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SEEKING ANSWERS FROM A WISE MAN CAN BE GOOD, UNLESS THE WISE MAN IS A WISE _ _ _.

Arden Playhouse is pleased to present *Wise Guise*, another play by Michael Messmer, Sacramento's most prolific comedy playwright. Messmer has written over thirty comedies, many of which have been produced at **Arden Playhouse**. *Wise Guise* is being directed by Dean Shellenberger, who has been acting and directing, throughout the greater Sacramento region for over 20 years. Some of his more recent directorial credits include *On Golden Pond* for Main Street Theater Works, *12 Angry Women* and *Dearly Departed* for Chautauqua Playhouse, *Crimes of the Heart* for Civic Theatre West and *Wait Until Dark* for Woodland Opera House. Dean also received an Elly nomination for direction of Woodland Opera Houses production of *Death of a Salesman*. Having performed for both Stagedoor Comedy Playhouse as well as Arden Playhouse, Dean is delighted to once again be back working with his Arden Playhouse friends!

In *Wise Guise*, Jeff is a financial analyst whose wealth brings him no satisfaction. In fact, the closer he gets to marrying into a wealthy family, the more unhappy he becomes. His fiancée (Tiffany) dumps him with the warning that he'd better get his head straight. He's come to see the wise man of the mountain (Fred) in hope of finding, if not the meaning of life, at least a clue as to why he's on this quest. The wise man is nothing like anyone's idea of a guru. He's sarcastic, likes the good things in life, has his own stock portfolio and has some very weird ways of looking at the world. His new protégé (Angela) seems to find Jeff a soulmate, which leads to a passionate encounter. Just then, Tiffany shows up to save Jeff from joining what she thinks might be a cult, which only adds to the humorous circumstances.

Aided (and frequently, challenged) by his new protégé (who is also a popular psychologist) Fred puts Jeff through an ordeal that leads Jeff to finally understand what is really important in his life. Major philosophical systems are assaulted as frequently as the characters assault each other in this unusual comedy.

Wise Guise opens on Friday, November 4th with performances on Friday and Saturday nights at 8pm through December 17th, with the exceptions of December 2nd and 3rd. Sunday matinees are at 2pm on November 13th and 27th.

All tickets are \$18 general admission. Tickets can be reserved by calling (916) 332-2582.

Arden Playhouse is located at 5640 Roseville Road, Suite D, Sacramento, and seats 150.

Arden Playhouse is a community theater dedicated to continuing its tradition of presenting entertainment in a casual setting.

Press Photos Available

For more information about *Wise Guise*, or to find out about our group discounts, call the theater office at 332-2582, email admin@ardenplayhouse.com, arden@ardenplayhouse.com, or check the website ardenplayhouse.com.

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