

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONTEREY, CA – Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Department presents

The Fantasticks

**Book & Lyrics by Tom Jones
Music by Harvey Schmidt**

Directed by Justin Matthew Gordon

July 26 to August 12, 2018

Tickets available from the MPC Theatre Box Office (831-646-4213) or online at www.mpctheatre.com.

About the Musical

The Fantasticks is the endearing musical story of Matt and Luisa, a boy and girl who fall madly in love with a little help from their two meddling fathers, but soon grow restless and stray from one another. The fathers then hire the enigmatic El Gallo and two out of work actors to stage an abduction of Luisa, so that Matt can rush in and save her. Will separation provide a deeper appreciation for the love they once shared or will it create a permanent gulf between them? Since its opening in May, 1960, at the Sullivan Street Playhouse in New York, and its subsequent revival at the Snapple Theatre Center, ***The Fantasticks*** has become the longest running production of any kind in the history of American theatre. It is a celebration of love's gorgeous simplicity and its heartbreaking complexity, featuring such classic tunes as "Try To Remember," "Much More," and "I Can See It."

About the MPC Production of *The Fantasticks*

Director Justin Matthew Gordon stages this immersive love letter to theatre, with a stellar cast of local, student, and professional actors, including Gary Bolen, returning to the Morgan Stock Stage for the first time since his retirement as Chair of the Department of Theatre.

About the Director

Professional actor, writer, and director, Justin Matthew Gordon recently joined the faculty of the MPC Theatre Arts Department, where he teaches Screenwriting, Acting for the Camera, and Movement. He has trained at Shakespeare's Globe in London, England, the British Academy of Stage Combat, and graduated from the Professional Theatre Training M.F.A. program at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Justin has appeared at the Utah Shakespeare Festival, Rogue Music Theatre, Cornerstone Theater Company, Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble, REDCAT, The Krannert Center, and freeFall Theatre Company. Justin is a frequent performer and Fight Director for Pacific Repertory Theatre in Carmel, where he has appeared in *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Cyrano*, *King Lear*, and *Twelfth Night*. His film and television credits include *We Were Soldiers*, *What's Bugging Seth*, *Absentia*, *The Unbreakable Sword*, *Oculus*, *Before I Wake*, *Gehenna*, and the forthcoming Netflix Original Series, *Age of the Living Dead*. Recent directing credits include *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Complex Theatre, Hollywood) and *Red Light Winter* (The Armory Theatre, Illinois) and ***Hamlet*** in the MPC Studio Theatre this past March. Justin is a proud member of Actor's Equity, SAG-AFTRA, and the Society of American Fight Directors.

About the Design Team

The Design team includes **Justin Matthew Gordon** (*Director*), **Michael Blackburn** (Musical Director), **Doug Ridgeway** (*Technical Director*), **Eric Maximoff** (Scenic Design), **Gloria C. Mattos Hughes** (*Costume Design*), **David Rigmaiden** (Sound Design), **Derek Duarte** (*Lighting Design*), and **Megan Root** (Stage Manager).

About the MPC Theatre Charitable Trust

The Monterey Peninsula Community Theatre Company Charitable Trust is an independent 501(c)(3) that supports MPC theatre programs by funding expenses not covered by the State educational budget.

Performance Dates & Times:

The Fantasticks previews Thursday, July 26 at 7:30 PM and opens Friday, July 27 at 7:30 PM. Performances run Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2:00 PM through Sunday, April 12 .The full performance schedule is:

Thursday	July 26	7:30 PM	Preview/Discount Thursday
Friday	July 27	7:30 PM	Opening Night
Saturday	July 28	7:30 PM	
Sunday	July 29	2:00 PM	Matinée

Thursday	August 02	7:30 PM	Discount Thursday
Friday	August 03	7:30 PM	
Saturday	August 04	7:30 PM	
Sunday	August 05	2:00 PM	Matinée

Thursday	August 09	7:30 PM	Discount Thursday
Friday	August 10	7:30 PM	
Saturday	August 11	7:30 PM	
Sunday	August 12	2:00 PM	Matinée – Final performance

Thursday Ticket Prices

Thursday Preview and subsequent Thursday performances are \$12.50 for all Adults & \$10 for children.

Please Note: Campus Parking is required for Thursday evening performances and is \$3.00.

Some kiosks take quarters and others take dollar bills.

For All regular performances

24 hour Advance tickets are \$20.00 for Adults and Seniors (or \$25 & \$22 at the door.)

Military and Young Adults (13-21) are \$15.00 and Children (12 and under) are \$10.00.

Special Saturday August 4 preshow reception and fundraiser

Saturday August 4 pre-show reception from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, with pick-your-prize raffle, hors d'oeuvres and Hahn Family wines. Tickets to the reception and show are \$75.00 per person. (Regularly priced performance-only tickets are also available.)

Tickets are available online at www.mpctheatre.com or by calling The MPC Box Office at 831-646-4213.

The Fantasticks is a live theatrical performance and recommended for those 10 years old and above. Please note: Infants, babes-in-arms, and children in strollers or carriers are not permitted in the theatre.

Tickets are available from the MPC Box Office on the Monterey Peninsula College Campus at 980 Fremont Street. The Box Office (831-646-4213) is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 3:00 – 7:00 PM and two hours prior to performances during performance weeks.

Tickets are also available online at www.mpctheatre.com.

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