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Illinois Wesleyan University

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NEWS RELEASE

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February 6, 2009   **Contact:** Allegra Gallian, '09, (309) 556-3181

School of Theatre Arts Presents *An Enemy of the People*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The Illinois Wesleyan University's School of Theatre Arts will present *An Enemy of the People* beginning Tuesday Feb. 17 and running through Sunday Feb. 22 in the McPherson Theatre (2 Ames Plaza, Bloomington). Performance times are 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

An Enemy of the People, written by Norwegian playwright Henry Ibsen, tells the story of a town that gains valuable tourism dollars from their bathhouses, but as popular citizen Dr. Thomas Stockmann discovers, these bathhouses are poisoning the water system in the area. Dr. Stockmann confronts the political system of his town, but they do not respond well to his discovery. The mayor tells Stockmann's brother that he should end his battle, which leads Stockmann to hold a town meeting to convince others to close the baths.

"An Enemy of the People is a timely addition to the upcoming production season of the SOTA," said director and Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts Tom Quinn. "In an election year, when so many critical issues, local, national and global, are being examined and debated, it is entirely fitting that we should undertake the work of a playwright who believed passionately in the emancipation of the individual, and a play whose most resounding theme is that honesty in facing facts is the first prerequisite of a decent life."

Ticket sales will begin Monday Feb. 9. Prices are $8 for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday performances and $10 for Friday and Saturday performances. All shows are $1 for students with a valid I.D. Senior citizens 65 and older will receive a $1 discount on ticket price. To reserve tickets or for additional information, contact the McPherson Theatre box office at (309) 556-3232.

Cast Members: Chris Olmstead (Dr. Stockmann), Kyle Blair (Peter Stockmann), Sarah Bockel (Catherine Stockmann), Kelsey Phillips (Petra Stockmann), Ryan Simpson (Hovstad), Tom Gooding (Billing), Russell Matthews (Captain Horster), Nick Goodman (Morten Kiil), Alex Pagels (Aslaksen), Sullivan Peterson-Quinn (Morten), Issac Galewsky (Ejlif), Tom Duncan (The Drunk)

Ensemble: Steve Aron, Vince Gargaro, Kevin Schuering, Andrew Temkin, Ryan Tipton, Erin Daly, Erika Lecaj, Melina Rey, Brooke Trantor

Production Team: Tom Quinn (Director), Catherine Smith (Assistant Director), Pam Wilcox (Costume Designer), Adam Groeniger (Lighting Designer), Andrea Healy (Scenic Designer), Sammi Grant (Sound Designer), Julie Ticker (Sound Technician), Jamelle Marshall-Williams (Properties Master), Armie Thompson (Technical Director), Kyle Urquhart (Stage Manager)

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