONE CENTER FOR VISUAL ART
250 THIRD AVENUE NORTH, SUITE 500
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55401

Wednesday, December 11, 2013 – Saturday, January 4, 2014
Opening Night: Friday, December 13, 2013

Featuring: Sally Wingert*, Bill McCallum*, Sara Marsh*, and Harry Waters, Jr.*; Benjamin McGovern† to Direct

***Member, Actors' Equity Association**
†Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

Minneapolis, Minnesota – Dark & Stormy Productions today announces that they are partnering with **Artspace** (www.artspace.org) to present their upcoming regional premiere of ***The Receptionist*** by **Adam Bock,** directed by **Benjamin McGovern**, and starring **Sally Wingert, Bill McCallum, Sara Marsh,** and **Harry Waters, Jr.** Previously, Dark & Stormy presented ***Outside Providence*** **by Edward Allan Baker** at The Engine Room, and ***Speed-the-Plow*** **by David Mamet** at The Miller Bag Building.

The **Traffic Zone Center for Visual Art** is owned and operated by **Artspace** in partnership with the artists who maintain studios in the building. The downtown Minneapolis Warehouse District location is accessible to all patrons by bus, light rail, and car. Dark & Stormy continues their use of unusual stagings in nontraditional "found" spaces that best serve the production, by setting ***The Receptionist*** in an office space on the fifth floor of Artspace's Traffic Zone Center for Visual Art building.

Artspace's mission is, "to create, foster, and preserve affordable space for artists and arts organizations." Established in 1979, Artspace owns and operates both residential and non-residential properties in more than 20 states across the nation, providing affordable, real property to low- and moderate-income artists to further the growth of the artistic community. Based in the Twin Cities, Artspace has offices in New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, New Orleans, and Washington DC, impacting artists on both a local and national level.

Dark & Stormy Productions' Artistic Director **Sara Marsh** says,

> With their mission and incredible commitment and contributions to both the artistic community and to individual artists, Artspace is a perfect partner for Dark & Stormy as we present the regional premiere of *The Receptionist*. I couldn't be more thrilled to be working with them, and I am excited to give audiences the unique, immersive, and immediate experience that performing in the Artspace office space will provide.

ABOUT *THE RECEPTIONIST*

A hard-hitting comedic thriller with rapid-fire dialogue, *The Receptionist* is a play about everyday people in innocuous settings faced with extraordinary and unsettling circumstances. We meet the chatty receptionist of the nondescript Northeast Office, Beverly, offering advice to her constantly late and unlucky-in-love coworker, Lorraine,

when they receive a charming visitor from the Central Office, Mr. Dart, who has arrived to meet with their inexplicably absent boss, Mr. Raymond. As we follow the hilarious professional and personal pastimes of underemployed office workers everywhere, the tone abruptly changes from amusing to macabre when Mr. Raymond finally arrives. Suddenly, nothing is what is seems, no one can be trusted, and we are forced to acknowledge how close the banality of everyday life is to the banality of evil.

Charles Isherwood, in his review of *The Receptionist* for *The New York Times*, says, "It would be unfair to say much more about what the playwright is up to… [but] Mr. Bock's modest still life with cubicle and computer is flipped over to reveal an oil painting by Francis Bacon." In response to the sudden turn midway through the story, Los Angeles theater critic Robert Machray says, "…it's like an episode of the Twilight Zone." Or, in the words of critic Adam Feldman in *Time Out New York*, *The Receptionist* is "…a brief, extraordinary dark comedy…Bock's combination of naturalistic absurdism and moral dread suggests a cross between Caryl Churchill and Harold Pinter…in this elliptical, provocative play."

Jill A. Anderson, General Manager of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center and Chair of Dark & Stormy Productions' Board, says,

> I couldn't be more pleased to add Adam Bock's *The Receptionist* to Dark & Stormy's growing list of regional premieres. My own history with the play dates back to 2006, when it was developed at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference (NPC Artistic Director Wendy Goldberg is currently in Minneapolis directing *Tribes* for the Guthrie Theater, featuring *The Receptionist* star Sally Wingert) in my first summer at the O'Neill, with Jeremy Cohen (now Artistic Director of The Playwrights' Center) at the helm. Dark & Stormy is thrilled to bring Adam's play to Twin Cities audiences for the first time, and I look forward to seeing Sally and this stellar cast and creative team dive into the unsettling and totally amusing world of *The Receptionist*.

Sally Wingert* makes her debut with Dark & Stormy Productions as Beverly Wilkins in ***The Receptionist.*** She has appeared in over 80 productions at the Guthrie Theater, including ***Tribes, Third, Other Desert Cities, Pride & Prejudice, Faith Healer, Arsenic and Old Lace, Charley's Aunt, Hamlet, Top Girls, A Christmas Carol*****,** and others. She has been seen on Broadway and London's West End in ***La Bete***; at the McCarter Theatre/Yale Rep in ***Tartuffe****;* and at ART in ***Paradise Lost***. In the Twin Cities, she has performed at Mixed Blood, Jungle Theater, Ten Thousand Things,

Minnesota Jewish Theatre, Eye of the Storm, History Theatre, Children's Theatre, and Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, and others. Wingert's film credits include: ***Fargo, The Life of Riley, The Straight Story, North Country, How to Kill a Mockingbird, Grandfather's Birthday*** (with Robert Prosky), and ***Untamed Heart***, among others.

Bill McCallum* portrays the role of Martin Dart in ***The Receptionist*****,** and previously starred as Bobby Gould in Dark & Stormy Productions' ***Speed-the-Plow***. McCallum has appeared in over 35 productions at the Guthrie Theater, including the Ivey Award-winning ***Clybourne Park*****,** ***Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*** (with Patrick Stewart and Mercedes Ruhl), ***Othello*** (National Tour), ***Death of a Salesman*** (Guthrie Theater and Dublin International Theater Festival)***, The Glass Menagerie, Peer Gynt, MacBeth, Circle Mirror Transformation, God of Carnage,*** and ***Time Stands Still***. McCallum has also performed with American Players Theatre, Goodman Theater, Northlight Theater, History Theater, Minnesota Festival Theater, Theatre L'Homme Dieu, and The Playwrights' Center, and others. His film work includes ***The Straight Story*** and ***Meet Joe Somebody***.

Sara Marsh* returns to Dark & Stormy Productions as Lorraine Taylor in ***The Receptionist***, after playing Karen in ***Speed-the-Plow***, and the roles of Debbie and Sandra in ***Outside Providence*****.** Marsh has also appeared with Park Square Theatre (***Steel Magnolias, June Moon***), History Theatre (***Hiding in the Open***), Gremlin Theatre (***A Behanding in Spokane***, ***This is a Play***), Old Log Theater**,** Thirst Theater, Theatre L'Homme Dieu, and The Playwrights' Center, among others. A prolific Twin Cities voiceover and on-camera talent, Marsh played Kayla in the popular web series ***Theater People*****,** and Marsh's film work includes ***How to Kill a Mockingbird,*** and the role of Lucy in **New Line Cinema's** feature film ***Sugar & Spice****.* Marsh can be seen in theaters nationwide beginning November 8 in the Magnolia Pictures film ***Best Man Down*****.**

Harry Waters, Jr.* makes his debut with Dark & Stormy Productions as Edward Raymond in ***The Receptionist***. Most famous for playing the role of Marvin Berry in the film ***Back to the Future***, Waters also appeared on the television series ***Alice in Wonderland****,* and has performed at venues all over the country, including: Mark Taper Forum, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, San Jose Repertory Theatre, and others. Locally, Waters has appeared with the Guthrie Theater, Penumbra Theatre, Mixed Blood, Ten Thousand Things Theater, Pillsbury House

Theatre, and The Playwrights' Center, where he also served as the Facilitator for the Many Voices Roundtable, among others. Waters is a Professor of Theatre Arts at Macalester College.

Ben McGovern† directs ***The Receptionist*** for Dark & Stormy Productions after helming Dark & Stormy's 2013 production of ***Speed-the-Plow*** and the Guthrie Theater's critically acclaimed production of ***An Iliad***. McGovern was the Associate Director of Studio Programming at the Guthrie Theater until 2011, where he directed ***The Edge of Our Bodies***, ***Circle Mirror Transformation***, ***The Ugly One***, and ***The Caretaker*****.** He was also the associate director of Brian Friel's ***Faith Healer***, with director Joe Dowling in the role of Frank Harding. Prior to the Guthrie, McGovern worked with Theatre de la Jeune Lune as an assistant director, actor, stage manager, writer, and more. Jeune Lune productions include ***Crusoe, Friday and the Island of Hope; The Man Who Laughs; Yang Zen Froggs*****;** ***Cyrano de Bergerac; Tartuffe***, and ***Antigone***. Other directing credits include ***Thirty Days in Frogtown***, ***The Dumb Waiter***, ***The Bald Soprano, Skin of Our Teeth***, ***Camino Real***, and ***Flesh and the Desert***. McGovern also served as Artistic Director of the Bryant-Lake Bowl Theater.

ABOUT DARK & STORMY PRODUCTIONS

Dark & Stormy Productions is one of the newest Equity theater companies in the Twin Cities, and is committed to creating artistically excellent, exciting, and accessible theater for all audiences, focusing on finding and developing the 18-35-year-old audience and providing new and exciting ways for regular theater-goers to experience theater by producing short, relevant, accessible productions that focus on the immediate and inclusive artist-to-audience connection.

Dark & Stormy Productions was founded in 2012 by actress **Sara Marsh**, and their first production, *Outside Providence*, was celebrated by audiences and artists of all ages, while drawing in new and younger theater-goers with its unconventional performance venue and unusual, intimate staging. Dark & Stormy's second production, *Speed-the-Plow*, nearly doubled the rate of attendance and continued to impress with its nontraditional venue and staging and use of top tier Twin Cities talent.

***The Receptionist* by Adam Bock**, running Wednesday, December 11, 2013 – Saturday, January 4, 2014, is Dark & Stormy's third production. Dark & Stormy is proud to present the regional premiere.

Tickets for *The Receptionist* are available for purchase online at www.darkstormy.org or by emailing tickets@darkstormy.org. Tickets are $25, with discounts for patrons under the age of 30, and members of the unions SDC, IATSE, and Actors' Equity. All shows are 7:30pm.

For interviews with *The Receptionist* director Ben McGovern, or the cast (Sally Wingert, Bill McCallum, Sara Marsh, and Harry Waters, Jr.), please contact Sara Marsh at sara@darkstormy.org or Bill McCallum at bill@darkstormy.org.

For interviews with playwright Adam Bock or Dark & Stormy Productions' Board Chair, Jill A. Anderson, please contact Jill A. Anderson at 860.382.8688 or janderson@theoneill.org.

For more information about Artspace, please contact Melodie Bahan at melodie.bahan@artspace.org.

For more information about Dark & Stormy Productions, please visit www.darkstormy.org, or email Artistic Director Sara Marsh at sara@darkstormy.org, or Associate Artistic Director Bill McCallum at bill@darkstormy.org.

Please see the following calendars for performance dates of *The Receptionist*:

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The Receptionist Performance Calendar

December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13	3	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Preview 7:30pm	12 Preview 7:30pm	13 **OPENING NIGHT** **7:30pm**	14 Performance 7:30pm
15	16 Performance 7:30pm	17	18	19 Performance 7:30pm	20 Performance 7:30pm	21 Performance 7:30pm
22	23	24	25	26 Performance 7:30pm	27 Performance 7:30pm	28 Performance 7:30pm
29 Performance 7:30pm	30 Performance 7:30pm	31				

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The Receptionist Performance Calendar

January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Performance 7:30pm	3 Performance 7:30pm	4 **CLOSING NIGHT 7:30pm**