



Liverpool  
International  
Theatre  
Festival

INFORMATION SHEET and MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Winds of Change Welcomes “Last Tango” From Across the Sea**

Liverpool, Nova Scotia. March 23, 2010

The Liverpool International Theatre Festival will see a performance by local thespians after all. The Winds of Change is thrilled to announce that they will be presenting a 35 minute British farce titled *Last Tango in Liverpool* (originally *Last Tango in Little Grimley*, by David Tristram) directed by Neil Maidman from the Welsh company Little Blackwood Theatre.

With preparations for the milestone tenth festival well underway, there were concerns that Liverpool’s Winds of Change amateur theatre group would not be participating. An attempt to produce a maritime play, *Jerome*, was cancelled when auditions failed to entice enough cast members, and time was running short. But help sometimes comes from unlikely places.

Now, this is where the story gets interesting.

Neil Maidman has been involved in amateur theatre for twenty two years. He is currently residing in Wales, and is the chairman of the Blackwood Little Theatre, a troupe which delighted us in 2008 at the LITF with the comedy *Fancying Sheep*. Neil has directed over 20 plays, performed in over 40 and is the Chairman of the Gwent Drama Association, and Vice Chair of the Drama Association of Wales. Last year, his production of *Last Tango* won the Wales Final, and came second in the British Final, out of 1200 entries from the UK.

In a daring and generous brainstorm, Neil Maidman has offered to direct Winds of Change players in this hilarious farce... all the way from Wales!

The Winds of Change will be holding auditions via webcam, and then the cast of two men and two women will have their scripts to learn their lines until Neil arrives in Liverpool, five days before the Saturday night performance. Those five days will be a whirlwind of rehearsal time, held at the curling club so the public can see the process of pulling the show together. This innovative, dynamic approach to producing a show has both the WOC and LITF members greatly excited.

“This is exactly the type of show we love to do,” says Winds of Change president Rick Gilbert. “A fast-paced comedy, especially farce, is always successful. We’re delighted to be able to present this for the LITF.”

The show will not be eligible for competition, but promises to be a hilarious romp; the type of comedy the Winds of Change is famous for. The play is the story of a failing theatre troupe which is down to its last four members, desperate to sell tickets to pay the rent on their venue. Knowing that “sex sells”, they sell tickets on a sex comedy which will contain shocking and graphic scenes...when it actually does nothing of the kind.



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Auditions for the play will be via video-conferencing so Maidman can see his prospective cast members read for their parts. Richard Comeau, Artistic Director for the Winds of Change, will be coordinating activities here in Liverpool during the lead-up to the Festival. Once the cast is selected, they will need to work together to learn their lines prior to Maidman's arrival, so that rehearsal time the week of May 16th - 22nd can focus on getting the play to the stage.

The Winds of Change will hold auditions on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8 pm in the drama club at the Liverpool High School. Interested participants should contact Richard Comeau to confirm their attendance by calling 354 – 4307.

The Liverpool International Theatre Festival would not be complete without representation from our local Winds of Change, and thanks to a bold Welsh director with an adventurous approach to producing theatre, there will indeed be a “Last Tango in Liverpool.”

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