

June 19, 2013

The Bethany College Connection

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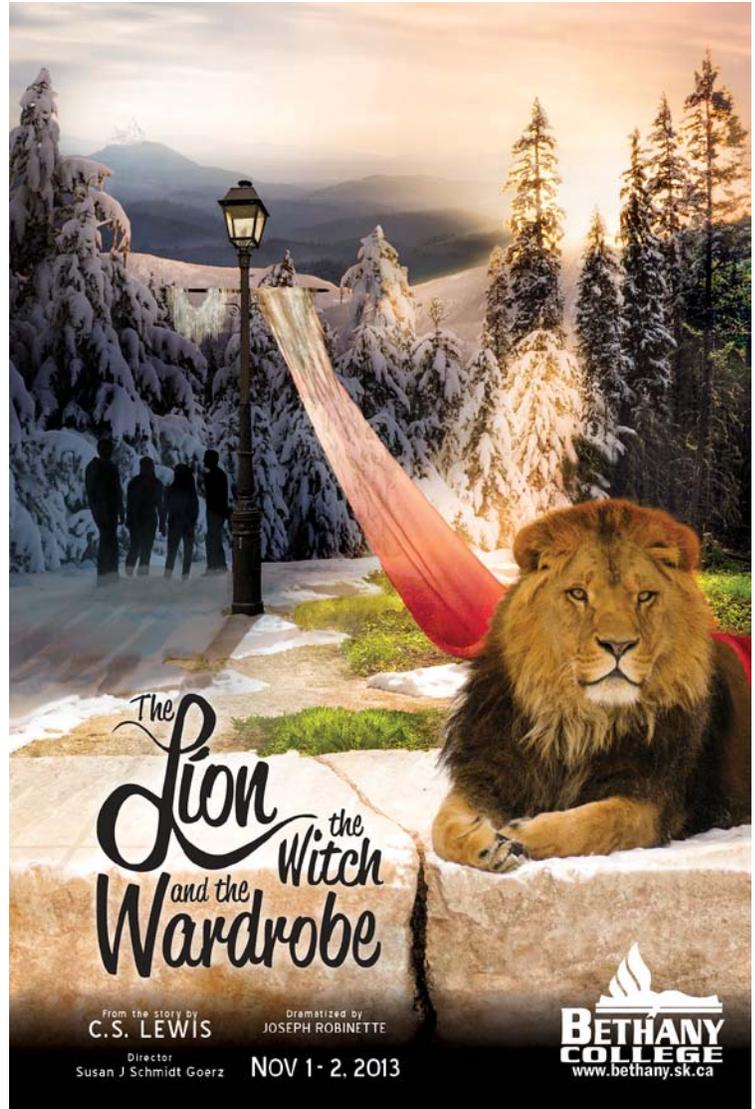


Bethany College Fall Theatre Play Announced!

C. S. Lewis's *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* is coming to the Bethany College Fall Theatre stage November 1st and 2nd, 2013. This play was adapted for stage by Joseph Robinette, based on the second book in *The Chronicles of Narnia* series.

It is the grand illusion of theatre that brings to life stories that engage our heart and mind. I did not read the Narnia series as a child, but as an adult, so my curiosity about the images as a reflection of Christian truths was heightened. How C. S. Lewis came to imagine so many parts of the salvation story with a variety of images and talking animals is astounding! It is no wonder that one of the books in the series garnered him the Carnegie Award, the highest award for children's literature in the United Kingdom.

This particular story follows the four Pevensie children to the country home of a professor during the Second World War. On a boring, rainy day Lucy, the youngest, follows her curiosity into a wardrobe that finds her stumbling into the land of Narnia – a land doomed to live in winter, without Christmas, until Aslan would return and dethrone the self-appointed Queen of Narnia. Gradually all of the children follow Lucy and become engaged in a prophecy of hope which declared that two sons of Adam and two daughters of Eve would, together with Aslan, defeat the Snow Queen and return spring back to the land. Whispers of danger, the help of hospitable animals who had lived in hope for one hundred years, and children entrusted with leadership to final victory, are elements of a great story.



So, why choose a play that challenges our ability to costume and stage on a small budget? It is the inspiration provided by curious, displaced children who find belonging and worth in kinship, meet a saviour, and find that they are highly regarded. The story of these children, taken from their parents' home to a safe place in the country, reflects the actions of Lewis himself, who took in and cared for children from London during the war. Important lessons of manners, honesty, truthfulness and salvation were taught to real children who needed to know that they mattered. When all that was familiar was taken away, they found their comfort in Aslan, the allegorical lion image of Jesus, and in the hope that he portrayed in the story. The need for hope is constant, and directing ourselves to the source of that hope in a creative way, is what inspired this project.

This year's Fall Theatre performances will be Friday and Saturday (7:30pm) and a Saturday Matinee (2:00pm). Please visit www.bethany.sk.ca or call 1-866-772-2175 for details and early bird ticket information. We hope to see you!

Nurturing Disciples and Training Leaders to Serve

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