



Media Contact:

Casey Blake

480-644-6620

casey.blake@mesaartscenter.com

Burning in the Night: A Hobo's Song

Performed Live at Mesa Arts Center Feb. 6-8

Opening Night Fundraiser to Raise Funds for Spoken Word Outreach Program

For immediate release:

January 12, 2015



Mesa, AZ – Mesa Arts Center Foundation will present the East Valley premier of *Burning in the Night: A Hobo's Song*, a play based on the memoir by the late Dale Wasserman, the award-winning playwright best known for *Man of La Mancha* and *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Tickets for performances on Feb. 6, 7 and 8 in the Nesbitt/Elliott Playhouse are available at mesaartscenter.com or by calling 480-644-6500.

The play recounts Wasserman's early experiences when, orphaned and homeless, he took to riding the rails, lured by dreams of freedom. Renowned playwright Richard Warren, a personal friend of Wasserman's, is co-founder of Phoenix Theatre's New Works Festival and has published eleven plays.

The special opening night performance will raise funds for Mesa Arts Center's Spoken Word outreach program, which teaches public speaking skills and self-expression to junior high and high school students throughout the Valley. Tickets for the opening night fundraiser on Feb. 6 are \$75, and purchase includes a post-show dessert reception with special guests Martha Wasserman and *Burning in the Night* playwright, Richard Warren. Tickets to the performances on Feb. 7 and 8 are \$32.

Burning in the Night is produced and directed by Dan Schay, managing director at Theatre Works/Peoria Center for the Arts. The live performance features an extensive score of American folk songs performed by Jam Pak Blues 'N' Grass Neighborhood Band, a recipient of the 2014 Governor's Arts Award.

Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street in downtown Mesa.

###

About Mesa Arts Center

The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are

diverse, accessible, and relevant. Owned and operated by the City of Mesa, Arizona's largest arts center is recognized as an international award-winning venue. The unique and architecturally stunning facility is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios and an artist cooperative gallery. For more information, visit mesaartscenter.com.

Editor's Note: Images are available for download via Mesa Arts Center's online Press Room at <http://www.mesaartscenter.com/index.php/misc/about/press-room/login>. Password is macmedia.