



Oct. 30, 2002

Contact: Lisa A. Fellers  
Director of Communications  
Office: (817) 531-4498  
Cell: (817) 874-8683  
lfellers@txwes.edu

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Texas Wesleyan University presents adaptation of Shakespeare's  
'The Merry Wives of Windsor'**

FORT WORTH, Oct. 30 –The Texas Wesleyan University Department of Theatre presents an adaptation of “The Merry Wives of Windsor” by William Shakespeare. The play is an unconventional revival of Shakespeare’s classic charade, following the misadventures of Sir John Falstaff as he attempts to woo two married well-to-do women simultaneously. “The Merry Wives of Windsor” will be presented in the Thad Smotherman Theatre, located in the Law Sone Fine Arts Center at the corner of Binkley and Avenue E on Wesleyan’s campus. Evening performances are Nov. 15-16 and 21-23 at 7:30 p.m., with matinee performances Nov. 17 and 24 at 2 p.m.

Director Lindy Benton-Muller wants to capture the haphazard spirit of this legendary theatrical impromptu by creating a play within a play. It extends Shakespeare’s original ridiculous elements by including the circumstances of the Elizabethan middle-class preparing for the show’s actual premiere. In Benton-Muller’s version, a small 17<sup>th</sup>-century town is preparing “Merry Wives” for the imminent arrival of Queen Elizabeth, who commissioned it.

-more-

Oct. 30 – Merry Wives of Windsor, page 2.

The added scenes highlight the comic potential of what happens when a rag-tag band of locals attempt to stage a show worthy of the monarch. Scenic designer Audrey Rayburn explains that the Thad Smotherman Theatre will be transformed into a “stylized, late gothic castle,” similar to a setting used in the performance of “The Merry Wives of Windsor” 400 years ago.

Tickets are \$2- \$8, with special group rates available. For reservations, please call the Thad Smotherman Theatre box office at 817-531-4211 beginning Nov. 12 between the hours of 1:30-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. For more information about “The Merry Wives of Windsor,” please contact Texas Wesleyan University’s Department of Theatre at 817-531-4983.

Texas Wesleyan University was founded in 1890 by the United Methodist Church and has a tradition of integrating the liberal arts and sciences with professional and career preparation. Wesleyan’s main campus is located in east Fort Worth and extends to downtown Fort Worth, where the Texas Wesleyan School of Law resides.

###