

PRESS RELEASE: MERLYN ANNOUNCES NEW MAINSTAGE AND WINTER TITLES!

After 6 seasons and mounting more than 20 plays in Winnipeg's West End, *Merlyn Productions Theatre Company* has moved its mainstage south for the winter, and announced two major titles!

Following deliberations surrounding the sale of its previous long-standing home venue, the company will be presenting its upcoming productions at the **Forrest Nickerson Theatre**: a 175-seat proscenium theatre conveniently located on the main floor of 285 Pembina Highway, just south of Confusion Corner.

"The Forrest Nickerson is a hidden gem on the Winnipeg theatre circuit", says Artistic Director John Chase. *"Known for decades as the mainstage of Fantasy Theatre for Children – where our own theatre school was originally founded – many patrons, performers, and students have already regarded Merlyn's move onto its stage as a homecoming, while we're confident that newcomers will be pleasantly surprised by the facilities."*

"Decisions such as these are never made easily", he added. *"Our company maintains its strong belief in the West End as a vibrant, upcoming arts district. However, making the move is the right choice for Merlyn Productions at this time."*

Two mainstage production titles at the Forrest Nickerson Theatre have already been announced.

As a holiday special for the whole family, *Merlyn Productions* will re-mount its 2011 hit **"THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS (And What Alice Found There)"**, as adapted by JIM GEISEL from Lewis Carroll's classic sequel to *"Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"*, December 26 to 30. This one-hour adaptation keeps the Victorian charm and merriment, remaining faithful to Carroll's original scenes. Children will have the chance to meet Alice, the Red Queen, the White Queen, Humpty Dumpty, and all of the other familiar characters in the lobby after the play!

Kicking off 2015 with a title for general audiences, *Merlyn Productions* is once again participating in the RMTTC's Master Playwright Festival with **"THE ASTONISHED HEART"**, by NOËL COWARD, February 11 to 15. In this gripping drama, patrons of CowardFest 2015 will discover the secret love life and untimely death of psychiatrist Christian Faber: a role originally performed by the master playwright himself in London, New York, and a 1950 feature film!

Directing both plays is *Merlyn Productions* Artistic Director JOHN CHASE, with casting to be announced. Annual showcases for youth and adult students will also be presented by the *Winnipeg Theatre School* in March.

For further information, show times, and ticket reservations, visit MERLYN.BIZ or call 204-415-2714. Media interviews are readily available upon request.



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

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About The Company

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

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 going into its seventh consecutive season of plays for 2015, and recently announced the **Forrest Nickerson Theatre** at 285 Pembina Highway as its new mainstage venue.