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

RASHOMON
by Fay Kanin & Michael Kanin
October 25-28, 2006, 8 p.m.
October 29, 2006, 2 p.m.

RESERVATIONS:
Call 803-323-4014 or
email boxoffice@winthrop.edu

TICKETS:
Wednesday & Thursday
$10 General Public / $5 Winthrop ID
Friday - Sunday
$15 General Public / $5 Winthrop ID
LIMITED SEATING

PRESENTED BY:
WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE
WWW.WINTHROP.EDU/PAC/ THEATRE & DANCE/ DEFAULT.HTM
**Rashōmon** (羅生門)
by Fay Kanin and Michael Kanin
Based on stories by Ryunosuke Akutagawa

Annie-Laurie Wheat
Director

Bethany Wade
Scenic Design
Annie-Laurie Wheat
Costume Design
Mary Reading
Stage Manager

**CAST**

WOODCUTTER (木樵り Kikori)  
Drew Keim

PRIEST (旅法師 Tabi Hōshi)  
A.M. Roberts

WIGMAKER  
RaChelle Cheeks

BANDIT Tajomaru (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

**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 Powdrell, Whitney Vaughan, Annie-Laurie Wheat

Stage Manager  
Choreographer

**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 Takehiko—his 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?

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.