

PARK SQUARE

T H E A T R E

August 5, 2011

To Fellow Producers and Presenters:

Gary Anderson has studied, portrayed and lived in the spiritual and intellectual shoes of Clarence Darrow for nearly a decade. In the spring of 2008 he treated me to a nearly-private showing of his “Clarence Darrow: The Search for Justice.” I liked it, was impressed with Darrow’s tumultuous professional life, and greatly admired Gary’s performance skills. But I was curious – what drove this man to such extraordinary places? Gary took up my challenge and set off to create a different theatrical take on the same man – NAKED DARROW was born.

While Park Square does not specialize in world premieres, we’ve had some great ones: Lee Blessing’s ELEEMOSYNARY, and more recently, vigorous adaptations of A TALE OF TWO CITIES, MARY STUART and THE ODYSSEY. Gary’s project was to be our second original one-man show.

We brought Gary into Saint Paul, and for a week, the two of us and a stage manager reworked his material, discovered our essential staging conventions, and edited an original score for a live musician – a stunning, personable character “voice” of a bassoonist – into the scenario.

After a few more days of tech and dress, we opened for a 5-show series of performances. The concise run did not keep word of mouth from spreading fast and having an immediate impact on sales. A project that we had budgeted to pay its way provided a lovely surplus to our season’s budget.

Our audiences were immediately drawn into both Darrow’s stories and Gary’s giving presence. They gave back: sometimes singing along to union anthems, audibly stunned by moments of conflict in Darrow’s personal life, and intent to follow the emotional arch of some his most challenging trials. Gary ended up with a compact, riveting 90-minutes that plays with immediate emotional AND intellectual impact to a general audience.

“I thought DARROW was one of the best shows we have seen at Park Square in our over 10 year association. Not only did I find it historically interesting but also to have some important messages for current times.”

“I would like to compliment the composer of the very appropriate music and the bassoon performer for excellent accompaniment to the narrative of the story. That was quite a surprise to me.”

“ Gary Anderson WAS Clarence Darrow in every gesture, admittance of failures and successes in his life and the frustration of his advancing senility and foreboding of his death. Wow! Was the reaction both of us had to his performance.”

theatre for you. (yes you.)

TICKETS: 651.291.7005

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parksquaretheatre.org

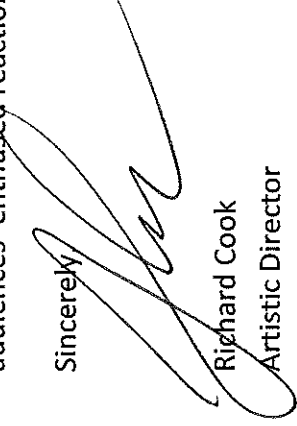
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And . . . “I would like to encourage you to bring the show back for a longer run in the future.” A recommendation I’m taking seriously. As Park Square prepares to open a second stage, I’m very interested in hosting Gary in a more sustained run in the intimate 200-seat thrust stage we are designing. He is a great collaborator, was immediately adopted by our staff, and was available after every demanding performance to meet, greet and hear from his audiences.

If you have a smart, engaged audience, or want one, I recommend NAKED DARROW and Gary’s work as both writer and actor.

Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have questions about the production, Gary’s work or our audiences’ enthused reactions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Cook', written over a white background.

Richard Cook
Artistic Director
Park Square Theatre