



**PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**13 February 2011**

**Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Company to open**

**'FUNNY GIRL'**  
**March 3 – 13, 2011**  
**Tickets on sale now**

**Monterey, CA** – Our 2011 season opens with *Funny Girl, the Concert*. This concert version of *FUNNY GIRL* recounts the life of legendary comedienne **Fanny Brice** (*Gracie Moore Poletti*), who's career covered Vaudeville, Broadway, Radio, and Film. Brice is best known for her association with Florenz Ziegfeld and the Ziegfeld Follies from 1910 to the 1930's. One of the most celebrated entertainers of her time; she is also remembered as Radio's "Baby Snooks," which was on the air from the 1930's to the 1950's. A gawky New Yorker, who fast-talks her way into show business, she is certain that she's destined to be "The Greatest Star." Hired as a "dramatic" singer by impresario Ziegfeld, she defies orders to play it straight, turning a "Beautiful Bride" tableau into a laugh riot. The stratagem turns Brice into an overnight star and the toast of Broadway. But all is not roses in her turbulent private life as the wife of big-time gambler Nicky Arnstein (*Peter Tuff*). Nicky at first finds it amusing to be referred to as "Mr. Brice," but he begins to resent his wife's fame and fortune and starts taking foolish risks with other people's money. Chock full of memorable songs like "People", "Don't Rain On My Parade", "Sadie, Sadie" and "Rat-tat-tat-tat".

With Music by Jule Styne, Lyrics by Bob Merrill, and a Book by Isobel Lennart from an original story by Miss Lennart, *FUNNY GIRL* which opened in 1964, and was nominated for 8 Tony® Awards, played for 1,348 performances on Broadway at the Winter Garden, Majestic, and Broadway Theatres starring Barbra Streisand, Sydney Chaplin, Kay Medford and Jean Stapleton.

Tickets for **FUNNY GIRL, the CONCERT** are priced from \$18 - \$25, with Young Adult (16-25) and military and group discounts available.

Performances are:

Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup> (Preview) 7:00 PM,  
Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> (Opening) 8:00 PM,  
Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM,  
Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM,

Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM,  
Friday March 11<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM,  
Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> 8:00 PM,  
Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM.

**FUNNY GIRL, the CONCERT** is recommended for theatergoers 6 years and over. For tickets visit us online at [www.mpctheatre.com](http://www.mpctheatre.com), call the MPC Box Office at 831-646-4213, or visit the Box Office in person on the MPC Campus, Wednesday through Friday from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

**GRACIE MOORE POLETTI** (*Fanny Brice*) Local theater credits include *RENO SWEENEY* in *ANYTHING GOES*, *Kaye* in *A TAFFETA CHRISTMAS*, and *Faye* in *CHAPTER TWO* for MPC Theatre Company; *Mrs. TeaVee* in *Willy Wonka*, *Maria* in *Sound of Music*, *Anna* in *The King and I*, *Fiona* in *Brigadoon*, and *Mrs. Darling* in *Peter Pan*, all at the Forrest Theater. Gracie's voice over resume includes over 1,000 vocal performances on feature films, cartoons, soundtracks and television shows such as *The Walking Dead* and the part of *Aunt Jessica* in a Disney animated feature based on *THE BORROWERS* (to be released next February). On-camera acting credits include roles on *Murphy Brown*, *Double Rush*, *Candid Camera*, and a number of commercials and films. She was a regular at the world famous Comedy Store on Sunset Blvd for five years and performed at other major comedy clubs such as *The Ice House* in Pasadena and *The Improv* in Hollywood. Gracie gives private acting and singing lessons, teaches after school drama at Carmel River School, and is director of the Actor's Forum Summer Theater Camp.

**PETER TUFF** (*Nick*) – Peter first appeared with MPC Theatre Company last year as Billy in Cole Porter's *ANYTHING GOES*. He made his stage debut at age 9 as Whitney in *LIFE WITH FATHER* at Carmel's Circle Theatre. Peter lived in Austria for ten years as he sang at the Vienna State Opera and in Salzburg Festival productions. He has sung over 125 leading and supporting opera roles. Recent concert appearances include performances of Finzi's *In Terra Pax*, Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony*, and Mozart's *Zaide*. Earlier this year, Peter was appointed executive director of the Carmel Music Society. Recent empty nesters, Peter and his wife, Carmel portrait artist LeAnna Tuff, just adopted "Mr. Figaro," a mini-poodle mix. They make their home in Carmel.

#### The Director: Walt deFaria

Walt directed *A TAFFETA CHRISTMAS* and *ANYTHING GOES* last season at MPC, and *A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD* in 2009. deFaria has directed numerous productions at Carmel's outdoor Forest Theater for PacRep including *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*, *JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECNICOLOR DREAMCOAT*, *THE WIZARD OF OZ* and *PETER PAN*. Currently he is Executive Producer on an animated film in Japan and a movie for television for the BBC, both based on the classic children's books, *THE BORROWERS*. He has a film project based on Russell Hoban's *THE MOUSE AND HIS CHILD* in development with Kennedy/Marshall Productions in Los Angeles.

The creative team includes **Walt deFaria** (*Director*); **Gloria Elber & Reed Scott** (*Choreographers*) **Barney Hulse** (*Musical Director*), **D. Thomas Beck** (*Technical Director, Scenic Designer*), **Steve Retsky** (*Lighting Design*), **David Rigmaiden** (*Sound Designer*), and **Constance Gamiere** (*Costumes*).

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#### About The MPC Theatre Company's 2011 Season

Our 2011 Season will open with **FUNNY GIRL, the CONCERT** on the Morgan Stock Stage; then continue with **GREASE** at the brand new Carmel High School Performing Arts Center, **ONCE UPON A MATTRESS** at the Outdoor Forest Theatre, and **COMEDY OF ERRORS** at the Carmel High School Performing Arts Center.

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