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**Subject:** Ferris' Live! at Williams Presents Jekyll and Hyde  
**Date:** 01/04/2006 12:31 PM

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Dear Editors/News Directors:

Included below is a press release highlighting the Ferris State University Live! at Williams Performing Arts Series upcoming production of "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," which is being presented by The Aquila Theater Co. on Feb. 4. Your consideration in including this announcement in your entertainment sections is appreciated.

**For Immediate Release Jan. 4, 2005**

## **Aquila Theatre Co. to present ‘The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde’ Feb. 4**

BIG RAPIDS – For those people who prefer to enjoy their winter thrills from the comfort of an indoor theatre seat, or those people who are just looking for something to drive away the winter doldrums, try a genuine bone-chilling experience with The Aquila Theatre Co. as they bring to the stage their adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson’s *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

The performance will take place at Ferris State University on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 8 p.m. as part of the Live! at Williams 2005-06 Performing Arts Series.

The prolific Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson (*Treasure Island, Kidnapped*) virtually invented the genre of modern horror fiction with his gripping tale *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Set in Victorian London – a city of fog, dark alleyways, creaking doors and suspicious inhabitants, the story begins with a disturbing account of a small child being abruptly knocked down by a brutally ugly man who disappears into the shadowy London streets. Compelled to investigate, the lawyer Utterson begins a manhunt that plunges him into the deepest recesses of upper class, London society. As he delves into the murky activities of the distinguished Dr. Edward Jekyll, he discovers a man who, in his tortured quest to formulate a potion to create love and happiness, has unleashed the evil side of his humanity in the base, malformed and powerful Mr. Hyde.

Stevenson’s story offers compelling views on the nature of human emotion and the bounds of scientific research, a fascinating detective story and a fictional parallel for the unsolved murders of “Jack the Ripper.” In fact, the American actor Richard Mansfield, who played the role of Jekyll and Hyde in London in 1887, was a leading suspect in the Ripper case.

Innovative and dynamic, the Aquila Theatre Co. has gained a well-earned international reputation as one of the foremost producers of touring theatre. Aquila presents high-quality, imaginative productions of classical drama under the artistic leadership of its founder Peter Meineck and Associate Director Robert Richmond. Since its inception in 1991, the company

has won both critical and academic acclaim for its work worldwide as it changes the perceptions of classical drama by freeing the spirit of the original text and allowing the widest possible audience to enjoy these great plays as live, visceral, and above all, entertaining theatre. Aquila tours extensively throughout North America and Europe and is the Company in Residence at New York University's Center for Ancient Studies. It has presented regular runs in New York and London, and multiple performances in major cities across the United States, including Los Angeles, Boston and Washington D.C. Additionally, the company stages performances at festivals such as "Summer Shakespeare" at the 5,000-seat Mann Center in Philadelphia, the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington D.C. and the Bermuda Festival.

Aquila's bold and inventive storytelling, respect for the original text and compelling stagecraft have been acclaimed by *The New York Times*, which praised the *Jekyll and Hyde* production for "making an old tale brim with timely resonance – enhancing its relevance to the 21st Century."

Tickets to the Feb. 4 performance of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* are \$18 for adults and \$8 for all students. For tickets or information, call (231) 591-5600 or visit [www.ferris.edu/arts](http://www.ferris.edu/arts).

The G. Mennen Williams Auditorium ticket office, located in the auditorium lobby at 901 S. State St., is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and one hour before the performance. People who need special accommodations to attend this performance may call the auditorium office at (231) 591-3676.

Sincerely,

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