



COMPANY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #16: SEPTEMBER 2012

ATTENDANCE NOT SO GRIM

Merlyn Productions Theatre Company thanks all of the patrons and the numerous day-cares who helped turn **"THE WORLD OF THE BROTHERS GRIMM"** into a multiple-sellout success at the 2012 Winnipeg Fringe!



Playing to full houses at four out of its eight performances, this July marked the first Merlyn production with a recorded attendance of over 700.



OCTOBER TITLE ANNOUNCED

Merlyn Productions is pleased to announce **"THE WRAITH OF WRATH"** as a supernatural thriller for Halloween 2012!

This classic ghost story by P. A. M. LONG marks the company's first foray into the genre, and will be presented October 17 to 20 at the Ellice Theatre.



THE WRAITH OF WRATH

Set on a cold, windy Halloween night in the Scottish Highlands, the visiting Brakespeare family gets more than it bargained for when a young lady attempts to invoke the legendary Wraith of Castle Wrath... and the real ghost story begins!

This play is suitable for general and family audiences, but not recommended for very small children.

For complete details, show times, and to reserve your tickets today, visit MERLYN.BIZ or call 204-415-2714.

THEATRE OPEN DESPITE CLOSURE

Despite the sad closure of the Ellice Café and the pending sale of the facility, the Ellice Theatre has announced that it will continue to operate until the end of Autumn.



This means that Merlyn Productions is – with much gratitude – able to close its 2012 Season at the Ellice Theatre as planned. Unfortunately, patrons who frequented the Ellice Café prior to our performances will need to make other dining arrangements until further notice. To assist, Winnipeg's *West End Biz* has an excellent Restaurant Guide of the area available for download on their website at WESTENDBIZ.CA.

Interviewed on the issue in late August, Artistic Director John Chase of Merlyn Productions and Curtis Halbesma of owner NLM spoke about the impact of the closure in a major Metro News article (["Ellice Café and Theatre closing after seven years"](#)), and on the front page of The Metro (["Cafe readies for closure"](#)).

Although the pending sale of the theatre may cast some uncertainty upon the location of our performance venue for 2013, Merlyn Productions remains positive about the prospect of reaching an amicable rental agreement with its future owners.

WTS BACK IN SESSION

The Winnipeg Theatre School commenced its Autumn 2012 session on September 22, and welcomes all of its new and returning students!



Winter Term course offerings are currently being planned. For further information about the school and future training opportunities for ages 10 to 55, visit THEATRESCHOOL.CA or call 204-415-2714.

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MERLYN MEMBER NEWS

Many members of *Merlyn Productions* fill diverse roles in the local arts community. We are pleased to highlight the following recent, newsworthy items:

- From our July production of *"The World of The Brothers Grimm"*, we welcome new Core Members **NICHOLAS CURRY** (actor) and **CRYSTAL HYDE** (Stage Manager), as well as new Supporting Member **BESS TAPALLA** (Scenic Crew).
- Welcome to new company Core Member **MYLÈNE CHICOINE**, who will be appearing onstage as Lilith in our October production of *"The Wraith of Wrath"*.
- Congratulations to **ERIC RAE**, who directed *"The Tempest"* for *Knaveish Hedgehog Productions*, and **MITCH KROHN**, who directed *"Cabaret"* for *Crosswalk Players*. Their productions received "Best of Fest" for ticket sales in their respective venues at the 2012 Winnipeg Fringe Festival!
- On the film and television scene, **DAVID KING** recently enjoyed a day of background performer work on the set of *"Mr Hockey"*: a film about Gordie Howe. (Mr King is currently stage managing *"The Wraith of Wrath"* for October.)
- November 8 to 10, **EV DARRACH**, **SAM KOWALUK**, **CHRIS REID**, and **MEGAN WILSON** will appear with *Marketplace Players* in *"Drama At Ye Olde Inn"* at the new Aqua Books (123 Princess St). While originally presented as reader's theatre in 2010, we are told that this latest run of the play will feature full staging.
- Things to watch for later on: the new script *"Progenitor"* by **SARA ARENSON** will be given a professional table reading at the *MAP Open Door* on December 12; **SAM KOWALUK** is returning to *Dakota Collegiate* as an Assistant Director for their Winter production of *"Cinderella"*.

COMPANY STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
JOHN CHASE

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
KEVIN HAMILL

WARDROBE MISTRESS
JENN HARDER

SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS

YOUTH THEATRE INSTRUCTOR
TONY FROST

ADULT THEATRE INSTRUCTOR
JOHN CHASE

FAMOUS THEATRE QUOTE

"Ultimately one has to pity these poor souls who know every secret about writing, directing, designing, producing, and acting but are stuck in those miserable day jobs writing reviews.

Will somebody help them, please?"

– DAVID IVES



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