September 10, 2012
For Immediate Release

New musical eco-comedy puts Alberta’s oil/tar sands in the spotlight

*War of the Wild Roses* free public reading ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Edmonton – What if Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, for whom our province is named, returned to life to take on the world’s largest industrial project - the tar/oil sands? That’s the premise explored in *War of the Wild Roses*, a new full-length musical that is seeking feedback during a public reading at MacEwan University’s Centre for the Arts and Communications on Thursday, September 20, 2012.

Written and directed by veteran bachelor of communication studies (BCS) instructor, Geo Takach, this play is about legacies, time travel and Alberta’s resource wealth. “Blending drama, dark comedy, fantasy and song, I aim to explore and identify the elusive essence of our province – values we share as Albertans, and attributes for which we are known, want to be known or do not want to be known,” Takach says.

“We live in a fascinating and frustrating province that has become a poster child for the rising tensions between our need for economic development and its social and environmental costs. This play aims to turn that on its ear,” declares Takach. “We’ll invite comments right after the reading and I can’t wait to hear what people have to say.”

Takach hopes to develop this play into a mainstage theatre production within the next two years, so feedback is vital. “A public reading is the best opportunity to field-test this play. I put great stock in what actors and audiences have to say, so their comments will certainly inform my finalizing of the script,” he says. “The tar/oil sands are a hugely divisive issue, which is part of the problem I’m trying to address with this musical.”

*War of the Wild Roses* has been a work in progress for about four years and is a spin-off from Takach’s earlier work, *Will the Real Alberta Please Stand Up?*, released first as a documentary film (2009) and later an award-winning book (2010).

This thought-provoking play features a team of committed senior, award-winning theatre and musical artists, and is supported generously by grants from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, MacEwan’s Research, Scholarly Activity and Creative Achievements Fund and the Centre for the Arts and Communications Research, Scholarly and Creative Achievement Fund.

*War of the Wild Roses*
**Thursday, September 20 2012, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**
Room 182, first floor, Centre for the Arts and Communications
MacEwan University, 10045 – 155 Street, Edmonton, AB

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