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## **PRESS RELEASE: UKRAINIAN FOLK TALES AT THE WINNIPEG FRINGE!**

Merlyn Productions Theatre Company is back on stage, presenting ***The BLABBERMOUTH, the PUFF MONSTER, and the WOLF*** by PATRICK RAINVILLE DORN at the 2023 Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival, July 20 to 29.

*“Three topsy-turvy tales from Ukraine come to life in this fast-paced, FAMILY-FRIENDLY comedy for English audiences!*

*“A troupe of travelling storytellers use humour and imagination to re-create classic folk tales The Blabbermouth, The Puff Monster, and Sirko & The Wolf.*

*“Geared for children ages 3 to 12 — and the young at heart. From the producer of Aladdin, Puss in Boots, The Brothers Grimm, and many more!”*



**With the generous agreement of the playwright and Pioneer Drama Service, 100% of royalties paid by Merlyn Productions are being donated to the International Red Cross' Ukraine Emergency Appeal.**

“We’re pleased to be back on stage after a three-year ‘pause’”, says Artistic Director JOHN CHASE: a 30-year veteran of the Winnipeg Fringe Festival. “Merlyn is well-known for presenting children’s classics from around the world, and we’re eager to introduce English-speaking audiences to these comically-adapted traditional Ukrainian tales.”

The ensemble cast of twelve Manitoba talents ranges in age from 10 to senior, featuring: KRISSADIE ARMSTRONG, DONNY BAXTER, CHLOE CROCKFORD, DEBBIE DANN, HEATHER FORGIE, JENSEN GLOVER, KIM KAKEGAMIC, DEVON LITTLEJOHN, BROOKE MUNFORD, PHILIP PALEY, TIM SAYEAU, and KEN STONE. Stage managed by STEPH BLANCHETTE. Costume design by KAITLIN KLASSEN.

**TITLE:** The Blabbermouth, the Puff Monster, and the Wolf  
**VENUE:** VENUE #6 – Tom Hendry Warehouse (140 Rupert Ave, at Lily)  
*\*Babes in arms permitted.\**

**SHOW TIMES:** Thu July 20, 1:15 PM    Fri July 21, 7:00 PM    Sat July 22, 4:45 PM  
Sun July 23, 11:15 AM    Tue July 25, 4:45 PM    Fri July 28 at 3:00 PM  
Sat July 29, 8:15 PM    *\*Running Time: 1 hour\**

**ADMISSION:** \$12 In Advance / \$10 At-The-Door  
**ADVANCE TICKETS:** WinnipegFringe.com

For further information, please visit [MERLYN.BIZ](https://www.merlyn.biz) or call 204-415-2714.



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### **About The Company**

*Merlyn Productions* is a live theatre company that carries a legacy of classic children's theatre in Manitoba, and also operates the *Winnipeg Theatre School*.

Dedicated to creating "*the magic of live theatre for all ages*", the company has produced seasons of quality theatrical entertainment for general & family audiences since 2009.

The *Winnipeg Theatre School* is one of the city's oldest operating acting schools, offering performance-orientated training to children, teens, and adults. It became part of the organisation in 2011, after 30 years of operation as *The Theatre School at Fantasy Theatre for Children*.

*Merlyn Productions* was founded by Artistic Director John Chase, who began producing local theatre in 1997. Performers of many ages and skill levels from the greater community are welcomed into its cast and staff, who dedicate time for the love of their art form, and are committed to fostering local live theatre.

The company & school paused operations in 2020 due to global events, and are presently pursuing a slow-but-deliberate approach to reopening.