



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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2007 – 2008 PHOENIX THEATRE SEASON ANNOUNCED

Warwick Dobson, Acting Chair of the Department of Theatre at the University of Victoria, announced the 2007 – 2008 Phoenix Theatre season, featuring four main-stage plays plus the department's annual studio series of new one-act plays.

Says **Dobson**, "This year's season has a completely new look to it. We begin with our Spotlight on Alumni and follow it with a real family show (an audience that we have perhaps neglected over the years). The Spring offerings follow our usual pattern of new and innovative theatre. This season closes with a show that promises to be a little different from our standard fare. We are confident that this new season will provide the customary challenges for our students and will give a diverse and stimulating theatre experience to our patrons."

The 2007 – 2008 season features:

1. SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI: The Ugly Duchess by Janet Munsil

October 11 – 20, 2007

The department's annual *Spotlight on Alumni* is always a highlight of the season. This Fall, the Phoenix Theatre is pleased to welcome back not just one, but two talented alumni: playwright and producer for Intrepid Theatre, **Janet Munsil** and acclaimed local actor, **Paul Terry**, who performs as the ill-fated gothic heroine. Janet Munsil also penned *That Elusive Spark*, which premiered at the Phoenix in 2005, and *Circus Fire* which was part of the first Festival of Innovative and New Drama in 2003.

Margaret Maultasch, medieval monarch of Tyrol, was the ugliest woman in history. A perfect scapegoat for the Black Death, pocket-mouthed Margaret was also a monstrously desirable political bride. Ugly but pious, Margaret believes her unfortunate looks are a divine test until she is demonized by her panic-stricken subjects when the Black Death sweeps through Europe.

2. Wind in the Willows by Alan Bennett **adapted from the book by Kenneth Grahame**

November 8 – 24, 2007

Directed by **Brian Richmond** (Chair of the Department of Theatre)

This adaptation of the classic children's tale follows the escapades of four animal friends who live along the English countryside. Join Toad, Mole, Rat and Badger in this whimsical production that will delight audiences of all ages. Recommended for children six and older.

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FIND 2008 (Festival of Innovative and New Drama)

3. Title TBA

February 14 – 23, 2008

Directed by **Ewan McLaren**

An MFA Thesis Production

*This selection will be directed by **Ewan McLaren** as part of his Master of Fine Arts academic requirements. His play selection is not available at this time, however, he is seriously considering a contemporary Canadian play. This past season, **Ewan** directed **The Street of Crocodiles** based on stories by Bruno Schulz.*

4. The Incredible Case of Señor Morton by Martín Zapata **(El Insólito Caso del Señor Morton)**

Martín Zapata guest directs as part of the cultural exchange between UVic's Faculty of Fine Arts and the Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa, Mexico.

March 13 – 22, 2007

This sexually explicit comic intrigue involves a detective hired to follow a case and the numerous characters he meets: the nurse, the lover, the doctor, the clown, the nymphomaniac, the doorman, the dog and the sleepwalker.

Performed in English

Advisory: Coarse language and sexually suggestive scenes.

PLUS Studio Series

February 28 – March 1, 2008

Once again, the Department of Theatre will join forces with the Writing Department to produce staged readings of new one-act plays written by Writing students and directed and performed by Theatre students. Audiences can enjoy one, two or all of the plays and in between experience a Phoenix style coffee house.

Subscriptions to the 2007 – 2008 season are on sale now. Three and four play packages are available for \$30 and \$40. To order season tickets, call (250) 721-8000.

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