



West End Players Guild News Release

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Murdering Marlowe opens WEPG's 101st Season

ST. LOUIS, MO (November 2, 2011) – West End Players Guild opens its 101st season on Friday, November 11, with Charles Marowitz's *Murdering Marlowe*, directed by Robert A. Mitchell.

This year's opening night falls on WEPG's 100th birthday. A group of Washington University professors organized as The Players opened their first show on November 11, 1911, at the St. Louis Artists' Guild. The Artists' Guild building was located at Union and Enright, directly across the street from WEPG's home for the last 26 years, the Union Avenue Christian Church.

"The original members of The Players, we are told, enjoyed reading and performing the classics, and because of that we think they would have a lot of fun with our 101st season opener, *Murdering Marlowe*, a clever and literate take on the rivalry between Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare," said Renee Sevier-Monsey, president of WEPG. In the play, Shakespeare is an aspiring playwright desperate to make his mark in London. The greatest obstacle to his success is the prominence of Marlowe, the "superstar" of the Elizabethan theatre. This intriguing thriller explores the high price of envy, love and blind ambition, all played out among the familiar names of Shakespeare's day. *Murdering Marlowe* runs through November 20, with performances at 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. Sundays in the theatre at the Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 Union Boulevard.

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John Wolbers plays Marlowe and Michael Perkins is Shakespeare. Wolbers and Perkins last graced the WEPG stage as co-stars of *Based on a Totally True Story* in 2010. Maggie Murphy, seen in last season's opening show *A Picasso*, plays Emilia Lanier, the ambitious mistress of both playwrights. Laura Singleton plays Anne Hathaway, Shakespeare's wife. David Wassilak appears as Robert Poley, Jim Hurley as Philip Henslow, Reynard Fox as Henry Maunder and Todd Moore as Ingram Frizer.

Tickets to *Murdering Marlowe* are \$20; season tickets for \$70 (a \$10 saving over the single ticket price for four shows) also are available. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit www.westendplayers.org.

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Christopher Marlowe (played by John Wolbers, L) is the superstar of Elizabethan theatre, who believes he has nothing to fear from a struggling newcomer to play writing, William Shakespeare (Michael Perkins, R). Or does he? West End Players Guild presents Charles Marowitz's *Murdering Marlowe* November 11-20 at the theatre at Union Avenue Christian Church. (John Lamb photo)



One lover is one too few for Emilia Lanier (played by Maggie Murphy, C), the ambitious mistress of both Christopher Marlowe (John Wolbers, L) and William Shakespeare (Michael Perkins, R). West End Players Guild presents Charles Marowitz's ***Murdering Marlowe*** November 11-20 at the theatre at Union Avenue Christian Church. (John Lamb photo)