

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

## University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

---

Campus News Archive

Campus News, Newsletters, and Events

---

3-31-2004

### Annual Children's Theater production will be classic Tolkien adventure

University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel\\_news](https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news)

---

#### Recommended Citation

University Relations, "Annual Children's Theater production will be classic Tolkien adventure" (2004).  
*Campus News Archive*. 1968.  
[https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel\\_news/1968](https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news/1968)

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Campus News, Newsletters, and Events at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in Campus News Archive by an authorized administrator of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact [skulann@morris.umn.edu](mailto:skulann@morris.umn.edu).

Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications  
Phone: 320-589-6414, [weberm@morris.umn.edu](mailto:weberm@morris.umn.edu)

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer  
Phone: 320-589-6068, [jrray@morris.umn.edu](mailto:jrray@morris.umn.edu)

**Annual Children's Theater production will be classic Tolkien adventure**

*Summary:*

(March 31, 2004)-Although Frodo Baggins may be the more famous hobbit due to his wide exposure in recent films, J.R.R. Tolkien also wrote of the adventures of another, equally feisty hobbit and his efforts to save his homeland of the Shire. His name is Bilbo Baggins, and audiences will have the opportunity to experience his story – a journey that serves as the prelude to the famous “Lord of The Rings” trilogy -- live on stage.

Visit a Middle Earth not seen in the Oscar-winning movies as The Division of Humanities, Theatre Discipline of the University of Minnesota, Morris presents its annual children’s production, “The Hobbit.” Written by J.R.R. Tolkien and adapted for the stage by Markland Taylor, “The Hobbit” is directed by UMM assistant professor Siobhan Bremer, with set and lighting design by UMM Theatre Professor Tap Payne and costume design by student Kaitlyn Maurer (Champlin).

Public performances of “The Hobbit” take place at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 16-17, with an additional matinee performance on Saturday at 1 p.m. Invited student matinees for elementary schools are also scheduled for April 15-16 and 21-23. All performances take place on the UMM campus, at the Proscenium Theatre in the Humanities Fine Arts building.

“The Hobbit” follows the story of Bilbo Baggins and his journey from a peaceful home in the Shire to Lonely Mountain, the home of Smaug, the giant dragon. Bilbo meets many interesting characters on his adventure, including wizards, dwarfs, elves, and trolls. He also comes to possess the magical ring that figures so prominently in Tolkien’s trilogy.

Those familiar with the popular “Lord of the Rings” books and movies will immediately recognize popular characters like Gandalf and Gollum. However, dedicated fans should not expect an imitation of the Hollywood movies -- instead, they will experience a highly theatrical production. Director Bremer notes that audiences will be treated to a performance that is very physical and visually spectacular, so everyone can enjoy the production, from very young children to adults.

An ensemble of seven actors make up the cast of “The Hobbit” some play up to four or five characters, differentiated by masks and vocal inflections. The cast of “The Hobbit” includes Asha Agar (Minneapolis) as Bilbo Baggins, Tim Hellendrung (New Ulm) as Thorin, and Paul Schwarz (Appleton) as Gandalf. Ensemble members include Philip Burgraff (Fairmont), Margaret Dobie (Mapleton), Johanna Farmer (Spearfish, S.D.), and Alyssa Herzog (Montgomery).

In addition to Bremer, Payne and Maurer, the creative team includes Assistant Director and Stage Manager Kristy Goebel (Plymouth) Assistant Stage Managers Andrea Pletsch (Belle Plaine) and Megan Losure (Apple Valley) Movement Assistant Jennifer Farrell (Hibbing) and Dramaturg Teresa Sayles (Clinton).

With this year’s production of “The Hobbit,” children, young and old, can visit the Proscenium Theatre on the Morris

campus and witness the prelude to the famous “Lord of the Rings” trilogy. Admission is \$2 per person. “The Hobbit” is funded in part by a grant from the Lake Region Arts Council through a Minnesota State Legislative appropriation. For more information about tickets and student matinees, contact the Theatre Box Office at (320) 589-6249 or e-mail inquiries to [thrupub@mrs.umn.edu](mailto:thrupub@mrs.umn.edu).

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at [morris.umn.edu](http://morris.umn.edu) or call 888-866-3382.