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## PRESS RELEASE: FOUR FARCES FOR CHEKHOVFEST 2014!

Merlyn Productions Theatre Company will present two separate productions at the Ellice Theatre in the 2014 Master Playwright Festival, staging a grand total of four out of the seven one-act plays attributed to Russian author ANTON CHEKHOV by festival organiser MTC!

**"A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL"** (January 28 to February 1): Love, marriage, and...palpitations of the heart!? Tensions build (and so do the physical ailments!) as a stubborn suitor, a headstrong young lady, and one poor parent of the would-be bride clash comically! This will be the happy union of the irresistible object and the immovable force – if they manage not to kill one another first! With opening act: *"A Tragedian in Spite of Himself"*.

**"THE ANNIVERSARY"** (February 4 to 8): What could possibly go wrong at the bank's jubilee celebration, with the board of directors due to arrive? Murphy's Law hits the heights of comic disaster with a pompous chairman, a crotchety book-keeper who must finish massaging the numbers in time, and two meddling wives who unwittingly plunge the occasion into total chaos! With opening act: *"On the Harmful Effects of Tobacco"*.



Directing both programmes is Merlyn Productions Artistic Director JOHN CHASE.

Featured in *"A Marriage Proposal"* are BRIAN DOUGHERTY, KELSEY TUMA, and MITCH KROHN; with DANIEL GILMOUR and NICHOLAS CURRY performing *"A Tragedian in Spite of Himself"*. Stage managed by DAVID KING. Featured in *"The Anniversary"* are DEAN DUNCAN, TIM BEAUDRY, RACHEL HIEBERT, ARDYTH JOHNSON, and JOHN G. HANSEN; with TIM WEBSTER performing *"On the Harmful Effects of Tobacco"*. Stage managed by HEATHER FORGIE. Costume design by JENN HARDER and scenic design by KEVIN HAMILL.

**TITLE #1:** *"A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL"* (January 28 – February 1)  
**TITLE #2:** *"THE ANNIVERSARY"* (February 4 – 8)  
**VENUE:** The Ellice Theatre – 585 Ellice Ave (at Sherbrook)  
**SHOW TIMES:** Tuesday to Friday at 7:30 PM; Saturday matinée at 2:00 PM  
\* Doors open 30 minutes before show time. Latecomers not admitted.  
**TICKETS:** General Admission - \$10 or ChekhovPass / Seniors (65+) - \$8  
**RESERVATIONS:** Online at [MERLYN.BIZ](http://MERLYN.BIZ) or by phone at 204-415-2714

**Interviews and pairs of 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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### 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 now launching its sixth 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.

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