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## The E. Melba Johnson Kirkpatrick Laboratory Theatre's 1999-00 Season Highlights IWU Students

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## **The E. Melba Johnson Kirkpatrick Laboratory Theatre's 1999-00 Season Highlights IWU Students**

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.--For its 1999-00 season, Illinois Wesleyan University's Laboratory Theatre will present works written, directed, and choreographed by IWU students.

Renamed in 1993 in honor of E. Melba Johnson Kirkpatrick, a 1932 IWU graduate and former head of the IWU drama department from 1936 to 1942, the Laboratory Theatre encourages student creativity and allows greater flexibility in composition style than IWU's main stage productions.

The Laboratory Theatre, located next to McPherson Theatre, 304 E. Graham St., Bloomington, will present these productions:

**Placebo, Sept. 23, 24, and 25, 8 p.m.**--*Placebo* is a 50-minute play written and directed by Scott Powers, a senior theatre arts major at IWU. The psychological thriller uncovers Powers' feelings about psychiatry and at times, he said, the play is depressing and scary.

**Beckett Shorts, Nov. 4, 5, and 6, 8 p.m.**--A Samuel Beckett play, *Beckett Shorts*, will be directed by senior theatre arts and English major, Mike Balsley. It is a series of six short plays presented all at once. The six dramas are noted by theatre critics to be among the most exquisite and evocative plays ever written for theatre by Beckett, who has been described as one of the great playwrights of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Jake's Women, Feb. 17, 18, and 19, 8 p.m.**--A play by Neil Simon, *Jake's Women*, is under the direction of Kate Walker, a senior theatre arts major at IWU. Jake, the main character, is facing the end of his marriage to his wife, Maggie. To deal with his marital difficulties, he daydreams about the women in his life, past and present. Jake's daydreams, fantasies, flashbacks, and interruptions by actual female characters provide for an interesting backdrop to the story.

**Blue Window, March 30, 31, and April 1, 8 p.m.**--*Blue Window* by celebrated New York playwright Craig Lucas, will be directed by Todd Reichman, a senior theatre arts major at IWU. The play deals with the loneliness one can feel in a busy, urban environment and how this loneliness is highlighted when one is with a group of people who are supposed to be friends. To explore this issue, the play focuses on a group of friends who, on one particular night, attend a party together. *Blue Window* written by Lucas in 1984, is one of his most popular plays on Broadway.

**2000 Student Choreographed Dance Concert**--IWU's Laboratory Theatre season will conclude with the annual Student Choreographed Dance Concert on April 24 and 25 at 8 p.m.

### **Ticket Information**

Tickets for all productions at the E. Melba Johnson Kirkpatrick Laboratory Theatre are \$2 for general admission and \$1 for students with valid identification. Tickets for each production can be purchased at the McPherson Theatre Box Office during regular Box Office hours.

Located at 304 E. Graham St., Bloomington, the Box Office is open from 12:30-5 p.m. weekdays, except on Tuesdays when the hours are 12:30-4 p.m. Also, tickets may be purchased by calling McPherson Theatre at 309/556-3232.