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January 4, 2017

MEDIA ALERT:

Protest Through The Arts: A Reprisal of Original STL Theater About Justice Denied

As a part of the St Lou Fringe Monthly Series, **Count Time! The Life and Times of Patricia Prewitt**, an original work written and performed by St. Louis native Elizabeth Ann Townsend and directed by Seth Gordon (Associate Artistic Director of the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis), will be performed at The .Zack Theatre on January 23, 2017 at 7pm.

The true story begins in the early morning hours of February 18, 1984 as Patty Prewitt is dragged from her bed where she had been sleeping soundly next to her husband Bill. An intruder had shot Bill Prewitt twice and then sexually assaulted Patty. Two days later, Patty was arrested and later wrongfully convicted of Bill's murder. Since 1986, Patricia Prewitt has languished in prison, sentenced to a minimum of fifty years for a crime she did not commit. **Count Time!** expertly leverages theater to raise public awareness of the injustice done to Patty, her family, and, consequently, many inmates like Patty over the last thirty years. In this one-woman show, Elizabeth Ann Townsend plays eight characters, and herself, as she chronicles Ms. Prewitt's journey, and how this special woman has defied the injustice done to her while she touches the lives of many.

Count Time! originally debut at the St Lou Fringe Festival last August to great critical acclaim. As a part of St Lou Fringe's sixth year producing independent theater in the city of St. Louis, the organization has facilitated a reprisal of Townsend superior work of art.

Executive Director Matthew R. Kerns said, "St Lou Fringe prides itself on giving voice to the voiceless, and as Patty's fight for freedom continues we will proudly offer a platform for protest and free expression."

Count Time! is the first in a series of monthly performances being produced by the St Lou Fringe. Future productions include **RFK by Jack Holmes** (directed by Daniel J Metzler and featuring Fringe Executive Director, Matthew Kerns), **Shades of Blue: Transmasculine Narratives** (a reprisal of the St Lou Fringe Voices Unleashed Program for underrepresented artists), and **Fat Dancer STL** (an evening of movement inspired by the Fat Activism of Kelli Jean Drinkwater).

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ABOUT ST LOU FRINGE: St Lou Fringe bolsters cultural identity in St Louis by providing a support structure to connect independent performing arts with accessible, affordable showcase settings for audiences. Fringe showcases theatre and dance, storytelling and spoken word, burlesque and acrobatics, visual art and more in a one-of-a-kind pressure-cooker of artistic expression. St Lou Fringe has been named "Best Theatre Festival" and "Best Theatre Surprise" by the Riverfront Times, one of "Nine Intriguing US Fringe Festivals" by CNN, and one of "Fifty Essential Summer Festivals" by the New York Times. The 2016 Fringe Season runs

April through August. Up next: On May 21 2016, St Lou Fringe presents its popular performing and visual artist showcase and benefit event, FIVE-FIFTHS: THE AGE OF GLAM. For more information: www.stlfringe.com.

Elizabeth Ann Townsend is an actress based in St. Louis who has appeared at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, St. Louis Actors' Studio, The New Jewish Theatre, Upstream Theatre, and nationally at the Cleveland Play House, Syracuse Stage, and many others. On television she appeared on The Sopranos, Law and Order, and many national commercials. She is the recipient of a St. Louis Critics Circle Award and a Houston Press Award.