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IWU Launches 1996-97 Theatre Season; Seven Productions on Tap Five British Shakespearean

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September 25, 1996

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*Cent. IL,
Chicago,
locals*

IWU Launches 1996-97 Theatre Season; Seven Productions on Tap Five British Shakespearean Artists Slated to Perform in 3 Plays

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--The curtain will go up on the 1996-97 theatre season at Illinois Wesleyan University on Oct. 3 with the premiere of the musical "She Loves Me" on the McPherson Theatre stage.

Highlighting the season will be performances by five British actors from the Royal National Theatre, The Royal Shakespeare Company, and other famed theatre companies.

The season will feature seven productions, ranging from comedy and drama to Shakespeare and dance.

Here is the 1996-97 theatre season lineup (all performances are at McPherson Theatre, 304 E. Graham St., Bloomington):

- **"She Loves Me,"** a musical, Oct. 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 at 8 p.m.

"She Loves Me" lyricist Sheldon Harnick will be an artist-in-residence at IWU, Oct. 2-5. Harnick--the Pulitzer, Grammy, and Tony Award-winning lyricist of "Fiddler on the Roof," "Fiorello!" and other musicals will receive an honorary doctorate at a special Fine Arts Convocation at 4 p.m., Oct. 3, in Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, 303 E. University, Bloomington. The Convocation is open to the public, free-of-charge.

During Harnick's IWU visit, he will critique the "She Loves Me" production with the cast and crew.

- **"You Can't Take It With You,"** a comedy, Nov. 20, 21, 22 and Dec. 5, 6, 7 at 8 p.m.

"You Can't Take It With You" was written by American stage legends Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman. In the play, Tony Kirby has fallen in love with Alice Sycamore and, in his exuberance, accidentally brings his parents to dinner at Alice's home on the wrong night. Cheap food and a madcap Sycamore clan (which includes an ex-Grand Duchess now working as a waitress) provide the fireworks.

• **"Romeo and Juliet"** by William Shakespeare, Feb. 6, 7, 8. Performances will feature five British artists-in-residence at IWU as part of a program developed by A Center for Theatre, Education, and Research (ACTER), an international research institute, educational center, and theatre company based in London, England, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

- **"One-hander #1,"** Feb. 4 at 8 p.m., and **"One-hander #2,"** Feb. 5 at 8 p.m.

(more)

IWU Theatre Season Roundup/2

Each performance is a one-person play, featuring ACTER company members.

- **"1997 Faculty Choreographed Dance Concert,"** Feb. 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 at 8 p.m.

This annual event features new pieces created by faculty choreographers and performed by student dancers.

- **"The Crucible"** by Arthur Miller, April 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 at 8 p.m.

This play won the 1953 Tony Award as Broadway's "Best Play." This gripping historical play chronicles the Puritan purge of witchcraft in old Salem, Mass.

Four separate season ticket plans are available, ranging from \$52 to \$12. For more season ticket information, call: McPherson Theatre Box Office, 309/556-3232.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,900 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$25 million science building opened in the fall of 1995. The \$4.6 million Center for Liberal Arts--a facility housing 60 faculty offices, six classrooms, and other facilities for social science, humanities business and economics, and interdisciplinary studies' faculty--is slated to open next August. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition.