

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

***The Norbals:* UWinnipeg Features Comedy by Award-Winning Alumnus**

WINNIPEG—The University of Winnipeg Department of Theatre and Drama's second show of the 2003/04 season is Brian Drader's award-winning play, *The Norbals*, a humorous look at a loving but dysfunctional family's Christmas preparations. Drader, who was recently nominated for a Governor-General's award for *PROK*, is a graduate of The University of Winnipeg's Theatre Department and has a successful career as an actor, playwright, and, most recently, screen writer.

The Norbal family, portrayed by members of the Acting IV: Honours – Contemporary Performance class, is a wild collection of the apparently normal, the eccentric, and the downright bizarre. You might say it is a Post-Modern family. “*The Norbals* is a family holiday that is nothing if not memorable, fraught with the things that families do so well: getting on each other's nerves, fighting, feuding, drinking, dissing, and otherwise wreaking havoc,” writes John Coulbourn in the *Toronto Sun*.

Published by Scirocco Press in 1998, *The Norbals* has been produced professionally at both Prairie Theatre Exchange and Toronto's Canadian Stage Company. *The Norbals* is directed by actor and University of Winnipeg Theatre Professor Blake Taylor. Set design is by Kim Donald-Haverty; costume design is by Brenda McLean; and lighting design is by Christian Hadley.

Drader will be appearing at Prairie Theatre Exchange in *Zadie's Shoes* (a co-production with Winnipeg Jewish Theatre running from Nov. 27-Dec. 14), and his new play, *Liar*, will open on February 12, also at PTE.

Performances are Tuesday, November 25 through Saturday, November 29 at the Gas Station Theatre, at 8:00 p.m. nightly. Admission is free but reservations are recommended. Call our 24-hour Reservation and Information Line at 204.786.9152, or visit The University of Winnipeg Theatre Department website at: theatre.uwinnipeg.ca

The Department of Theatre and Drama at The University of Winnipeg offers programs in Acting, Design, Drama in Education, Filmmaking, Playwriting, and Production/Stage Management. Our classes are small and our programs practical. Our faculty are highly respected and award-winning professionals who are experienced teachers and remain active in their disciplines, bringing relevant and up-to-date instruction to our students.

Media interviews are scheduled for Monday, November 24 from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. For further information or to confirm your interview, contact Patty Hawkins at 204.786.9955.