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## **PRESS RELEASE: "NIGHTINGALE"** **PREMIÈRES FOR SPRING BREAK!**

Now celebrating **ten** seasons of local live theatre, *Merlyn Productions* will present the Winnipeg première run of Hans Christian Andersen's "**NIGHTINGALE**", as adapted by RITA GRAUER and JOHN URQUHART, March 23 to 27 at the Forrest Nickerson Theatre (285 Pembina).

*"Obsessed by his possessions, the great Emperor of China has grown blind to the needs of his people and the real treasures of life.*

*"In this humorous children's theatre adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's famous tale, ancient Oriental gods and the Nightingale join forces with THE AUDIENCE to cure the Emperor of his possessive ways!*

*"Recipient of the AATE Distinguished Play Award. Presented in the Chinese Theatre style, with mask, movement, story-telling and audience participation!"*

The production runs approximately 50 minutes, and is geared for ages 3 and up. Children can meet the cast in the lobby following the performance!

Directing the play is Merlyn Productions Artistic Director JOHN CHASE. Mr Chase is a veteran of theatre for young audiences, having served as cast and staff at *Fantasy Theatre for Children* for 20 seasons, and produced classic children's theatre titles in Winnipeg for the past ten years.

Featured in the all-local cast are Merlyn mainstage regulars ALISON KOLISNYK, HELMUT FRIEDRICH, DAKOTA NICKELS, CORA FAST, HEATHER FORGIE, and HOPE FIGUEROA. Stage managed by MARGARET KEAST. Costume design by KAITLIN KLASSEN. Choreography by RACHEL HIEBERT.



**TITLE:** NIGHTINGALE  
**VENUE:** Forrest Nickerson Theatre – 285 Pembina Hwy (South of Confusion Corner)  
**SHOW TIMES:** Friday, March 23 at 7:00 PM \* Saturday, March 24 & Sunday, March 25 at 1:30 PM  
Monday, March 26 at 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM \* Tuesday, March 27 at 1:30 PM  
**TICKETS:** General Admission - \$12  
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.

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*"The Magic of Live Theatre ... for all ages!"*



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### **About The Company**

*Merlyn Productions* is a live theatre company that carries a legacy of classic children's theatre in Manitoba, and also operates the *Winnipeg Theatre School* (WTS).

Dedicated to creating "*the magic of live theatre for all ages*", the company now celebrates **10 seasons** of staging quality theatrical entertainment for general & family audiences, while the theatre school offers performance-oriented acting classes for children, teens, and adults.

*Merlyn Productions* was founded by Artistic Director John Chase, who began producing local theatre in 1997. 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 performs at the Forrest Nickerson Theatre inside 285 Pembina as its mainstage venue.