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School of Theatre Arts to Present *Once Upon a Mattress*

November 10, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The Illinois Wesleyan School of Theatre Arts will present *Once Upon a Mattress*, with music by Mary Rodgers, lyrics by Marshall Barer and book by Jay Thompson, Marshall Barer and Dean Fuller. Performances will take place at McPherson Theatre (2 Ames Plaza East, Bloomington) at 8 p.m. Nov. 17-20, with matinees at 2 p.m. on Nov. 20 and 21.

Tickets will be available for purchase Monday, Nov. 8. General admission ticket prices are \$12 for performances on Wednesday through Thursday and the matinees on Saturday and Sunday and \$14 for performances on Friday and Saturday evening. Tickets are available to seniors for \$1 off of the general admission price. Students may purchase tickets for \$2 with a valid Illinois Wesleyan ID.

In *Once Upon a Mattress*, the musical adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen fairytale *The Princess and the Pea*, Queen Aggravain has ruled that no one may marry until her son, Prince Dauntless, marries. The Queen decides that none of the petitioning princesses are worthy of marrying her son and devises a series of unfair tests to prevent them from being wed. Crisis escalates when the leading knight of the realm, Sir Harry, learns that his girlfriend, Lady Larken, is pregnant. In order to avoid embarrassment and the loss of his station, he decides to find a princess for Prince Dauntless and sets out to the swamps. When Sir Harry returns with the unrefined Princess Winnifred, the Queen is horrified and begins to scheme, but with the King, Minstrel and Jester on her side, Winnifred is not going to be that easy to get rid of.

For additional information or to purchase tickets, contact the McPherson Theatre Box Office at (309) 556-3232 (309) 556-3232 .

Cast: Vince Gargaro (Mr. Minstrel), Joshua Levinson (King Sextimus), Melina Rey (Queen Aggravain), Andrew Temkin (Prince Dauntless), Chase Miller (Master Merton), Nicholas Reinhart (Master Jester), Laura Williams (Lady Larken), Peter Studlo (Sir Harry), Erika Lecaj (Princess Winnifred), Caitlin Borek (Nightengale of Samarkand), Zach Mahler (Sir Studley), Ian Coulter-Buford (Sir Casper), Issac Sherman (Sir Anthony), Blake Brauer (Lord Howard), Kristen Evenson (Princess Maybelle), Amy Stockhaus (Lady Dora), Annie Simpson (Lady Jane), Roz Prickel (Lady Lucille), Laura Martino (Lady Rowena), Julie Tucker (Lady Merrill), Abby Root (Lady Beatrice), Lizzie Rainville (Dorothy/Chambermaid), Angela Jos (Emily/Chambermaid), Patsita Jiratipayabood (Luce/Chambermaid)

Understudies (Will perform during the Saturday matinee): Zach Mahler (Prince Dauntless), Amy Stockhaus (Queen Aggravain), Annie Simpson (Lady Larken), Roz Prickel (Princess Winnifred)

Production Team: Scott Susong (director), Sandy DeAthos-Meers (music director), Andrea Healy (scenic designer), Nicholas Bursoni (costume designer), Shawn Mallot (lighting designer), Kirsten Anderson (sound designer), Rebecca Griffith (stage manager)

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