



COMPANY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #18: JULY 2013

WINNIPEG FRINGE FESTIVAL

Merlyn Productions Theatre Company will present "MING LEE AND THE MAGIC TREE", a play for young people by AURAND HARRIS, at the 2013 Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival, July 17 to 28!



In this delightful tale of the Far East, a prince who wishes to marry the Princess of the Stars must remain a tiger until he learns what makes a happy man. Ming Lee, a poor stone cutter, believes wealth and power will bring him joy. Together they discover the true meaning of happiness - and that "a fine hat does not make a fine head"!

Staged in the classic Chinese style with a storyteller Chorus and comical Property Man, this will be a fun and unique theatrical experience for the whole family!

Directing the play is Merlyn Productions Artistic Director JOHN CHASE.

Featured in the cast of thirteen local talents are RACHEL HIEBERT, DAVID KING, NATHANIEL HIEBERT, KAI JOLLEY, HOPE FIGUEROA, NICHOLAS CURRY, BRIAN DOUGHERTY, HEATHER FORGIE, JORDAN HRYNKIWI, FAITH MARCIAL, ALICIA MOORE, KEN STONE, and ANNA WOODWARD. The diverse ensemble is composed of ages thirteen through senior, and includes several students and alumni of the **Winnipeg Theatre School (WTS)**.

Stage managed by CRYSTAL HYDE; costume design by JENN HARDER and technical direction by KEVIN HAMILL.

KIDS VENUE - 211 Bannatyne Avenue (Crocus Building)
Tickets: \$10 / Discount Tickets: \$5 for Kids 12 & under, Fringe Volunteers, and Group Bookings of 10 or more.

**For show times and advance tickets,
visit MERLYN.BIZ or call 204-415-2714.**

CELEBRATING 20 & 100 YEARS

Although Merlyn Productions is best-known at the Kids Fringe for its classic fairy tales, this year's departure for the Far East commemorates two special anniversaries!



"Ming Lee and The Magic Tree" was last staged locally by Fantasy Theatre for Children at the 1993 Winnipeg Fringe Festival, as directed by TONY FROST, with Merlyn Productions director JOHN CHASE amongst its cast.

The classic format of Chinese theatre in which "Ming Lee" is presented - featuring Chorus, Property Man, Orchestra and Most Honourable Actors - first appeared on Western stages one hundred years ago in 1912/13, when it was adapted by GEORGE C. HAZELTON and BENRIMO for a play entitled "The Yellow Jacket" at the Fulton Theatre.

In this special 2013 presentation, we are immensely pleased to bring you both a 20th anniversary revival at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival, and a centennial celebration of classic Chinese theatre on the Western stage!

WINNIPEG THEATRE SCHOOL



The *Winnipeg Theatre School (WTS)* is now registering **ages 10 to 55** for Autumn/Winter 2013!

With the credo that "Some companies use professionals - we create them!", the theatre school offers performance-oriented training by local professionals, at some of the city's most competitive rates.

**Register today at THEATRESCHOOL.CA,
or contact us by phone at 204-415-2714.**

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



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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:

- Welcome to new company Core Members **ALICIA MOORE** from the *Winnipeg Theatre School*, and **NATHANIEL HIEBERT** through public audition. Both will appear in our Winnipeg Fringe Festival production of *"Ming Lee and The Magic Tree"*, with Nathaniel in the title role, and Alicia in multiple roles.
- Also at this year's Winnipeg Fringe Festival, company members **EVELYN CARRUTHERS**, **EV DARRACH**, **SAM KOWALUK**, and **CHRIS REID** will all appear with *Marketplace Players* at VENUE #3 in *"Strange Day at the Fringe"*: a comedy about going to the Fringe, penned by Denis Thornton and directed by Brett Buckingham.
- *R-G Productions* will present William Shakespeare's *"A Midsummer Night's Dream"*, as re-conceptualised and directed for a contemporary Canadian audience by **HEATHER FORGIE**, and featuring *"Ming Lee and The Magic Tree"* cast members **HOPE FIGUEROA** and **RACHEL HIEBERT** alongside company core member **ERIC RAE**. This production will be presented locally August 8 to 10 at the Forrest Nickerson Theatre (285 Pembina Hwy), and then toured to the A-Spire Theatre August 16 to 18, as part of a double-feature at Gimli Summer Theatre in conjunction with *Run Ragged Productions*.



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

"Embrace the 'F' Word!"

– THE OFFICIAL MOTTO OF THE
2013 WINNIPEG FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL

"Brought to you by the letter 'F'"

– THE OFFICIAL MOTTO OF THE
2013 KIDS FRINGE