



**APRIL 2012**

**MPC THEATRE COMPANY at  
Bruce Ariss Wharf Theatre**

### **CAST BIOS**

**MARIA COMSTOCK** (June/Ensemble) This is Maria's first acting Bio, even though she has been performing since she was little. She really started getting into theatre in high school, when she started to do plays for the drama club that she was in. Maria has done 2 musicals prior to this MPC musical: GODSPELL, where she was Robin, and BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, where she played Belle. She has also done LITTLE WOMEN as Beth and SALEM'S DAUGHTER as Sarah Brooks & Detective Ellen Brent. Maria hopes to continue to build her resume with future shows, so she is currently taking acting classes at MPC. Other than that, she is just happy going to rehearsals and waiting for opening night!

**JOHN DANIEL** is no stranger to the MPC stage, and includes among his favorite roles the Minstrel in 1999's ONCE UPON A MATTRESS, the obnoxious Peachy Weill in HE LAST NIGHT AT BALLYHOO, and the sadistic dentist in The LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. Other appearances on peninsula stages are as Sparky in FOREVER PLAID, the Count in PASSION ROLF in THE SOUND OF MUSIC, a radio DJ in THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY, the Pharaoh in JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT, John Sullavan in SISTER MARY IGNATIUS EXPLAINS IT ALL FOR YOU, and the Scarecrow in four productions of the WIZARD OF OZ. John Daniel is thrilled to have played the role of Corny Collins in Pacific Repertory Theatre's production of HAIRSPRAY, alongside some of his students from the York School in Monterey. He is especially pleased to grace the stage of the Bruce Ariss Theatre, where he had so much fun in the role of Captain Corcoran in the HMS PINAFORE shortly after his arrival to the Monterey Peninsula in 1995.

**MITCHELL DAVIS** has performed on local stages for "a long time" and most recently appeared at MPC as the Wizard in "Once Upon a Mattress", Larry in "Company", The Large and Terrible Frog in A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD, Thug #2 in KISS ME KATE, Arvide in GUYS AND DOLLS, Senex in A FUNNY THING

HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM, Senator Fipp in URINETOWN, THE MUSICAL, Selsdon in NOISES OFF, and Herr Shultz in CABARET. Last year he was Martin in THE GOAT, OR WHO IS SYLVIA with the Paper Wing Theater and Roger in 101 DALMATIANS with Pac Rep. He has performed with other theater companies on the Peninsula including The Troupers of the Central Coast, The New Wharf Theater, The Forest Theater Guild, CET, and The Western Stage.

**PHYLLIS DAVIS** (Abby in "A Little Complex", Abigail Von Schtarr in "Aspects of Junita" )Phyllis has enjoyed performing on Peninsula stages for 34 years and has appeared in over 75 productions and interestingly enough, the first of these was a production of MY FAIR LADY right here at The Wharf Theater in 1978! Recent roles include: Stevie in THE GOAT, OR WHO IS SYLVIA , The Nightingale, ONCE UPON A MATTRESS, Cruella DeVille, 101 DALMATIANS, Mrs. Beauregard, WILLY WONKA and Grizabella in CATS. Favorite roles for MPC include: Dottie, NOISES OFF, Domina, A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM, Josephine Strong, URINETOWN, THE MUSICAL, Marie, MOST HAPPY FELLA, Fraulein Schneider, CABARET, Donna, A TAFFETA CHRISTMAS and Joanne in COMPANY. Phyllis is excited to be performing in this delightful show with such a talented cast and sharing the stage once again with her wonderful husband Mitch!.

**CAMILA DE LA LLATA** is a 22-year-old student who will be returning to Cal State, Fullerton, in the fall to complete her BA in theater education with an emphasis in directing. She has grown up doing theater in the area. She was part of PacRep's High School Musical team, performing as Taylor during its three-year marathon. This is her sixth show through MPC and her first time performing at the Warf. Most recently, she performed as Winnifred in ONCE UPON A MATTRESS. Previously, she was in GREASE (Rizzo), RENT (Mimi), THE PRODUCERS (Showgirl) and GUYS AND DOLLS (Hot Box Dancer/ Havana Dancer). Camila has enjoyed being a member of such a wonderful, fun, hard working cast and is very excited to be a part of this humorous production. Thanks for letting me play.

**COLE FAROTTE** is a new face in the acting community. You may not recognize him without the ten pounds of make-up but he was indeed the terrifying polar bear in last falls production of SNOW QUEEN, which was Cole's first show. Cole's singing background involves very loud singing in the shower to his audience of various bars of soap. Cole is currently working toward a career in acting by taking classes and participating in other shows. Cole can also be seen in this springs upcoming piece of LITTLE WOMEN, directed by Laura Cote.

**KRISTIN GRILLO** hails from the east coast, where she grew up singing for fun and studying classical voice. She earned degrees in both psychology and music therapy, and moved to the sunny state of California to be a music therapist in a facility for those with mental illness. Kristin's previous musical theatre credits include The Sound of Music (Leisel), The

FANTASTIKS (Girl), THE BOYFRIEND (Polly), 42<sup>nd</sup> STREET (Maggie Jones), and A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM (chorus girl). She has been a chorus member in opera productions of composer Jules Massenet's MANON and Giuseppe Verdi's UN BALLO IN MASCHERA. While studying and working in different states on the east coast, she spent years singing with various church choirs, chorales, jazz ensembles, rock bands, and an acapella group. She is currently a member of the San Jose Symphonic Choir. This is Kristin's first production with Monterey Peninsula College Theatre.

**ROBB HAASE** is thrilled to be returning for his second season with the MPC Theatre Company, having made his first appearance with MPC theatre last year in ONCE UPON A MATTRESS. By day, Robb works at a local software company, but his first love has always been music. As a member of the Cypressaires barbershop chorus, Robb can be found performing all year long, and was last year honored with the "Barbershopper of the Year" award. Robb has studied locally under voice teachers Anne Burleigh and David Gordon. A native of the Minnesota, every winter Robb thanks his lucky stars to have made sunny California his home for the last 30 years.

**JENNIFER L. NEWMAN** has performed all her life, but musical theatre is her passion. By day, she is known as Mrs. Foreman when she teaches English at NMCHS. Some of her favorite roles on the Monterey Peninsula include: Queen in ONCE UPON A MATTRESS, Charlotte, the therapist in BEYOND THERAPY, Miss Hannigan in ANNIE, and Sarah in COMPANY. Some of her favorite roles in the Sacramento area include: Corey in BAREFOOT IN THE PARK, Nanette in NO, NO, NANETTE, and Witch in INTO THE WOODS. She is also a member of Monterey Peninsula Choral Society.

**ADRIANE OGLIETTI** was a cheerleader for six years which is how she discovered her passion for performing arts. She made her acting debut in 2009 as the title character, Princess Rosalind, in MPC Storybook Theater's SLEEPING BEAUTY. Since then she has performed in multiple MPC productions such as PRINCESS AND THE PEA, PIXIES, KINGS, AND MAGICAL THINGS, ONCE UPON A MATTRESS, and THE SNOW QUEEN. During the day she works in Monterey teaching pre-school through level 4 gymnastics. She hopes to one day have a career in acting and working with children.

**TOMOMI YOSHIDA** - Tomomi, from Nagoya, Japan, was involved in The Nagoya Players, an International English language community theater, where she acted in productions such as THE CRUCIBLE and THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR. She studied theatre at Georgia College. Her various theatrical interests and study enabled her to direct shows and to act in a number of independent films. She is very excited to be a part of the theater arts community in this area. Her first performance with MPC theatre was HE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER as Butterfly.

**GARY BOLEN** (Director) Chairman of the Theatre Arts Department at MPC, holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Theatre from Cal State University Fullerton and an M.F.A. in Acting from UCLA. A member of the Screen Actors Guild, Actors' Equity and AFTRA as well as the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Mr. Bolen appeared in dozens of television dramas, sit-coms, soaps and national commercials prior to his employment at MPC. His most recent appearances on the Morgan Stock stage were in CHAPTER TWO and as a last minute replacement for one of his cast members in URINETOWN THE MUSICAL. Most recent directorial efforts include ONCE UPON A MATTRESS, RENT, COMPANY and BEYOND THERAPY. In addition to his directing, teaching and department chair duties he is husband to the world's most patient woman - Sherie Bolen.

**SHERRI BECK** (Choreographer) began her theatre career at MPC in 1975. She studied and performed in San Luis Obispo and Los Angeles for 8 years then returned to the Peninsula. She has been performing and choreographing ever since. Her favorite roles include The Beggar Woman in SWEENEY TODD, Kathy in COMPANY and featured dancer in TOMMY She looks forward to choreographing MUSICAL OF MUSICALS (THE MUSICAL) and assisting Susan Cable with CABARET.

**ANA WARNER** (Stage Manager) graduated in 2004 with three degrees from MPC, Acting, Directing, and Technical. Before working as a scene shop assistant, she performed in several shows including ROCKY HORROR SHOW, CBARET, and NOISES OFF Ana has also directed in the Studio Theatre, her favorite project being MRS. BOB CRATCHITS WILD CHRISTMAS BINGE. She has been working primarily as the Stage Manager, when she is not working in the scene shop as a carpenter, wardrobe mistress, and properties designer.