WINTHROP UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE 2006-07 SEASON

1-5 November

Winthrop Dance Theatre

Johnson Theatre

Directed by Sandra Neels and Mary Beth Young

17-19 November

Fall One-Act Play Festival

Johnson Studio Theatre

1-3 December

Senior Dance Showcase

Johnson Theatre

7-11 February

The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds

by Paul Zindel

Johnson Studio Theatre

Directed by Dannielle M. Reid

21-25 February

Rodgers & Hammerstein's

Oklahoma!

Johnson Theatre

Directed by Andrew Vorder Bruegge

28 March-1 April

Messiah on the Frigidaire

by John Culbertson

Johnson Studio Theatre

Directed by Meagan Douglas

11-15 April

To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday

by Michael Brady

Johnson Theatre

Directed by Stephen Gundersheim

16-19 April

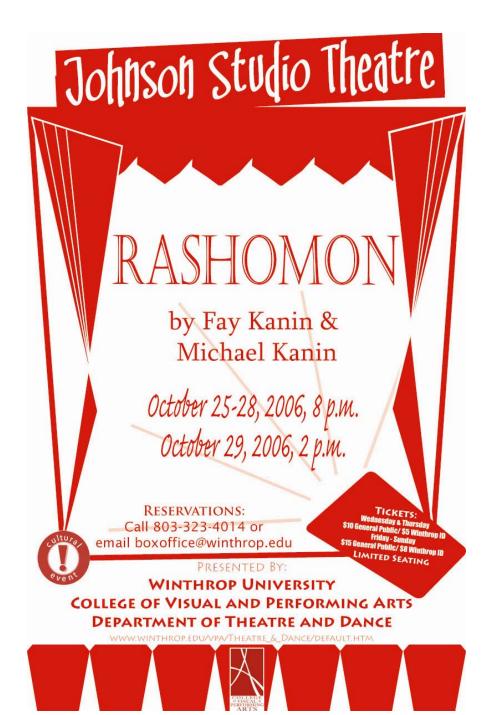
Spring One-Act Festival

Johnson Studio Theatre

20-22 April

Student Choreography Showcase

Johnson Theatre



Rashōmon (羅生門)

by Fay Kanin and Michael Kanin Based on stories by Ryunosuke Akutagawa

Annie-Laurie Wheat Director

Bethany Wade Christine Jacky
Scenic Design Lighting Design

Annie-Laurie Wheat Jillian Wiggins
Costume Design Sound Design

Mary Reading Michelle Crissinger
Stage Manager Choreographer

CAST

WOODCUTTER (木樵り Kikori) Drew Keim PRIEST (旅法師 Tabi Hōshi) A.M. Roberts WIGMAKER RaChelle Cheeks BANDIT Tajōmaru (多襄丸) Ryan Roberts HUSBAND (金沢の武弘) Torrell Martin WIFE (真砂) Towanda Gregg **MOTHER** Carmen Redfearn **DEPUTY** Taj McCullough MEDIUM (巫女 miko) Ariel Libet Kuroko (黒衣) **Jillian Wiggins** Kuroko (黒衣) Patrick Lutz Kuroko (黒衣) Jacqueline Hogg Understudy for MOTHER & MEDIUM: Jacqueline Hogg

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

The action takes place in Kyoto, Japan, about a thousand years ago----at an edge of the Rashomon Gate, at a police court, and in a nearby forest.

There will be one 15 Minute Intermission

CREW

Assistant Stage Manager I Nat Kinney
Assistant Stage Manager II Amanda Roberts
Japanese Consultant Nozomi Takano

Set Construction Bethany Wade, Jerry Wade, Jeremy

Grossglass, Jeff Johnson

Scenic Artist Patrick Lutz
Costume Assistant Whitney Vaughan

Costume Crew Nat Kinney, Lauren Powdrill,

Whitney Vaughan, Annie-Laurie

Wheat

Wardrobe Lauren Powdrill, Vicki Jeffcoat
Props Ashley Wheeler, Shannon Plowden

Lighting Board Operator

Sound Board Operator

House Manager

Box Office Manager

Poster Design

Display Poster

Andrew Zerfass

Jason Williams

Russell Luke

Mimi Egbert

Bara Bolton

Patrick Lutz

Special thanks to Taylor Thornburg, Sarah Horton, Rob Marenick and Russell Luke

Program Note:

In 1950 Akira Kurosawa created the Japanese film masterpiece *Rashomon*. He combined two short stories by Ryunosuke Akutagawa ("Rashomon" provides the setting and "In the Grove" provides the characters and the plot) to tell the story of a rape and a violent death told from the perspectives of the participants and a passerby. Each version of the crime differs depending on who is telling the story. Pauline Kael (*New Yorker* movie critic) called *Rashomon* "the classic film statement of the relativism, the unknowability of truth." It went on to win the grand prize at the Venice Film Festival in 1951 and the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film in 1952.

In 1959 Fay and Michael Kanin created a play based on the film. It recounts the same story and leaves the choice of innocence or guilt to the audience to decipher. In our production we have taken the liberty of using a Kabuki Theatre tradition of Kuroko or stagehands, who are dressed in black to move props and scenery on stage and create sound effects. Kuroko wear all black to imply that they are invisible and not part of the onstage action.

As you leave the theatre we ask you to decide the question of guilt. Who is telling the truth? There are four choices-the bandit Tajomaru- the murdered husband Takehikohis wife Kinume-or the Woodcutter. Told in flashback the play unfolds the same story four times, but each time the story is contradictory. Donald Richie (writer and film critic) states, "Truth as it appears to others. This is one of the themes... No one lied. They all told the story the way they saw it, the way they believed it, and they all told the truth. Kurosawa therefore does not question truth. He questions reality." So let's reframe the question. What is real and what do you think is real?