



NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2008

IN THE SPOTLIGHT AGAIN

Merlyn Productions Theatre Company is immensely pleased to announce that it is once again active on the Winnipeg arts scene as a regular producer of shows.

On November 1st 2008, we commenced a one-year lease on studio & office space in the *Hammond Building*, located in the Exchange District of downtown Winnipeg. Although modest in size, a dedicated rehearsal and administration facility allows us to launch as a year-round live theatre production company, and we hope shall serve as a starting block for greater things to come.

As a result of these changes, Merlyn Productions' new contact information is as follows:

MERLYN PRODUCTIONS
306 - 63 ALBERT ST
WINNIPEG, MB R3B 1G4
PHONE: (204) 415-2714
E-MAIL: INFO@MERLYN.BIZ
WEB: HTTP://WWW.MERLYN.BIZ/

At this time, we are planning a line-up of plays to comprise our 2009 Season, and are in talks with several other local producers to discuss the potential of affiliated projects.

A new website is also under construction, and you may expect to see more from *Merlyn Productions* - both on the web and in print - as January runs its course!



COMPANY HISTORY & MISSION

Merlyn Productions is the successor to *C.G. Productions*, which staged plays in a variety of genres under Co-Artistic Directors John Chase and Christopher Gray from 1997 until 1999. When Mr Gray departed Winnipeg to pursue other avenues in Ottawa, Merlyn Productions was born.

Under Artistic Director John Chase, the company remains committed to the original mission of staging "**quality theatrical entertainment at an affordable ticket price**".

Herein are some further facts regarding its overall philosophy:

- *Merlyn Productions* operates with a **volunteer cast and staff**, who dedicate time for the love of their chosen art form, and are committed to fostering live theatre in Winnipeg for performers and patrons alike.
- Rather than simply "hiring professionals", we welcome performers from the greater community, who wish to **exercise their talents** or **develop their abilities** in a professional setting.
- A commitment to giving performers of **many different ages and skill levels** the opportunity to appear on stage fosters a situation whereby upcoming actors - and even first-timers - can hone and develop their craft working alongside seasoned professionals.
- As part of this philosophy, many of our productions will be cast through auditions open to the general public, and also offer opportunities to work in various departments "behind the scenes".

If you would like to become involved - whether as an actor, a crew member, or just someone with a few hours to hang posters in your area - by all means contact us, and we will be pleased to add you to our files.

"Committed to staging quality theatrical entertainment at an affordable price."



NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2008

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Co-Artistic Directors of *C.G. Productions* in the late 1990s, Christopher Gray and I had the pleasure of producing regular shows at the *Forrest Nickerson Theatre*, the old *Venue VIII*, and the *Winnipeg Fringe Festival*, supported by many excellent performers and our friends at *Fantasy Theatre for Children* and *The Theatre School*.

It is needless to say that Mr Gray's departure from Winnipeg proved an unfortunate operational setback. Far above and further to this, the challenges of running a community-orientated theatre company have themselves grown a great deal over the past decade due to factors social, economic, and beyond. (Indeed, for five years now, *Merlyn Productions* has been known as the name behind live theatre community portal *WinnipegOnstage.com* rather than an active producer of plays.)

Nevertheless, it is not in spite of these changes and challenges – but because of them – that I am elated to be adding my name to the list of active local producers once more.

While every artistic company, including ours, must face and surmount the task of keeping its fiscal head above water, I have always maintained that an amazing sum total of artistic talent exists in Winnipeg: a city that well deserves the title of Theatre Capital of Canada.

My goal is to announce our 2009 Season plays in early February. Cast, crew, and production staff will be needed within the ranks. In speaking to our company's mission of staging "quality theatrical entertainment at an affordable ticket price", I seek to build a community of those who desire sincerely the opportunity to perform or otherwise participate in the staging of classical

theatre: the creation of drama from the comedic to the tragic.

I hope to gain your support in this endeavour.

My thanks for your attention,
John Chase
Artistic Director

COMPANY STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
JOHN CHASE

FAMOUS THEATRE QUOTE

"An actor is a sculptor who carves in snow."
– EDWIN BOOTH

SPONSORED AD

Merlyn Productions Presents...
WinnipegOnstage.com
Live Theatre Community Portal
Now Playing 24/7 at:
www.winnipegonstage.com
Welcome to Winnipeg: Onstage. Online.

"Committed to staging quality theatrical entertainment at an affordable price."