

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Mary's University College invites Calgarians to discover historic roots

Unique outdoor play will explore Midnapore's history and provide lasting legacy for Calgarians

Calgary, AB (May 5, 2010) – Would you believe John Glenn, the first European settler in Calgary, put down roots in the Midnapore area because he found it had the best climate in the world? And that folklore tells us Midnapore may have accidentally got its name from a lost package destined for the district of Midnapore in India?

These and other fascinating stories about South Calgary's history will be brought to life in the St. Mary's University College drama premiere of *The Midnapore Cycle*, a unique outdoor play that literally walks audiences from scene to scene across the institution's campus and surrounding area. Written entirely in verse by Governor General award nominee and playwright, Mieko Ouchi, *The Midnapore Cycle* chronicles the history of the land on which St. Mary's University College sits and the people who inhabited it, including First Nations, John Glenn, Samuel Shaw, Patrick Burns, Father Albert Lacombe and the Sisters of Providence. The play is modeled after medieval "mystery cycles," which were characterized by travelling companies of actors organized by local communities.

The Midnapore Cycle is a collaborative effort to chronicle the early part of Calgary's history in an interactive and meaningful way. In producing this original work, Marilyn Potts, director, is joined by Bob White, dramaturg, Gie Roberts, technical director, Terry Gunvordahl, set designer, Jennifer Darbellay, costume designer, Anita Miotti, choreographer and Brigit Knetcht, musical director. St. Mary's is also working with Calgary-based Pyramid Productions to produce a feature-length documentary, which will record the making of the play, the performance in its entirety and behind the scenes footage. It will be released to all secondary schools in Calgary, Calgary public libraries, the Glenbow Museum, granting agencies and participants.

Public performances of *The Midnapore Cycle* begin on **June 10, 2010** with an evening performance at 6:30 pm and continue **June 11-13, 2010** with a matinee at 1:00 pm and evening performance at 6:30 pm on each day. Tickets are \$15. For more information and tickets, visit www.themidnaporecycle.com or call **(403) 254-3741**.

About St. Mary's University College

St. Mary's University College is a Catholic post-secondary, liberal arts and sciences teaching and research institution open to all faiths and traditions. St. Mary's offers Bachelor of Arts degrees, a Bachelor of Education (Elementary) degree and university courses in 33 academic disciplines. For more information, visit www.stmu.ab.ca

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