



# West End Players Guild News Release

For immediate release – 7/28/11

Contact: Mark Abels  
314/504-0844  
[wepgnews@WestEndPlayers.org](mailto:wepgnews@WestEndPlayers.org)

## West End Players Guild announces casts for its first three 2011-2012 shows

ST. LOUIS, MO (July 28, 2011) – West End Players Guild has completed casting for the first three shows of its 2011-2012, the company’s 101<sup>st</sup> season of “big theatre in a small space.”

Charles Marowitz’s *Murdering Marlowe*, directed by Robert A. Mitchell, opens the season on November 11 for a two-week run. In this intriguing thriller, William Shakespeare is an aspiring playwright desperate to make his mark in London. The greatest obstacle to his success is the prominence of Christopher Marlowe, the “superstar” of the Elizabethan theatre. The play explores the high price of envy, love and blind ambition, all played out among the familiar names of Shakespeare’s day.

Michael B. Perkins will return to the West End Players’ stage in the role of Shakespeare. John Wolbers will play Christopher Marlowe. Laura Singleton will play Anne Hathaway, Shakespeare’s wife, and Maggie Murphy will play Emilia Lanier, the ambitious mistress of both playwrights. The cast also will include David Wassilak as Robert Poley, Jim Hurley as Philip Henslow, Tom Kopp as Henry Maunder and Todd Moore as Ingram Frizer.

On January 6, Conor McPherson’s *The Seafarer*, directed by Steve Callahan, will open its two-week run. In this dark and enthralling Christmas fable of love and redemption, Sharkey has returned to Dublin to look after his irascible brother who recently has gone blind. Old drinking buddies Ivan and Nicky are holed up in the house for a game of cards. With the arrival of a stranger from the distant past, the stakes are raised even higher and Sharkey may be playing for his very soul.

## WEPG casts three shows – Page 2

Matt Hanify will play the troubled Sharkey, with Robert Ashton playing brother Richard. Charlie Heuvelman and John Reidy play Ivan and Nicky, the card-playing cronies, with Barry Hyatt as the mysterious Mr. Lockheart.

In February, West End Players' Guild will present the world premiere of St. Louis playwright Stephen Peirick's new comedy *Wake Up, Cameron Dobbs*, directed by Robert Ashton. It's Cameron Dobbs' birthday. He's having dinner at his brother and sister-in-law's apartment, he's allergic to the food, his mother is coming over, his sister-in-law is introducing him to a wonderful girl she knows and he's managed to fall flat on his face in the gutter on the way to the party. He just can't tell any of these people to let him live his own life – or can he?

John Foughty will appear in the title role of Cameron Dobbs. Eric Dean White will play Cameron's brother Owen and Colleen Backer will play Cameron's sister-in-law, Abby. Jan Meyer will appear as Cameron's mother and Sarajane Alverson will play Natalie, the blind date.

The fourth and final production of the 2011-2012 season will be Eugene Ionesco's *Exit the King*, directed by Renee Sevier-Monsey. Auditions for this show, which will be presented in April, 2012, will be held in December.

West End Players Guild is St. Louis's oldest continuously-operating theatre company, this year celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its first performance in November, 1911. All shows are presented in the theatre at the Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 Union Blvd. (just north of Delmar). More information on the company as well as season and single-show tickets may be obtained online at [www.westendplayers.org](http://www.westendplayers.org).

This year, West End Players Guild also is pleased to present *Just a Song at Twilight – The Golden Age of Vaudeville* as part of the Missouri History Museum theatre series. This cabaret show will star Chuck Lavazzi, directed by Tim Schall with musical arrangement by Neal Richardson. Tickets and more information on this show, which will run October 6<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> at the History Museum's Lee Auditorium in Forest Park, can be obtained at [www.mohistory.org](http://www.mohistory.org).

###