



## Faction of Fools Theatre Company, Inc.

presents

### ***THE MANDRAKE*** BY NICCOLÒ MACHIAVELLI

*A romantic comedy in which the ends justify the means...*

<u>What:</u>	<i>The Mandrake</i> by Niccolò Machiavelli (Translated by Nerida Newbigin)
<u>Who:</u>	Faction of Fools Theatre Company
<u>Where:</u>	Eastman Studio Theatre – Elstad Annex at Gallaudet University 800 Florida Ave NE, WDC 20002
<u>When:</u>	Thursday, September 15 – Saturday, October 8: Thursday, Friday, & Saturday at 8pm Saturday at 2pm
<u>Tickets:</u>	\$20, available at the door, 1-800-838-3006, and <a href="http://www.factionoffools.org">www.factionoffools.org</a> . Appropriate for ages 13 and up. Running time is approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes plus one 15-minute intermission.
<u>Publicist:</u>	Rachel Spicknall, Director of PR: 202-641-0541 or <a href="mailto:pr@factionoffools.org">pr@factionoffools.org</a>
<u>Press Photos:</u>	Available at <a href="http://www.factionoffools.org/press/">http://www.factionoffools.org/press/</a>

**FACTION OF FOOLS THEATRE COMPANY**, DC's Commedia dell'Arte theatre company, opens its 2011-2012 season with a classic Italian romantic comedy written by a man more notorious for his politics: ***THE MANDRAKE*** by **NICCOLÒ MACHIAVELLI**. ***THE MANDRAKE*** creates an unlikely happy ending out of the hilarious deceptions people employ for love.

**FACTION OF FOOLS** has entertained audiences since 2009 with its ensemble-devised physical comedy employing leather masks, Commedia dell'Arte characters, and inventive movement and acrobatics. ***THE MANDRAKE*** will be the Fools' first full-length production utilizing a published script—in this case, an iconic example of Renaissance neoclassical comedy. This sixteen-run production will kick off **FACTION OF FOOLS'** 2011-12 season as Artists-in-Residence at DC's Gallaudet University.

In ***THE MANDRAKE***, a young scholar named Callimaco returns to Florence in the early 1500s in search of a legendary beauty named Lucrezia. The only problem is that Lucrezia is married to a dithering old lawyer named Messer Nicia, who is desperately attempting to father a child. With

the help of a crooked friar, a shameless mother-in-law, some bumbling servants, and a conman named Ligurio, a twisted web of grotesque manipulations results in everyone getting what they want! As Machiavelli famously wrote in his political treatise *The Prince*, “The ends justify the means.”

**THE MANDRAKE** features Palladio-inspired forced perspective scenery by Daniel Flint (technical director for Constellation Theatre) and picturesque lighting design by A.J. Guban (lighting designer for Constellation Theatre) as well as luxurious period costumes by Lynly Saunders (costume shop at Washington National Opera) and original music composed by Jesse Terrill (Folger Theatre’s *The Comedy of Errors*).

The production is directed by Faction of Fools’ Artistic Director Matthew R. Wilson, one of America’s leading experts in Commedia dell’Arte and a recent staple of DC’s comic stage (Constellation’s *The Green Bird*, Folger’s *The Comedy of Errors*, and *Shear Madness*). The cast includes Wilson in the role of Ligurio, as well as frequent Fools Jesse Terrill (Arena’s *The Fantastics*), Daniel Flint (STC’s *All’s Well that Ends Well*), Barbara Papendorp (WSC’s *Private Lives*), Tyler Herman (Imagination’s *Perseus Bayou*), Allison Galen (Fringe’s *Hamlet: Reframed*), and Gallaudet students Miranda Medugno and Charlie Ainsworth.

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