



THE NORTHWEST ACADEMY

## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Iago's Table takes a youthful, contemporary look at Othello**

PORTLAND, Ore. — *Iago's Table*, a contemporary adaptation of Shakespeare's *Othello*, features a young, all-female cast, turning on its head the Shakespearean tradition of all-male performers.

David Wagstaff, is directing The Northwest Academy production. Portlander Haley McFarlane plays Iago and Deanna Nokes, a resident of Tigard, plays Othello.

“Only Satan and Judas trump Shakespeare's Iago for sheer villainy,” Wagstaff said. “Who could sympathize with a man who engineers the death of innocents with such deliberate, calculated ease? I thought it would be intriguing to tell Othello's tragedy from Iago's point of view.”

Wagstaff, a teacher of Humanities and English at the NW Academy, set his play in modern times in a soldier's bar during the 48 hours before the troops are sent to Persia. All performers are women under 18 years of age. In Shakespeare's time, men played all the parts.

“Though his actions were despicable, Iago did have his reasons,” Wagstaff said. “But who among us has not plotted, in the theatre of our imagination, our ultimate revenge? Iago, a career soldier, sees the world as a battlefield; to plot the demise of one's enemies is second nature to him. Perhaps, in the end, what Iago possesses is a fatal willingness to act.”

***Iago's Table*, written and directed by David Wagstaff, will be presented May 25, 26 and 27 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, May 28 at 2 p.m., at the Northwest Academy Blue Box Theater, 1130 SW Main in Portland. Tickets are available at the door at a cost of \$9 for adults and \$5 for students. For more information, call 503-701-5554.**

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