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PRESS RELEASE: AN EVENING OF MILNE FOR THE THAW FESTIVAL



Merlyn Productions Theatre Company will present **"THE BOY COMES HOME, And Other Works by A. A. Milne"** in the first annual Thaw Festival, March 15 to 19 at Aqua Books.

This special programme tributes the works of A. A. MILNE: the renowned British author and World War I veteran, who is best-remembered today as the creator of iconic children's character Winnie-the-Pooh.

The one-act dark comedy **"THE BOY COMES HOME"** centres around Philip, a 23-year old former officer who has just returned from World War I as a man well beyond his years. Unfortunately, his wealthy guardian Uncle James still sees Philip as a boy, and has no idea of the realities of the front. Uncle James believes he contributed as much as any soldier, by paying extra taxes and giving up potatoes – all from the comfort of his own home. He is about to receive a timely lesson to the contrary!

Rounding out the entertainment is a delightful series of scenes and monologues, adapted for the stage from Milne's short writings and articles.

Directing the programme is Merlyn Productions Artistic Director JOHN CHASE.

Featured in the cast of Winnipeg talents are TIM BEAUDRY, KIRSTEN WATTIS, JONATHAN LAWRENCE, RACHELL HODGINS, ANNA WOODWARD, LEILA MARSTON, and KEVIN HAMILL.

TITLE: THE BOY COMES HOME, And Other Works by A. A. Milne
VENUE: Aqua Books – 274 Garry Street
SHOW TIMES: Tuesday, March 15 at 9:00 PM
Thursday, March 17 at 7:00 PM
Saturday, March 19 at 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
TICKETS: General Admission: \$10.00
RESERVATIONS: Online at MERLYN.BIZ or by phone at (204) 415-2714.

This show is part of the first annual THAW FESTIVAL: five days of locally-produced theatre from Merlyn Productions, the Marketplace Players and Sansregret Productions.

For further information, please contact *Merlyn Productions* at (204) 415-2714 or info@merlyn.biz.

Warm regards,
John Chase
Artistic Director

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



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About The Re-Mount

"The Boy Comes Home" was originally produced in the Merlyn Productions 2010 Season, as its November mainstage play at the Ellice Theatre.

The show received excellent audience reviews while being plagued by bad weather, and the company is pleased to have the opportunity to re-mount it with its original cast in the first annual Thaw Festival.

These are a few of the comments patrons wrote for the 2010 Season run:

- *"A most enjoyable evening out ... good story, great cast!"*
- *"I really enjoyed the show ... The play was dark fun."*
- *"A side to Milne I never realized but am glad to have encountered."*

About The Company

Merlyn Productions is a live theatre production company in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The company presents a full season of stage plays each year, and also offers periodic courses in the Performing Arts.

Merlyn Productions is the successor to *C.G. Productions*, which staged plays locally from 1997 until 1999. Founded by Artistic Director John Chase, the company is committed to the mission of staging ***"quality theatrical entertainment at an affordable ticket price"***.

Performers of many ages and skill levels from the greater community are welcomed into its cast and staff, who dedicate time for the love of their art form, and are committed to fostering local live theatre.

The company is now producing its third consecutive season of plays at the Ellice Theatre – which has been regarded as its mainstage since moving into its current Exchange District studio in late 2008 – and will also present several festival shows at other venues.