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8 February 2013

Monterey Peninsula College Storybook Theatre presents
'CINDERELLA'
Adapted by Michele Vacca - Based on the famous French fairy tale
February 21 - March 10, 2013
Tickets on sale now

Monterey, CA – MPC Theatre Company's 2013 season opens with **CINDERELLA**, a show to be enjoyed by the whole family. Michele Vacca's lively adaptation of this timeless and beloved French tale weaves together humor and romance, along with a generous touch of magic. Cinderella's Fairy Godmother watches over her, providing several magical "coincidences" that affect the outcome of the story. When the King proclaims a ball will be held so that his son, Prince Philip, may find a wife, Frieda Frumpkin, (Cinderella's stepmother), is thrilled that her daughters, Thelma and Gertrude, are invited. When the invitations are delivered, Prince Philip "coincidentally" meets Cinderella in the garden. He admires the white roses, and suggests that she attend the ball. Frieda laughs at the idea; "Cinderella at the ball?" - What would she wear?

Portraying the title character in the MPC Storybook Theatre production of **CINDERELLA** is actress Ayanna Blount. She recently moved to the Monterey Peninsula from Pasadena to pursue her degree in Global Studies at CSU Monterey Bay, and is also currently taking Theatre Arts classes at MPC. In 2012 she received 4th place in California for her dramatic interpretation of Little Bee by Chris Cleave from the National Forensics League. Blount was most recently seen in MPC's 2012 production of *A Christmas Carol*.

"I'm extremely honored to play Cinderella. Hers is a story of humility and triumph. I admire how she embodies traditional values of hard work and kindness. She treats others with respect even when it's not given back to her. I think the world would be a better place if it was filled with Cinder-folk. Cinderella was a diamond in the rough. She wasn't born into royalty. She shone from the inside out. Of course it's every girl's dream to play a princess, and it's even better to portray one who's not shallow but truly deserving."

Among the exceptional cast are MPC Theatre Arts alum Mary Ann Lucido (Mama "Freida") and Faith Collins-Beety (Fairy Godmother) who attended the MPC Theatre Arts program together in the 70's where they studied

under Morgan Stock. They are joined on this production by former classmates Dan Beck (MPC Theatre Technical Director and Cinderella Set Designer) and Gloria C. Mattos Hughes (Cinderella Costume Designer).

Faith Collins-Beety comments, “*Being cast in **CINDERELLA** and working with wonderful, vibrant, passionate young actors, I am reminded of myself when I was at MPC and feel so blessed to be on stage with them. But I am equally blessed with the opportunity to work with consummate mature actors in our community that give of their time and talents as well as a director who carries on an MPC legacy of love, dedication and passion for the theater. The big difference that I have seen in the productions at MPC since I attended is that over the years, as one of the young actors commented during our first Little Women rehearsal last season, “It’s great to be in a play where the older characters are being played by older actors.” MPC is a community college and it is reflected in their staff, their students and their theatre.*”

The **CINDERELLA** cast includes many Storybook Theatre veterans, Mathew Belnas* (*Snow Queen*), Sam Fife* (*Snow Queen*, *Little Women*, *Princess and the Pea*), Chelsea Kennedy* (*Little Women*), Michael Robbins (*Ant and the Grasshopper*), LJ Thomas (*Princess and the Pea*), Phil Hopfner (*Little Women*). And making their Storybook Theatre debut are Fred Harro, Hannah Schmidt,* and local favorite Teresa Del Piero.

* Signifies students currently enrolled in the MPC Theatre Arts degree program.

Once again we are pleased to have Laura Coté, MPC beginning acting teacher join us for her fourth season as a Storybook Theatre director. Coté directed last season’s extremely popular *Little Women*, and *The Snow Queen* in 2011, as well as the 2010 production of *Sleeping Beauty*. Coté, a mother of two young children, brings with her a true understanding of entertaining children, while at same time making sure the shows is enjoyable for adults as well. Storybook Theatre offers something for everyone.

The creative team includes **Laura Coté** (*Director*), **D. Thomas Beck** (*Technical Director*), **Carey Crockett** (*Scenic Design*), **JoAnna Hobbs** (*Lighting Design*), **Gloria C. Mattos Hughes** (*Costume Designer*), and **Ana Maximoff** (*Props Design*).

ABOUT MICHELE VACCA *(Note: One L in Michele and two C’s in Vacca)*

Award winning playwright MICHELE L. VACCA spent many years working in professional children’s theatre as an actress, playwright, dramaturge and director, primarily in the Chicago metropolitan area. A graduate of Northwestern University, holding both a Bachelor of Science in Theatre and a Master of Arts in Playwriting, Ms. Vacca received a Sam S. Shubert Fellowship for playwriting as an undergraduate. After she earned her Master’s Degree, the Shubert Foundation in New York chose her as one of four graduate recipients in the United States to receive a second Fellowship. Since that time her children’s theatre scripts have been performed thousands of times in numerous theatres and schools across the US, as well as internationally.



Tickets on sale at the MPC Box Office (646-4213) and online at <https://www.TicketGuys.com/mpc>

Performances are Friday & Saturday at 7:00 PM (Feb 22, 23, Mar 1, 2, 8, 9) and Saturday & Sunday at 3:00 PM (Feb 23, 24, Mar 2, 3, 9, 10) at the Carmel Middle School Theatre (4380 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel, CA 93923). Special discount preview, Thursday Feb 21, 7:00 PM (all Seats \$10.00). The MPC Box Office is located at 980 Fremont Street, downtown Monterey. Tickets are \$15 Adults; \$12 Young Adults (16-21) & Military, and \$9 Children 15 & under. Tickets may be purchased from the MPC Box Office (831-646-4213) Wednesdays from 3:00 – 7:00 PM, Thursdays & Fridays from 3:00 to 5:00 PM, at the performance venue 90 minutes prior to any performance, or online at www.TicketGuys.com or www.mpctheatre.com

Storybook Theatre productions are made possible in part by grants and support from, *The Monterey Peninsula Volunteer Services, The Yellow Brick Road Benefit Shop, the S.T.A.R. Foundation for Monterey County, The Jim Tunney Youth Foundation, Allegro Gourmet Pizzeria* and our Fairy God Parents.

*** Thr. Feb 21 - 7:00 p.m. Preview - All Seats \$10.00**

Fri., Feb 22 - 7:00 p.m. - Opening

Sat., Feb 23 - 3:00 p.m.

Sat., Feb 23 - 7:00 p.m.

Sun., Feb 24 - 3:00 p.m.

Fri., Mar 1 - 7:00 p.m. Sold Out

Sat., Mar 2 - 3:00 p.m.

Sat., Mar 2 - 7:00 p.m.

Sun., Mar 3 - 3:00 p.m.

Fri., Mar 8 - 7:00 p.m.

Sat., Mar 9 - 3:00 p.m.

Sat., Mar 9 - 7:00 p.m.

Sun., Mar 10 - 3:00 p.m. - Closing

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