



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
January 14, 2008



University  
of Victoria

2007/2008 Season

## PHOENIX ANNOUNCES CHANGE OF SEASON

“The School for Scandal” to replace final show

FIND 2008:

Festival of Innovative & New Drama

### 3 LIONEL THE MIRACLE MAN

February 14 – 23, 2008

*Can a song in your heart actually make you grow? Follow the 1920's Hollywood odyssey of the shortest tenor in history.*

By Pan Bouyoucas  
Directed by Ewan McLaren  
An MFA Thesis Production

Set Design by Jennifer Quinn  
Costume Design by Natasha Sharpe  
Lighting Design by Nathan Brown  
Music Direction by Candace Collin  
Sound Design by Tim Johnston

Presented by

Dairyland.

### 4 THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

March 13 – 22, 2008

*The gossip, intrigue and razor-sharp wit of this 18<sup>th</sup> century classic continue to ring true for today's Hollywood and tabloid-driven world of celebrity.*

By Richard B. Sheridan  
Directed by Fran Gebhard  
Costume Design by Kate Costin  
Lighting Design by Tim Herron  
Theatre 352 Scenic Design Class

### STUDIO SERIES

February 28 – March 1, 2008

*Staged readings of plays by students in the Department of Writing, directed and read by Department of Theatre students.*

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The Phoenix Theatre at the University of Victoria announces a change to their 2007/08 season.

The Department of Theatre's previously scheduled final play of the season was to be produced as part of the Faculty of Fine Arts' exchange with Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa, Mexico. Martín Zapata, the guest director and writer of the play *The Unusual Case of Mr. Morton* has had to cancel his visit to Victoria this spring due to family reasons.

“Given that Mr. Zapata wrote and developed this play, it seemed appropriate to postpone this project until some time in the future when he is able to join us,” said Brian Richmond, Chair of the Department.

Replacing the project will be the 18<sup>th</sup> century classic comedy *The School for Scandal* by Richard B. Sheridan, directed by Fran Gebhard.

“Fran did a fabulous job working with our students last year on “Crackpot” and we're grateful that she is able to step in at this late stage to help us,” said Richmond. “Her choice of *The School for Scandal* will give the acting students a unique opportunity do a comedy of manners written in the sophisticated language of the Restoration period.”

Gebhard has directed the play twice in the past and has even performed in it once. Her vision for the play is to reposition it in current-day Hollywood and the world of celebrity.

“Originally set in London in the 1770's where scandal reigned supreme, I saw Sheridan's comedy – replete with devilish wit, razor-sharp dialogue and outrageous situations – as a perfect foil for today's celebrity-obsessed culture where we follow the day-to-day life of Paris Hilton and Britney Spears in the tabloids and entertainment shows like a bizarre ritual,” said Gebhard.

Season subscribers for the Phoenix Theatre will be able to use their issued tickets for Morton to attend *The School for Scandal*, and do not need to exchange their tickets.

The Phoenix Theatre's next play, *Lionel: The Miracle Man*, February 14-23, 2008, presents the story of Lionel, the shortest tenor in history and his odyssey from a small Quebec parish to 1920's Hollywood. Written by Pan Bouyoucas and directed by MFA Candidate, Ewan McLaren, this is the premiere production of this play.

The Phoenix Theatre Box Office opens February 7, 2008 for ticket sales to *Lionel*. Call (250) 721-8000 for more information.