



PRESS RELEASE: A COMEDY TO CLOSE CHRISTIEFEST!

Merlyn Productions Theatre Company will present **"AND THEN THERE WAS ONE"**, an Agatha Christie spoof by Michael Druce, playing February 22 to 26 at the Forrest Nickerson Theatre as part of the "ChristieFest 2017" Master Playwright Festival.

This family-friendly one-act spoof of Agatha Christie's famous stage mystery is all comedy, filled with hilarious sight gags and dialogue!

Ten people are brought by mysterious invitation to the Reef Mansion on an isolated island. Like the chocolate soldiers that inexplicably disappear from the mantel one by one, the guests begin to die one by one..

Everyone is stymied as to who the murderer could be — until in the final scene we discover the farcical twist!

"A delightful script that doesn't miss any opportunity for lively comedy and humour", from the producer of *"Ernie's Incredible Illucinations"* (AyckbournFest 2016), and many more.

Directing the play is Merlyn Productions Artistic Director JOHN CHASE, who has produced, directed, stage managed or acted in more than 115 productions over the past 25 years.

The all-local cast is composed of ages teen through senior, featuring XIAM WEBSTER, DEAN DUNCAN, DAVID KING, BASIA ZALESKA, ROBERT HEWITT KING, SANDY TIRLEROUX, ETHAN LAPKIN, CHANTELE DUBOIS, DAKOTA NICKELS, and LAURA CHAN.

Stage managed by KEN WOODLEY. Scenic & Lighting design by DARRYL AUDETTE. Costume design by KAITLIN KLASSEN. Properties by HEATHER FORGIE. Fight choreography by RACHEL HIEBERT.



TITLE: AND THEN THERE WAS ONE, a spoof by Michael Druce
VENUE: Forrest Nickerson Theatre – 285 Pembina Hwy (South of Confusion Corner)
SHOW TIMES: Wednesday, February 22 at 7:30 PM * Thursday, February 23 at 7:30 PM
Friday, February 24 at 7:30 PM * Saturday, February 25 at 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Sunday, February 26 at 7:30 PM
TICKETS: \$12/\$10/ChristiePass * Group rates available for 10 or more.
RESERVATIONS: Online at MERLYN.BIZ or by phone at 204-415-2714

Interviews and comps for contest give-away are available upon request.

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

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



PRESS RELEASE: A COMEDY TO CLOSE CHRISTIEFEST!

Additional Interesting Production Facts

- *"AND THEN THERE WAS ONE"*, penned by Michael Druce in 2015, marks the first occasion on which *Merlyn Productions* is participating in the Master Playwright Festival with a parody, presenting a script that has not been authored by the celebrated playwright!
- *Merlyn Productions Theatre Company* has staged plays in four previous Master Playwright Festivals, presenting a total of five productions: *"Ernie's Incredible Illucinations"* in AyckbournFest 2016, *"The Astonished Heart"* in CowardFest 2015, both *"A Marriage Proposal"* and *"The Anniversary"* in ChekhovFest 2014, and *"Augustus Does His Bit"* in ShawFest 2012.

About The Company

Merlyn Productions is a live theatre production company that also operates the *Winnipeg Theatre School* (WTS) in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Each year, the theatre company presents a full season of stage plays for both general & young audiences, while the theatre school offers acting classes for ages 10 to 55.

Merlyn Productions was founded by Artistic Director John Chase as the successor to *C.G. Productions*, which staged plays from 1997 to 1999. 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 *Winnipeg Theatre School* became part of the organisation in 2011. With the motto that *"some companies use professionals – we create them"*, its 35-year-old brand came from *Fantasy Theatre for Children and The Theatre School*, to continue in FTC's tradition of quality training for all ages.

The company is producing its ninth consecutive season of plays for 2017, and performs at the Forrest Nickerson Theatre inside 285 Pembina as its mainstage venue.