



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 12, 2008



University
of Victoria

2007/2008 Season

FIND 2008:
Festival of Innovative & New Drama

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.*

4 THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

March 13 – 22, 2008
*The gossip, intrigue and razor-sharp wit of this
18th century rings true in today's Hollywood and
tabloid-driven world of celebrity.*
By Richard B. Sheridan
Directed by Fran Gebhard

FROM THE PAGE TO STAGE: FIND FESTIVAL CELEBRATES NEW TALENT & ARTISTIC COLLABORATION

UVic Departments of Writing & Theatre present eight new plays

In collaboration with the Department of Writing, the University of Victoria's Department of Theatre is pleased to present eight original plays, written by Writing students and directed and performed entirely by Theatre students.

The FIND (Festival of Innovative and New Drama) Studio Series emphasizes the importance of the developmental and collaborative process of writing and creating theatre. Often, as an audience member, we are only witness to the final product. But this exercise is a valuable experience, especially for emerging new talent.

Andrew Wade, a Theatre and Writing student whose play ***William Vs. The World*** is featured in the series, describes the value of the rehearsal and workshop process. *"It's incredibly useful to see directors and actors work their way through your script, getting to the core of your characters – especially when they find aspects of your characters you didn't realize they had,"* Wade says. *"Every rehearsal teaches the process of editing, listening to where the actors stumble on their lines, where the transitions leave dead air onstage, because those are the spots that need revising."*

Reflecting this focus on the process, the FIND Studio Series' eight plays are presented as staged readings rather than full productions, with minimal set and costuming, further enhancing the words of these talented young playwrights.

Melanie Leon, a second-year Acting student at the Phoenix and FIND Studio Series cast member, believes that this emphasis on the creative process is what makes the Series so special. *"The Studio Series is art in a very raw form, and it is very exciting to watch it all come together,"* she says. *"Creating theatre is an incredible journey, and it is really great that we can share it with an audience."*

The relationship with the audience also has an incredible impact on the young playwrights. Says Wade, *"Last year, a woman cried uncontrollably on my shoulder because my piece had reminded her of how hard she found it to leave childhood. You just don't get that kind of an experience writing short stories."*

The eight plays featured in the FIND Studio Series are: ***Cuffed*** by James R. Stewart, ***The Photograph*** by Susie Primrose, ***The Curse of Macbeth*** by Margaret Dryden, ***Show and Tell*** by Alison Ross, ***Find Drama*** by Christopher Kattner, ***Shah Mat*** by Sam Young, ***William Vs. The World*** by Andrew Wade, and ***When I'm Awfully Low*** by Kathleen Black.

The FIND Studio Series runs February 28, 29, and March 1 at the Phoenix Theatre's studio space. Each evening will feature all eight plays, and audiences are free to pick and choose the plays they want to see. Performances begin at 7:00pm and play order changes each night. A complete schedule of shows will be posted by February 20 at www.phoenixtheatres.ca.

Tickets are \$2.00 per show, or \$10.00 for a viewing of all eight shows. Tickets are available at the door. For more information please call **(250) 721-8000**.

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