



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 21, 2008



University
of Victoria

2008/2009 Season

2 DARK OF THE MOON

November 6 – 22, 2008

By Howard Richardson & William Berney,
In cooperation with The Richardson/Yale
Property Trust, Elliot S. Blair, Administrator

The dramatic love story of a witch boy and a
small-town Baptist girl, set amongst the dark
magic and rich music of the deep South.

Directed by Brian Richmond
Set & Costume Design by Patrick du Wors
Lighting Design by Kerem Çetinel
Music Direction & Sound Design
by John Mills-Cockell
Movement Direction & Choreography
by Conrad Alexandrowicz & Ingrid Hansen
Stage Manger Nathan Brown

Advisory: Mature subject matter. Some nudity.

Sponsored by



3 LA RONDE

February 19 – 28, 2009

By Arthur Schnitzler
Directed by Conrad Alexandrowicz
Love, passion, power and seduction in ten
interconnected relationships in across social
classes.

4 MEDEA

March 19 – 28, 2009

By Euripides
Directed by Linda Hardy
This Greek story of betrayal and revenge
chronicles the passionate story and downfall
of Medea.

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EAGLES SOAR & WITCHES FLY! – UNDER THE DARK OF THE MOON

Phoenix presents contemporary take on American folk classic

Wild and magical beings come out to play the week after Halloween at the University of Victoria's Phoenix Theatre as the production of ***Dark of the Moon*** opens November 6 and runs through November 22, 2008.

A variation of the centuries-old folk tale and ballad of Barbara Allen, ***Dark of the Moon*** tells the dramatic love story of John, a witch boy, who endeavours to become human after falling in love with Barbara Allen, a Baptist girl from a small-town in the Appalachian mountains. Opening on Broadway in 1945, ***Dark of the Moon*** quickly became one of the most widely performed plays of its generation and over the years has been interpreted by theatre artists from around the world including directors Peter Brook and actors Paul Newman and James Earl Jones.

"On the surface, the play paints a portrait of a community locked in a centuries-old war between Christianity and paganism," says Richmond. *"However, there are no easy answers in this play . . . perhaps it is why it continues to fascinate us today."*

For the supernatural characters and elements of the play, Richmond was inspired by several world myths including Southern voodoo practices, ancient Greek myths and those of the Cherokee North American Indians, who's ancestral home includes the Appalachian mountains. The dramatic set and costumes, designed by UVic alumnus Patrick DuWors, (*Turn of the Screw*, Belfry 2008) provide a contemporary take on these ideas, culminating in a spectacular and worldly interpretation of a classic tale.

Dark of the Moon also brings the return of a successful combination with the pairing of Richmond and Music Director and Sound Designer John Mills-Cockell. Their last production together, *Wind in the Willows* in 2007, won the Monday "M" Award for Victoria's Favourite Overall Production. Mills-Cockell's sound design imbues the play with a rich tapestry of folk and gospel music of the South, enriching every aspect of the production. Conrad Alexandrowicz and Ingrid Hansen provide movement direction and choreography, lighting design by Kerem Çetinel and the stage management by Nathan Brown. The production features a large cast of 29 actors, including two faculty members at the Department of Theatre.

Dark of the Moon opens at the Phoenix Theatre, Thursday November 6 with two preview performances on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 4 and 5. All are welcome to join us for our **FREE Pre-Show Lecture, Friday November 7 at 7:00pm** entitled *"Dark of the Moon: An Allegorical Folk Play About What?"* with Dr. Michael Nowlin of the UVic English Department, a specialist in 20th-century American Literature.

The performance schedule for ***Dark of the Moon*** at the Phoenix Theatre @ UVic is as follows:

Public Preview Performances 8pm: November 4 & 5

Evening Performances 8pm: November 6 (Opening Night), 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

Matinee Performances 2pm: Saturday, November 22

Single Tickets: \$12.00 - \$22.00 (Previews \$6.00)

Season Subscriptions: \$33 for 3 plays

Phoenix Box Office opens October 29 in person or by calling: **(250) 721-8000**.