

The Arts

Now Showing

Ongoing

Katie Shain

Review

RENT at MPC

It's easy to forget this is an institution of learning.

*Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes.
Five hundred twenty five thousand moments so dear ...*

The highlights are many. Camilla de La Llata, Mimi Marquez, is stepping into her own personal stardom. She kept her performance on the edge throughout while she brought charm, drama, sincerity and fine vocal platitudes to every scene that she graced. Erin Shields, Ensemble, woke the first scene up from midway up the ladder and the musical began to move on. There's lots of springing up onto table tops and teetering on chairs to keep everyone awake and cause one to take note of the vast amount of youth on stage. Angel, Will Griffin, Jr., stole the show with his/her diversity, and vivacity throughout his acrobatics in ten-inch heels. He led with resolve while demonstrating a well-rounded ability to bring all the elements of musical theater on stage to be accounted for. His dance performance is rock solid and he held the interest most of the time with his vocal capabilities.

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Michael Blackburn as Tom Collins carried it off. For some, the tango number sparked a light and Tango Maureen Johnson portrayed by Beth Elderkin is hard not to fall for with her variety of proclivities. All the supporting actors filled their roles to their maximum skillful abilities, continually reaching and matching each other's heights. Mr. Renfer, as Mark Cohen, held his own with a steady vision as he kept the camera rolling demonstrating a confident command of his talented acting and vocal achievement. Special choreographic moments are laced within, resonating with the flare of the exquisitely distinctive style of Deanna Ross. In the end Kenneth Neely as Roger Davis conjured a heart gripping display of public emotion to end the show with a memorable climax.

RENT is an extraordinary opportunity for students and local community players to gain a chance to sink their teeth into meaty parts, and they are abundantly written into this particular production. Kudos to Gary Bolen if that was part of his selection directive. The range span from community "yellers" to polished vocal delivery takes place on stage with or without intention and there are nice vocal harmonies that happen in and around the bumping rhythmic beat of great live music by renowned local icons.

Love, or the lack thereof, and the availability to rent it, is the message I return to as a reason to withstand the cultural basis for a theatrical piece of this stature, reflecting a not altogether disproportionate number of our population in today's society. The second half opens with a redeeming rendition of *Seasons of Love*, and that would have been a perfect ending for me. As the show continues we get our eyes full with two full, all-cast music numbers, more highlights and cameos.

The audio balance of acoustics are challenged in the archaically unprogressive environment of this MPC venue, which no one in our lifetime is likely to live to see improved. The intellect of theater goers is hardly on par with gladiator football enthusiasts, add this to the steady sedative lulling of the lamenting lullaby of; limited, lacking budget woes constantly crooning "not enough funds on planet earth", sung by all the very well educated personnel, it leaves me with a loss of hope for the future of the lively arts on campus.

Be that as it may, our weather is perfectly appropriate to take in a holiday musical in July. If you were a fan of *Urine Town* you'll find this somewhat of a louder continuation. If you enjoy discordance, social reality at its best, reality TV, and don't mind a bit of insult to your senses, these kids give all the heart they have to make attending a memorable experience. Make the most of it, get out and see this year's MPC premiere performance production of RENT. Final show August 22.

Midnight showing added on Friday, August 20. This is sure to be a performance like none other in Monterey, all tickets \$15.00.

RENT is recommended for 16 and over. For tickets, go to www.mpctheatre.com, call the MPC Box Office at 831-646-4213, or visit the Box Office on the MPC Campus, Wed through Fri from 3:00 PM to 7: 00 PM.

At Artisana Gallery

309 Forest Avenue

Greg Magee: Photography

"Wild Central Coast"

Reception Friday, August 6 5-8 p.m.

Pacific Grove Art Center

568 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove

Through September 2, 2010

Art Center Open Wednesday-Saturday 12-5 p.m.

Louise Cardeiro Boyer Gallery

"Transformations: New Works on Paper"

E. Kristina Baer: Photographs and Poems

Shirley Loomis: Calligraphy

Ilse Buchert Nesbitt: Woodcuts

David Henry Gill Gallery

"Las Cadre: 21st Century Groove"

Elmarie Dyke Gallery

"People I've Seen: An Exhibition in Black and White"

by Dale Garell

Nadine Anand Gallery

"Quiet Place: Photography by Ryuijije and Camille Lenore"

"Presenting Paradise"

by Studio Artist C.K. Copeland

Classes at the Art Center

Watercolor Class- 6-9p.m. Tuesdays at the Pacific Grove Art Center, 568 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove. This is an overview class using the limited palette method and includes the basics to experimental with watercolor printmaking. Class works from still life on towards a model. Beginners welcome. Six week session \$90. Next session starts September 14. For more information call 402-5367 or e-mail: artnants@aol.com. Please pre-register.

NEW! Beginning Watercolor Class- 9a.m.-12p.m. Thursdays at Vista Lobos, Carmel. This is an overview class using the limited palette method and will cover the basics of watercolor. Class will work from still life. Beginners welcome. 10 week session \$45. Next session starts Sept. 16. Pre-register through Carmel Adult School 624-1714

Outdoor Painting-10a.m.-1p.m. Saturdays. Ongoing class that meets at various locations around the Monterey Peninsula. All media and skill levels welcome. Lots of instruction available. \$120 for 8 week session. Next session starts August 21. Must pre-register at Pacific Grove Adult School in office at 1025 Lighthouse or online. For more information or location schedule call 402-5367 or e-mail: artnants@aol.com

Drawing Class-6-8p.m. Thursdays at the Pacific Grove Art Center, 568 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove. Class will learn the basics of perspective, shadow and line. Beginners welcome. Four week session \$75. Next session starts September 16. For more information call 402-5367 or e-mail: artnants@aol.com

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