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A sensation at London's Royal Court, Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder's Staten Island-based drama FRESH KILLS receives American premiere at 59E59 Theaters

*New York, New York January 23, 2009--***59E59 Theaters** (Elyzabeth Kleinhans, Artistic Director; Peter Tear, Executive Producer) is proud to welcome Working Man's Clothes to 59E59 Theaters with the US premiere of **FRESH KILLS**, written by **Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder** and directed by **Isaac Byrne**. **FRESH KILLS** begins performances on **Thursday, February 12** for a limited engagement through **Sunday, March 1**. **Press opening is Sunday, February 15 at 7:30 PM**. The performance schedule is **Tuesday at 7:30 PM; Wednesday - Friday at 8:30 PM; Saturday at 2:30 PM and 8:30 PM; and Sunday at 3:30 PM and 7:30 PM**. Please note are no matinee performances on Saturday, February 14 or Sunday, February 15 and there is no evening performance on Sunday, March 1. Performances are at **59E59 Theaters** (59 East 59th Street, between Park and Madison Avenues). Regular ticket price is **\$18** (\$12.60 for 59E59 Members). To purchase tickets, contact **Ticket Central** on **212-279-4200** or online at www.ticketcentral.com. For more information, visit www.59e59.org.

Set in the heart of blue-collar Staten Island, Eddie is unhappy and restless but his wife is too concerned about the new kitchen cabinets to notice. When Eddie meets mop-top teenager Arnold on the internet, his hopes for quiet consolation are shattered when Arnold wants more than a rendezvous and Eddie's family becomes Arnold's obsession.



FRESH KILLS premiered at London's Royal Court Theatre in 2004. Writing in The Times, Benedict Nightingale praised playwright Elyzabeth Wilder for her "strong, curt dialogue... (she) knows how to sustain the tension inherent in her story...here's a female dramatist who can write better about man-and-man than all but a few male playwrights do about woman-and-woman."

The American premiere of this taught, gritty play stars **Robert Funaro**, who gave a heartbreakingly memorable performance as Eugene Pontecorvo in "The Soprano's." The episode "Member's Only," where his character committed suicide, won an Emmy for Best Dramatic Writing in 2006. Joining Mr. Funaro in the cast are **Jared Culverhouse**, **Todd Flaherty** and **Therese Plummer**.

Raised on a houseboat in Alabama, **Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder** (playwright) moved to New York at the age of 16. In November 2004, *Fresh Kills*, premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in London and was directed by Tony-nominee, Wilson Milam. The Alabama Shakespeare Festival commissioned her play, *Gee's Bend*, which was developed at the Southern Writers' Project and received a sold-out production in Jan/Feb. 2007. The play has subsequently been produced at the Denver Center, Cleveland Playhouse, Northlight Theatre, Kansas City Rep, and Theatrical Outfit. Her play, *The Furniture of Home*, will premiere at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in 2009. Elyzabeth is completing new play commissions for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and the Denver Center. Other plays include *The First Day of Hunting Season* (EST) and *The Spirit of Ecstasy*. The American Theatre Critics Association honored her with the Osborn Award for an Emerging Playwright in 2008. Other awards include the Tisch Dramatic Writing Fellowship, Prism Generation Next Screenwriting Fellowship, Tennessee Williams Playwriting Scholarship, Dakin Playwriting Fellowship, Next Step Playwriting Fellowship and a residency at the MacDowell Colony. She is a proud alumna of Youngblood at EST. She recently worked as a staff writer on the CBS show "Love Monkey."

Isaac Byrne (director) is co-founder of Working Man's Clothes and a member of the Artistic Council of Working Man's Clothes. For Working Man's Clothes Isaac has directed 10 plays including *Green*, *To Nineveh*, and co-directed *I Used To Write On Walls* (all by Bekah Brunstetter), *Many Worlds* by William Borden, and *Arms and the Octopus* by Casey Wimpee. *To Nineveh* was nominated for nine NY IT Awards and won six including Outstanding Direction. Isaac also works closely with WMC's play development series and teaches acting Workshops in his "spare" time. In addition to his work with WMC in New York, Isaac directed *the cowboy is dying...* with Coyote Rep at the June Havoc Theater. He assistant directed with the Hampton Shakespeare Festival, and has directed staged readings at the Ohio Theater, The New School, and American Place Theatre. He was Leigh Silverman's assistant director on Brooke Berman's *Hunting and Gathering* at Primary Stages. ###