



COMPANY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #14: MAY 2012

ABBOTT & COSTELLO AT THE ELLICE THEATRE



Returning for FOUR DAYS ONLY, it's **"HEY ABBOTT! - Another Classic Comedy Tribute Show"**, May 30 to June 2 at the Ellice Theatre.

Merlyn Productions hosts award-winning Abbott & Costello impressionists

CHASE & HAMILL and their wacky cast, as they remount their latest tribute to the legendary comedy duo – as seen at the 2011 Winnipeg Fringe Festival!

This production is another FAMILY-FRIENDLY hour of sketch comedy, featuring "WHO'S ON FIRST" and a NEW selection of old-time favourites.

JOHN CHASE and KEVIN HAMILL – best-known as the Artistic Director and Technical Director of Merlyn Productions – have worked together in Winnipeg live theatre for the past sixteen years, and revived their Abbott & Costello impressionist act in 2007.

Featured in the all-original supporting cast are TIM BEAUDRY, BRIAN DOUGHERTY, RACHELL HODGINS, SAM KOWALUK, IAN PETERS, and ANNA WOODWARD.

IGNITE 107 (★★★★½): "Chase and Hamill breathe new life into these classic characters. Bring out the fam-jam and have a great time enjoying some nice clean comedy that you can actually sit back and relax and enjoy!"

WINNIPEG FREE PRESS (★★★★): "Chase has the perfect peeved tone as straight man Abbott, and as Costello, the husky Hamill has both the guileless face and exasperated reactions."

CBC: "Winnipeg's John Chase and Kevin Hamill certainly have the chops to pull it off. Their chemistry is terrific, and by time we get to the show-stopping "Who's On First" finale, the air positively crackles with comic electricity."

THE JENNY REVUE: "Classic comedy at its finest. Don't just consider seeing this show, go see it."

Show times are 7:30 PM nightly, with an additional 2:00 PM matinée on Saturday June 2nd. General Admission is \$10.00, or just \$7.00 for seniors 65+, children 12 & under, and groups of 10 or more!

**For information and reservations,
visit MERLYN.BIZ or call (204) 415-2714.**



2012 SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

Merlyn Productions Theatre Company will stage a total of six productions in 2012, and is pleased to announce the dates for the remainder of its season!

"THE WORLD OF THE BROTHERS GRIMM" Winnipeg Fringe Kids Venue – July 18 to 29

The stories of "King Thrushbeard", "The Fisherman and His Wife", and "The Elves and The Shoemaker" come to life through the magic of live theatre and storytelling! With twists of comedy and audience participation, Grimm's characters learn valuable lessons while all three classic fairy tales resolve in a happy ending.

MERLYN PRODUCTIONS OCTOBER SHOW Ellice Theatre – October 17 to 20

This "wild card" production of the season is currently being planned, and will have its title and show times announced to the public in Summer 2012!

"WIND OF A THOUSAND TALES" Ellice Theatre – December 5 to 8

When a young girl shuns imagination, the Wind of a Thousand Tales visits with folk-tales from Mexico, Japan, and middle Europe, in hopes of helping her to discover a deeper sense of truth than she had found in a world without make-believe. With beautiful stories vividly created by a diverse ensemble cast, this will be the ideal show to entertain the entire family this holiday season!

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"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:

- On the film and television scene, **DAVID KING** recently appeared as the boxing referee in the "*Brown Bomber Video*". This video was shown at the new Blue Bomber jersey press conference on May 1, 2012, and can be viewed online at: bluebombers.com/video/index/id/73997 (**DAVID KING** will next appear with *Merlyn Productions* in "*The World of The Brothers Grimm*" at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival in July.)
- Company Wardrobe Mistress **JENN HARDER** was seen on the other side of the footlights in mid-April, performing alongside **MITCH KROHN** in the *Crosswalk Players* production of "*The Birdcage*" in Steinbach, Manitoba.
- In late April, **SAM KOWALUK**, **CHRIS REID**, and **MEGAN WILSON** were amongst the five-member cast of "*Ending Better*" - the latest original comedy to be staged by the *Marketplace Players* at Aqua Books - whilst **ANDREW THOMAS** maintained a ghost-like presence behind the scenes. (**SAM KOWALUK** is appearing with *Merlyn Productions* in "*HEY ABBOTT! - Another Classic Comedy Tribute Show*", while **CHRIS REID** will next appear in "*The World of The Brothers Grimm*" at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival in July.)
- Continuing in the tradition of the former *Beer & Skits* at the Winnipeg Press Club, the *BS Comedy Players* will present "*Rock 'Em Sock 'Em 2012*" at the PTE Mainstage on May 24 & 25. The show features recent company member **MITCH KROHN** (who also happens to be the *BS Comedy* Artistic Director) as well as long-standing company member **TIM BEAUDRY** amongst the cast. For further information, visit: BSCOMEDY.COM

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

*"The theatre is as holy a place as the church
and the function of the actor no less
sacred than that of the priest."*

– GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

