



## NEWSLETTER: JANUARY – MARCH 2009

### **FIVE SHOWS FOR FIRST SEASON**

For its 2009 Season, *Merlyn Productions Theatre Company* will present **five** shows, to be staged between March and October.

We are immensely pleased to be announcing months and titles herein.

For further information and ticket reservations, call (204) 415-2714 or visit us online at [www.merlyn.biz](http://www.merlyn.biz).

### **MARCH 2009**



#### **AN HOUR OF COMEDY, FEATURING "BROTHERS IN ARMS"**

By Canadian Playwright  
Merrill Denison

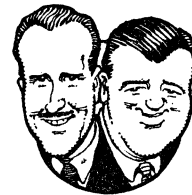
*A DELIGHTFUL CANADIAN COMEDY of culture clash and crossed wires that occur when an uptight Army Major finds himself stranded with frontiersmen of the Ontario backwoods – and one all-too-helpful wife.*

*PRECEDED BY: An opening act of humorous monologues and skits on the joys, trials, and tribulations of marriage.*

**Playing March 19 – 21 at the Ellice Theatre.**

### **APRIL 2009**

*Merlyn Productions and Chase & Hamill present...*



#### **HEY ABBOTT! A CLASSIC COMEDY TRIBUTE SHOW**

*Winnipeg's ABBOTT & COSTELLO impressionists and their wacky cast tribute the legendary comedy duo in this five-star hit of the 2008 Fringe... Returning for two days only!*

*When Bud and Lou accept a job offer in Las Vegas, they encounter multiple crazy characters. Zany antics ensue!*

*A FAMILY-FRIENDLY hour of sketch comedy, featuring "WHO'S ON FIRST" and many other old-time favourites.*

**Playing April 24 & 25 at the Ellice Theatre.**

**An event in support of  
The Winnipeg Fringe Festival –  
as featured on [WinnipegFringe.com](http://WinnipegFringe.com).**





## NEWSLETTER: JANUARY – MARCH 2009

### MAY 2009

Respected local director TONY FROST joins Merlyn Productions Artistic Director JOHN CHASE in presenting an evening of comedy and tragedy double-feature...



#### **SACRED BLOOD**

By Zinaida Gippius  
Directed by John Chase

*Blood runs cold in the veins of a RUSALKA – the mermaid of Russian lore. This moving drama tells the tale of one who forsakes her own kind to have a human soul ... and sacrifices everything to learn the meaning of love.*

- and -



#### **THE BOOR**

By Anton Chekhov  
Directed by Tony Frost

*A boorish creditor wants his money today, a headstrong widow won't pay her late husband's debts until tomorrow, and one poor servant is caught in the middle... A battle of the sexes may come to pistols in Chekhov's explosive Russian comedy!*

***Playing May 29 & 30 at the Ellice Theatre.***

### JULY 2009 AT THE FRINGE



#### **THE VALIANT**

By Holworthy Hall  
and Robert Middlemass

*Connecticut. 1921. Enigmatic murderer "James Dyke" has created a national stir in his determination not to reveal his true identity.*

*On the eve of his execution, a young girl arrives, holding out hope of discovering her long-missing brother... But can she still recognise him, even if it is?*

*Suspenseful, touching, and thoroughly human. With Artistic Director John Chase as James Dyke.*

***Playing July 15 – 26 at The Winnipeg Fringe Festival. Venue and show times to be announced.***

### ALSO AT THE KIDSFRINGE

For family entertainment in July, we recommend the Winnipeg Fringe Festival "KidsFringe", where our friends **Chase & Hamill** are producing a children's theatre play for ages 12 and under.

### OCTOBER 2009

Merlyn Productions will close its 2009 Season in the month of October. Check back with us during the summer for this production's title and show times!

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



## NEWSLETTER: JANUARY – MARCH 2009

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The *Merlyn Productions* philosophy of encouraging community involvement in staging live theatre extends to all its levels: on stage, backstage, and on the business end of what we so fondly refer to as “show business”.

In addition to the casts and production staffs that dedicate themselves to individual plays, *Merlyn Productions* operates with a small, permanent **Company Staff** that manages its day-to-day business, and supports its artistic mission in non-performance areas of the theatre.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, I was pleased to make the following two appointments:

- As **Technical Director**, Mr KEVIN HAMILL has assumed oversight of the technical departments, and become chiefly responsible for set execution.
- As **Production Assistant**, Ms LEILA MARSTON will assist the Artistic Director in the myriad administrative tasks that must be surmounted to achieve successful production.

Both have been instrumental to our season's first play – “*Brothers in Arms*” – which opens only four days from this writing.

I look forward to further expansion of the Company Staff as *Merlyn Productions* itself continues to evolve.

My thanks for your attention, and we hope to earn your patronage in 2009.

*John Chase*  
Artistic Director

### COMPANY STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
JOHN CHASE

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
KEVIN HAMILL

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT  
LEILA MARSTON

### FAMOUS THEATRE QUOTE

*“Theatregoing is a communal act,  
movie going a solitary one.”*

– ROBERT BRUSTEIN

### 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.”*