



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM GOES TO THE OLYMPICS: UWINNIPEG & SCHIPPER SET CLASSIC PLAY IN ATHENS 2004

WINNIPEG – The University of Winnipeg Department of Theatre and Drama's production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is time traveling to Athens 2004. This contemporary production of a classic Shakespearean comedy runs from March 29 to April 2 at the Gas Station Theatre.

Directed by the Manitoba Theatre Centre's Steven Schipper, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will stay close to its Athenian roots except that old-world Greece will be replaced by Athens 2004, home of the Olympic Games. Schipper, Artistic Director of MTC, took on the project as part of the theatre's outreach program. "We often send MTC staff into our community and we felt it was time to send out the Artistic Director," he said. Schipper finds it rejuvenating to work with University of Winnipeg students on this Olympic project. "These particular students are really game. They've got something to contribute, but they're also willing to receive," he said.

It is often suggested that *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was first performed for a noble wedding. For this early comedy, William Shakespeare did not rely on narrative poetry, historical chronicles, or other source materials, making this play his first truly original work. With its contemporary look and innovative music, this University of Winnipeg production will undoubtedly be an original work in its own right.

A Midsummer Night's Dream will be performed Tuesday through Saturday, March 29-April 2 at 8:00 p.m. nightly, at the Gas Station Theatre, 445 River Avenue.

Admission is free, but reservations are strongly recommended. Please call The University of Winnipeg Theatre Department's 24-hour Reservation and Information Line at **204.786.9152**, or visit The University of Winnipeg Theatre Department website at <http://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 is comprised of 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.

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Members of the media are invited to call Patty Hawkins at 204.786.9955 or to email p.hawkins@uwinnipeg.ca to arrange interviews / film clips.