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For Immediate Release
PRESS RELEASE

McGill University Department of English Drama and Theatre Program

presents

The Revengers Tragedy

by Thomas Middleton

Directed by Patrick Neilson

Production Management by Corinne Deeley

Technical Direction by Keith Roche

Stage Management by Raveena Ambani

Assistant Stage Management by Sandrine Hansen-Jaumard and Sarah Klein

Costumes by Catherine Bradley and the Costuming Class

Set by Olivia Blocker, Erika Jung, and Nika Mestechkin

Lighting by Meghand McNeil and Fiona Ross

Sound by Carling Tedesco

Props by Julie Santini and Niki Zarikos

Thomas Middleton's *The Revenger's Tragedy* is a savagely funny black comedy that both celebrates and satirizes the dark and bloody revenge tragedies of the early 17th century. Set in an utterly corrupt and morally bankrupt Italian court, the play weaves together multiple strands of vengeance for the crimes of rape, murder, incest and adultery.

Vindice, the hero, seeks private vengeance for the murder of his beautiful and beloved Gloriana by the corrupt and malicious Duke. With the aid of his brother Hippolito, Vindice disguises himself as the low-life panderer, Piato, and insinuates himself into the venal and decadent world of the court. But their plan of retribution goes quickly awry when the Duke's son, aptly named Lussurioso, hires him to seduce their own sister, the virginal and chaste Castiza.

But the Duke's own family is riven with jealousy and bitter animosity. The bumbling stepsons, Ambitioso and Supervacuo, seek to unseat Lussurioso and each other. The Duchess seduces the Duke's bastard son Spurio, who hates everyone else including the Duchess.

In pursuit of their vendetta Vindice and Hippolito must frantically improvise and juggle disguises along the way to their hilariously gruesome hour of reckoning with the Duke. The final bloodbath is a comic echo of *Hamlet*.

This fierce parody expresses a deep-seated anxiety about women's sexuality. Inverting the Jacobean custom of boys playing women's parts, all roles in this production are played by females. Women speaking lines such as "wives are but made to bed and feed" lends an ironic piquancy to the 17th century text.

The vibrant cast includes Cece Grey (Vindice), Rebecca Babcock (Hippolito), Laura McEown (Castiza), Anna Gordon (Gratiana), Adriane Epprecht (Duke), Clare Olsen (Duchess), Sam Cooper (Lussurioso), Alex Tillotson (Ambitioso), Molly Young (Supervacuo), Vera Perry (Jr. Brother) and Rosie Addo (Spurio).

The Revengers Tragedy

Wednesday November 21st to Saturday November 24th

&

Thursday November 29th to Saturday December 1st

Moyse Hall Theatre, McGill University Campus, Arts Building

853 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal

\$5 Students/Seniors \$10 General Admission

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