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PRESS RELEASE: NOËL COWARD TRAGEDY OPENS 2015 SEASON!

Merlyn Productions Theatre Company will open its seventh season with "THE ASTONISHED HEART" by Noël Coward, playing February 11 to 15 as part of the RMTC's Master Playwright Festival.

This singular play from the famous "Tonight at 8:30" series is the only Noël Coward tragedy being staged in the comedy-dominated line-up of CowardFest 2015!

Discover the love life and untimely death of psychiatrist Christian Faber: a role originally performed by Noël Coward in London, New York, and a 1950 feature film!

In Chris Faber's drawing room sit his wife and assistants, awaiting the siren Leonora in answer to his death-bed call.

Four flashbacks unravel the love triangle between doctor, wife, and mistress – a woman who set out to capture her best friend's husband, and was herself ensnared. Returning to the present, we witness the final, shocking conclusion.

A gripping drama, from the producer of 'Augustus Does His Bit' (ShawFest 2012), 'A Marriage Proposal' and 'The Anniversary' (ChekhovFest 2014).

Directing the play is Merlyn Productions Artistic Director JOHN CHASE, who says of his script selection: "Representing the tragedy mask for a chiefly comical playwright, Merlyn Productions is especially pleased to bring dramatic contrast to this year's festival, and offer patrons the opportunity to discover another side of Noël Coward."

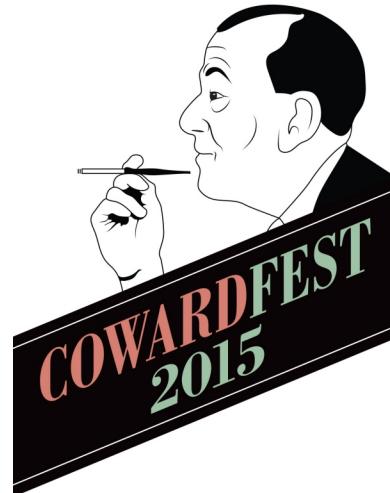
Starring in the all-local cast are Winnipeg theatre actor/director/instructor MITCH KROHN as Christian Faber; former Ontario actress and current 92 CITI FM announcer NANCY SLATER making her Winnipeg stage début as Barbara, his wife; and Winnipeg actress/lawyer KALYN BOMBACK as Leonora Vail.

Featured in the supporting cast are NICHOLAS CURRY, REBA TERLSON, TIM BEAUDRY, and HELMUT FRIEDRICH. Stage managed by ERICA WILSON. Costume design by LEILA MARSTON. Properties by HEATHER FORGIE. Scenic carpentry by BRIAN DOUGHERTY.

TITLE:	THE ASTONISHED HEART, by Noël Coward
VENUE:	Forrest Nickerson Theatre – 285 Pembina Hwy (South of Confusion Corner)
SHOW TIMES:	Wednesday, February 11 to Friday, February 13 at 7:30 PM Saturday, February 14 and Sunday, February 15 at 2:00 PM
TICKETS:	General Admission - \$12 or CowardPass / Seniors (65+), Under 18 - \$10 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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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 for both general & young audiences each year, 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 30-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 currently producing its seventh consecutive season of plays for 2015, and recently announced the **Forrest Nickerson Theatre** at 285 Pembina Highway as its new mainstage venue.

“Committed to staging quality theatrical entertainment at an affordable price.”