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## IWU to Stage Pedro Calderon de la Barca's Life is a Dream

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Nov. 1, 2000

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## **IWU to Stage Pedro Calderon de la Barca's Life is a Dream**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Performed on the main stage at Illinois Wesleyan University Nov. 16-18, Nov. 30, Dec. 1 and 2 at 8 p.m. will be dramatist and poet Pedro Calderon de la Barca's 17th century classic, "Life is a Dream." The production is in celebration of the 400th anniversary of Calderon's birth.

All performances under the direction of Roger Bechtel, assistant professor of theatre arts at IWU, will be held at the McPherson Theatre, 304 E. Graham St., Bloomington. Following the performance on December 1, Charles Ganelin, an associate professor at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., and an expert on Spanish drama, will be part of a panel for a post-show discussion with the audience. Currently, Ganelin is a visiting professor at the University of Kansas.

Calderon (1600-1681), said to be one of the greatest Spanish playwrights of the Golden Age, is known as the "Shakespeare of Spain." His operas and plays often deal with religious and mythological themes. In "Life is a Dream," there is a mixture of fable, tragedy and comedy, often found in plays by Shakespeare, Moliere and Noel Coward.

Translated by Gwynne Edwards, professor of Spanish at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, "Life is a Dream," written in 1635, is an emotional voyage about love, honor, betrayal and revenge. It is one of Calderon's best-known secular dramas. Set in a mythical Polish kingdom, it tells the story of Prince Segismundo. The prince's father thinks he can read fate in the stars and believes his son will betray him. The king chains the prince in a tower until he's an adult and eventually frees his son with an out--if things go wrong, he'll re-imprison the prince and tell him it was a dream.

Cast members include: Lydia Abel (Rosaura), a sophomore theatre arts major from Plainfield, Ill.; Sarah Aubry (lady in waiting), a junior theatre arts major from Hammond, Ind.; Jeff Doden (soldier/courtier), a junior theatre arts major from Appleton, Wis.; Jim Donisch (Segismundo), a senior theatre arts major from Hinsdale/Wheaton, Ill.; Melanie Hall (lady in waiting), a junior theatre arts major from Lincoln, Neb.; Justin Hurt (soldier/courtier), a sophomore music theatre major from Leander, Tex.; Christopher Kopechessi (soldier/courtier), a sophomore double major in theatre arts and business from Bloomington; Kenneth Pierce (Clotaldo), a sophomore theatre arts major from Minneapolis, Minn.; Steve Rogne (soldier/courtier), a junior theatre arts major from Dickinson, N.D.; Jon Rowsey (Astolfo), a senior theatre arts major from Oak Lawn, Ill.; Hysear Walker (soldier/courtier), a junior theatre arts major from Mt. Prospect, Ill.; and Tom Wooldridge (Basilio) a senior theatre arts major from Evanston, Ill.

### **Ticket Information**

For individual performances, tickets are \$4 for the general public for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or matinee performances and \$6 for shows performed Friday or Saturday nights.

Senior citizen tickets are \$3 for shows performed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or matinee performances and \$5 for productions performed on Friday or Saturday nights.

Tickets are \$1 for students with valid identification. Season ticket packages for the general public are \$15 for productions on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or matinee performances and \$25 for productions on Friday or Saturday.

The McPherson Box Office hours are 12:30-5 p.m. during weekdays, except Tuesday when the Box Office is open 12:30-4 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased with check or cash. Credit cards are not accepted.

Tickets may be held up to three days before payment. If a show is run within that three-day period, then they may be picked up and paid for before the show.

Tickets also may be purchased by calling McPherson Theatre at 309/556-3232 (24 hours).