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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Red Square Theatre presents

## The Swedish Match

Adapted from Anton Chekhov's short story

by Joe Garwood, Mark W. Robson, Adam Rzepka and Bella Weil Saltzer

Directed by Mark W. Robson

May 6-16, 2010

At the Mascher Space Co-op

(Philadelphia, PA) Red Square Theatre, the company that premiered *Clover* at the 2009 Philly Fringe, presents the world premiere of *The Swedish Match*. This original stage adaptation brings to life one of Anton Chekhov's early short stories. The style and humor in *The Swedish Match* are a rare look into Chekhov's flare for comedy and the beginnings of the detective parody genre.

Follow a pair of bumbling, small town detectives as they investigate a mysterious murder. Sit back and savor the madness as the two men weed their way through wild theories, crazy clues and a ridiculous pack of suspects. You'll meet a drunken butler, oversexed housewives, and one dimwitted shepherd as you enjoy a laugh-filled evening with *The Swedish Match!*

This play grew out of Red Square Theatre's desire to honor the **150th Anniversary** of Anton Chekhov's birth by bringing to the stage one of his funniest short stories. Although more widely recognized for his plays, Chekhov was also a doctor and prolific writer, having penned hundreds of short stories in his lifetime. His written works are held in high esteem by literary and theatre critics alike and he is considered by many to be the father of the modern play.

As with many artists, Chekhov held a second job to support his artistic endeavors: "Medicine is my lawful wife", he is quoted as saying, "and literature is my mistress." Red Square Theatre knows firsthand the marriage between economy and the arts as five of its founding company members moved to Philadelphia from Detroit, MI in search of both jobs and artistic opportunities. What they discovered was an abundance of both and they hope to continue contributing to the theatrical landscape of Philadelphia for many years.

*The Swedish Match* previews on Thursday, May 6 at 8pm. Opening Night is Friday, May 7 at 8pm and is open to the general public. For a full performance schedule please visit [www.redsquaretheatre.weebly.com](http://www.redsquaretheatre.weebly.com).

Tickets are \$15, with discounts available for seniors and students. Each Thursday performance is pay-what-you-can. All seating is general admission, first come, first served. Tickets available in advance online at [www.redsquaretheatre.weebly.com](http://www.redsquaretheatre.weebly.com) or at the door one hour prior to each performance (cash only at door).

**WHAT:** **The Swedish Match**  
Adapted from Anton Chekhov's short story  
by Joe Garwood, Mark W. Robson, Adam Rzepka and Bella Weil Saltzer  
Directed by Mark W Robson

**SUMMARY:** Follow a pair of bumbling, small town detectives as they investigate a mysterious murder. Sit back and savor the madness as the two men weed their way through wild theories, crazy clues and a ridiculous pack of suspects. You'll meet a drunken butler, oversexed housewives, and one dimwitted shepherd as you enjoy a laugh-filled evening with *The Swedish Match!*

**WHERE:** Mascher Space Co-op  
155 Cecil B. Moore Avenue 2B, Philadelphia, PA 19122  
Street parking available, close to SEPTA blue line BERKS station

**WHEN:** May 6-16, 2010  
Preview performance: May 6 at 8pm  
**Opening night: May 7 at 8pm, open to the public**  
Reviewing members of the press are invited to attend opening night and may reserve tickets by contacting Lynn Keily at [info.redsquaretheatre@gmail.com](mailto:info.redsquaretheatre@gmail.com)

**TICKETS:** \$15 for adults, with discounts for seniors and students  
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Tickets available in advance online at [www.redsquaretheatre.weebly.com](http://www.redsquaretheatre.weebly.com)  
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**CAST:**  
Robert Bauer  
Christopher M. Bohan  
Langston Darby  
Steve Gleich  
Kristie J. Lang  
Jeff Luttermoser  
Matt Mancuso  
Mark W. Robson  
Adam Rzepka  
Bella Weil Saltzer  
Kyle Ward

**ARTISTIC STAFF:**  
Mark W. Robson Director  
Joe Garwood Technical Director & Stage Manager  
Erica Hoelscher Costume Designer

### **More about the company**

Founded in 2009, Red Square Theatre creates engaging original works alongside re-imagined classics. Inspiration is drawn from the highly skilled and time honored techniques of the Russian theatre tradition, as well as a focus on the fundamentals of story telling. Please visit [www.redsquaretheatre.weebly.com](http://www.redsquaretheatre.weebly.com) to learn more.