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First Mystery by Emeritus Professor Published ; News Release

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First Mystery by Emeritus Professor Published

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – A new novel by Jared Brown, professor emeritus of theatre at Illinois Wesleyan University, is now available.

Mind the Gap and 2 Other Mysteries (Author House, 2009) takes place in London in 2001, following the 17-day trip of American theater students. The group is shattered when one of them is murdered.

Suspense writer Robert Sutherland said of Brown's work, "*Mind the Gap* is a mystery novel written with the psychological insight of a skilled dramatist. It pulled me in, held me fast during the reading, and has remained with me ever since."

Two other stories are included in *Mind the Gap*. The first, "The Value of Books," follows a librarian in love with a co-worker, who plots to get rid of his romantic rival. The second, "Midtown Detectives," Brown calls a spoof of the noir mysteries of Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler and Robert B. Parker.

Brown is a prolific writer of plays and biographies. His previous books focus on prominent Broadway actors and directors, including *The Fabulous Lunts: A Biography of Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne* (Atheneum, 1986), *Zero Mostel: A Biography* (Atheneum, 1989) and *Alan J. Pakula: His Films and His Life* (Back Stage Books, 2005). This is Brown's sixth book, and his first foray into mysteries.

A 1960 graduate of Ithaca College, Brown earned a master's degree in drama at San Francisco State College in 1962 and a doctorate in theatre arts from the University of Minnesota in 1967. He joined the faculty at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Ill., where he taught drama, founded their Summer Music Theatre program and was the director of the Students Abroad in London program. In 1989, he came to Illinois Wesleyan, where he taught theater and was chair of the Theatre Arts Department. He retired in 2002.

Brown's next project will be the production of three of his one-act plays at the Heartland Theatre Company in Normal, Ill. The performance called *Three for the Show* is slated to open in the fall of 2010.