

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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12 July 2013

Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Company presents

LES MISERABLES

Written by Alain Boubil

Music by Claude-Michel Schoenberg Lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer

Directed by Gary Bolen

Discount Preview July 25

Opens (Press Night) July 26

Grand Opening Gala, Saturday July 27

Tickets on sale now!

MONTEREY, CA – The wait is finally over for the 8-time Tony Award winning musical that has thrilled audiences around the world. Monterey Peninsula College's Grand Re-Opening production will feature the Central Coast Premiere of **LES MISÉRABLES**. It is a monumental achievement for MPC, which is celebrating the reopening of its home theatre at Monterey Peninsula College after an extensive 21 month renovation, while at the same time bringing to stage one of its biggest productions to date. A brilliantly talented cast of over three dozen brings the characters of Victor Hugo's classic novel to life in a saga that spans decades. Set in France during the student uprising of 1832, the flawed but noble Jean Valjean (*Sean Boulware*), relentless Inspector Javert (*Rob Devlin*) and the achingly tragic Eponine (*Megan Root*) and Fantine (*Michelle Boulware*) all pursue love, honor and valor amidst the pageantry, strife, humor and lust of this dazzling epic musical, accompanied by a dazzling 15 piece orchestra. This brilliant musical runs July 26 through August 18, with a preview performance scheduled for Thursday, July 25 at 7:30 pm.

"I am extremely pleased to bring this musical theater masterpiece to the Central Coast," said MPC Theatre Arts Chairman, and **LES MISÉRABLES** director Gary Bolen. "With musical direction by Dr. John Anderson and choreography by Susan Cable, audiences will experience *Les Misérables* as they never have before."

Grand Opening Gala

Saturday July 27, 5:30 PM - \$125/per person including preshow reception catered by **Michaels Catering**, Wine pouring by **Scheid Vineyards**, Silent Auction, and official dedication of the modernized Theatre Arts building, and lobby dedication to Dorothy Stevens.

About the Show:

LES MISERABLES, an operetta style musical based on the novel of the same name, had its world premiere in September of 1980 at the Palais des Sports in Paris. The production was directed by filmmaker Robert Hossein and ran for over 100 performances.

Following the world premiere run of the original French version, Herbert Kretzmer and James Fenton were given the task of adapting the material into English. This new version, produced by Cameron Mackintosh and directed by Trevor Nunn and John Caird, opened on October 8, 1985 at the Barbican Arts Centre in London. The original cast included such notables as Colm Wilkinson, Michael Ball, and Patti LuPone.

On December 4, 1985, the world premiere production of the English version transferred to the Palace Theatre in London. It eventually moved once more on April 3, 2004, to the Queen's Theatre. It has become the second longest-running musical in the world and the second longest-running show on the West End. The original North American tour ran for seventeen years and over 7,000 performances.

ABOUT GARY BOLEN

Mr. Bolen joined the MPC faculty in fall 1999, and now serves as the Chairman of the Theatre Arts Department. He received his B.A. and M.A. in Theatre from Cal State University Fullerton and an M.F.A. in Acting from UCLA where he was the winner of the Jack Nicholson Graduate Award in Acting and a University Grant Award recipient. A working professional actor since 1979, Gary has appeared on stages from L.A. to Houston in addition to dozens of television prime time dramas, movies of the week and sit-coms. In 1995 he was nominated and elected to the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and has served as an Emmy Blue Ribbon Peer Panel judge.

ABOUT THE PRINCIPLES

Sean Boulware (Valjean) is thrilled to be back on the Morgan Stock Stage at MPC. He has played roles in *ONCE UPON A MATTRESS*, *THE PRODUCERS*, and *COMPANY* for MPC. Sean is a choral conductor in the area and conducts several choirs including The Monterey Peninsula Voices, Aria Women's Choir, Urban Renewal Vocal Jazz, Pacific Voices and Pacific Grove High School. He conducts choirs and orchestras regularly at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center.

Rob Devlin (Javert) is thrilled to be returning to the MPC stage in the role of a lifetime. Previously for MPC, he played Cliff in last year's *CABARET* (Cliff) and Sky in *GUYS AND DOLLS* (Sky) in 2007. Last year, Rob also appeared in "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF" (Fyedka), in *SPAMALOT* (Lancelot) and in "DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Beast)" for PacRep.

Lori Schulman (Cosette) credits include Papagana in *Manga Flute*, Ilia in *Idomeneo*, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Amore in *La Didone* and Lizzie in *BABY*. Concert soloist credits include David Del Tredici's *Dracula*, Handel's *Messiah*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, and Mendelssohn's *Hör mein Bitten*. Lori holds a B.M. in Vocal Performance from SJSU, and can be seen in February 2014 performing *Sparrows* with Ensemble Monterey Chamber Orchestra.

Hadley Sprague (Young Cosette) is excited and extremely grateful to be making her theatrical debut embraced by such a supportive and talented cast.

Chris Beem (Thenardier) previously seen at MPC in *URINETOWN* (Officer Lockstock). Elsewhere he has appeared in *ASSASSINS* (The Balladeer/John Hinckley), *CRAZY FOR YOU* (Bobby), *DAMN YANKEES* (Young Joe) and *GREASE* (Danny Zuko).

Michelle Boulware (Fantine) has appeared in several MPC productions including *KISS ME KATE*, *COMPANY*, *ONCE UPON A MATTRESS*, *ANYTHING GOES* and *CABERET*. She has also been featured in productions of *EVITA*, and several *BROADWAY* Reviews at the Wharf Theater. When not performing, Michelle is in demand as a choral conductor and voice teacher/coach all over the central coast. She is an Associate Conductor for Aria Women's Choir and will be teaching at Pacific Grove Middle and High School this coming school year.

John Daniel (Enjolras, Bamatabois) French teacher at the York School, John is delighted to celebrate Victor Hugo's story of social injustice, compassion, and redemption. Favorite peninsula roles include the *Scarecrow*, *Sparky*, *Pharaoh*, *Le Fou*, and *Corny Collins*.

Jennifer L. Newman (Madame Thenardier) is a teacher by day. One of her favorite roles is the Queen in *ONCE UPON A MATTRESS*. She is delighted to be comic relief in *LES MISERABLES*. Soon, she will perform in MPC's *THE GUYS*, then will reprise her role as the Coconut Guard and various knights in *SPAMALOT* at PacRep.

Megan Root (Eponine) is thrilled to be returning to the stage after a four year absence. Some former roles include Hope Cladwell (*Urinetown*), Beth March (*Little Women*), and Emma Carew (*Jekyll & Hyde*).

ABOUT THE DESIGN TEAM

The creative team includes **Gary Bolen** (*Director*), **D. Thomas Beck** (*Technical Director & Scenic Design*), **Charles Houghton** (*Lighting Design*), **David Rigmaiden** (*Sound Design*), **Constance Gamiere** (*Costume Design*), and **Kirsten Clapp** (*Props Design*), **Susan Cable** (*Choreography*), **Barney Hulse** (*Vocal Direction*), **Dr. John Anderson** (*Musical Direction*)

Tickets on sale at the MPC Box Office (646-4213) and online at <https://secure3.TicketGuys.com/mpc>



Preview performance on **Thursday July 25** at 7:30 PM. **Grand Opening Gala, Saturday July 27 5:30**, Regular performances are Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 7:30 PM (**July 26, Aug 2, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17**) and Sunday at 2:00 PM (**July 28, Aug 4, 11, & 18**) on the Morgan Stock Stage at MPC, located at 980 Fremont Street, downtown Monterey. Tickets are \$25 Adults, \$22 Seniors, \$15 Young Adults (16-21) & Military, and \$10 Children 15 & under; 24-hr Advance Purchase \$20; Online \$18 for Adults & Seniors.

Grand Opening Gala \$125/per person including preshow reception catered by Michaels Catering, Wine pouring by Sheid Vineyards, Silent Auction, and Official dedication of the new Theatre Arts building.

Tickets may be purchased from the MPC Box Office (831-646-4213) Wednesdays through Friday 3:00 – 7:00 PM, at the MPC box office beginning two hours prior to any performance, or online at www.TicketGuys.com or www.mpctheatre.com.

Parking is plentiful on the college campus, during performances; however there is a \$2.00 fee to park on campus on Thursday evenings. From 5:00 PM Friday, through 7:00 AM Monday there is no charge to park.

Performances are:

Thr., July 25 – 7:30 p.m. – *Preview* - All Seats \$12.50
Fri., July 26 – 7:30 p.m. – *Opening* - All Seats \$20.00
Sat., July 27 – 7:30 p.m. – *Gala* – All Seats \$125.00
Sun., July 28 – 2:00 p.m.

Fri., Aug 2 - 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Aug 3 - 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Aug 4 - 2:00 p.m.

Fri., Aug 9 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Aug 10 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Aug 11 2:00 p.m.

Thr., Aug 15 – 7:30 p.m.
Fri., Aug 16 – 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Aug 17 – 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Aug 18 – 2:00 p.m

LES MISERABLES is recommended for theatergoers 10 years and over. Tickets are available by going to www.mpctheatre.com, calling 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.

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