Weber State University’s Department of Performing Arts’ Theatre Department presents the World Premiere of *The Plain Princess*

*Play based on children’s book written by world-renowned author, Phyllis McGinley, a Utah native and Ogden High School graduate*

Ogden, Utah - Sept. 16, 2013 – The Weber State University Department of Performing Arts (WSUDPA) today announced the details for the world premiere of, *The Plain Princess*, scheduled for October 4-12 in the Allred Theatre. The play is based on the popular children’s book, “*The Plain Princess*,” written by famed author, Phyllis McGinley an Ogden High School and University of Utah graduate. Tickets can be purchased online at (www.weberstatetickets.com) or by phone at 801-626-8500.

“The story of bringing this production to the stage has truly been a labor of love and has been in development for more than a year,” said Jim Christian, Professor of Theatre at Weber State University. “The book, *The Plain Princess*, was one of my favorites as a child and has remained with me until this day. I am honored to embark on this journey with the world premiere of this production.”

The Plain Princess is a modern-day musical fairytale written by Christian and is based on Phyllis McGinley’s popular children’s book. The play tells the story of Princess Esmeralda who is devastated after being called, “plain.” Princess Esmeralda’s parents, the King and Queen, after careful consultation with the Royal Physician and Wizard of the Court, issue a reward to anyone who can make their daughter beautiful. Dame Goodwit, a widow with five daughters of her own steps forward to take the challenge.

“What really makes this play unique and special is that I have an opportunity to really establish the role of Dame Goodwit,” said Shawnee Johnson, a theatre student who plays the role of Dame Goodwit. “Rarely if ever, do you have an occasion to set the direction for a production and with The Plain Princess we have this unique opportunity. I am proud of the work and look forward to sharing it with all ages.”

*The Plain Princess* marks Christian’s second time to collaborate with local composer, Tom Edward Clark. The two, first worked together in 2009 during the run of “Sleepy Hollow.” The show was later selected for the American College Theatre Festival, region VIII competition.

Tickets are already on sale for The Plain Princess which opens on Fri., October 4, 2013 and runs through October 12, 2013. Tickets can be purchased at (www.weberstatetickets.com) or by phone at 801-626-7000.

For more information and updated details on events surrounding the performances please visit: (www.weber.edu/performingarts)
About Weber State University’s Department of Performing Arts
The Weber State University Department of Performing Arts is located in the Lindquist College of Arts and Humanities at Weber State University. The Department of Performing Arts combines world-class instruction with opportunities for students to excel in live theatre, music and dance performances. For more information on the Weber State University Department of Performing Arts, please call 801-626-6437 or visit the website at (www.weber.edu/performingarts).

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