



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Theatre Manager: Sky A. Rappoport 831-649-4495

Director & Theatre Arts Chairman: Gary Bolen 831-646-4085

MPC Box Office: 831-646-4213 www.mpctheatre.com

MPCBoxOffice@mpc.edu

GBolen@mpc.edu

MPCBoxOffice@mpc.edu

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**Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Company in association with the Forest Theater Guild
present a musical for the entire family**

"ONCE UPON A MATTRESS"

July 1 – 24, 2011

Tickets on sale now!

Monterey, CA - Performances will run July 1 – 24, 2011. Tickets for **ONCE UPON A MATTRESS** are priced from \$15 - \$25, with group discounts available. Performances are Friday July 1st (Opening) 8:00 PM, Saturday July 2nd 8:00 PM, Sunday July 3rd 2:00 PM, Friday July 8th 8:00 PM, Saturday July 9th 8:00 PM, Sunday July 10th 2:00 PM, Friday July 15th 8:00 PM, Saturday July 16th 8:00 PM, Sunday July 17th 2:00 PM, Friday July 22nd 8:00 PM, Saturday July 23rd 8:00 PM, and Sunday July 24th 8:00 PM. There is a special Half-Price preview on Thursday, June 30th at 8:00PM. Advance purchase is recommended during summer months.

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS is suitable for the entire family. For tickets, go to www.mpctheatre.com, www.foresttheaterguild.org, or call the MPC Box Office at 831-646-4213, or visit the Box Office on the MPC Campus, Wed/Thursday from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM and Friday and Saturday from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Children Four and under will be admitted without a ticket.

The Musical:

Bring the entire family, and join us under the stars of the Outdoor Forest Theater for **ONCE UPON A MATTRESS**. If you thought you knew the story of "The Princess and the Pea" you may be in for a walloping surprise! In a small kingdom in medieval times, Prince Dauntless (*Daniel Joseph Renfer*) is looking for a bride. A dozen girls have already been tested and rejected by his mother, the queen. Queen Aggravain (*Jennifer Newman*) declares no one may marry until her son Prince Dauntless does, so Sir Harry (*Keith Wolhart*) sets out to find a bride for the prince, so that he may marry Lady Larken (*Michelle Boulware*). Carried on a wave of wonderful songs, by turns of hilarious and raucous, romantic and melodic, this rollicking spin on the familiar classic tale of royal courtship and comeuppance provides for some side-splitting shenanigans. Chances are you'll never look at fairy tales quite the same way again.

Director Gary Bolen has assembled an amazing cast of young actors for this summer's production of **ONCE UPON A MATTRESS**. *Daniel Joseph Renfer* in the role of Prince Dauntless, along with *Camila de la Llata* in the role of Princess Winnifred, appeared together in the Central Coast premier of *RENT*, also under the direction of Gary Bolen.

The Principle Cast Members

Camila de la Llata (Princess Winnifred) is a 21-year-old student who will return to Cal State, Fullerton, next year 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 fifth show at MPC. Most recently, she performed as Rizzo in *Grease* and Mimi in *Rent*. She was also in *The Producers* (Showgirl) and *Guys and Dolls* (Hot Box Dancer/Havana Dancer). This is her second time performing in *Once Upon a Mattress*, and Camila is excited to be playing such a fun and energetic

role opposite one of her childhood friends. She enjoys being a member of such a wonderful, hard working cast and is excited to be a part of this production.

Daniel Joseph Renfer (Prince Dauntless) got his start into musical theater as a child with Ariel Theatrical in Salinas. He has also worked with Pacific Repertory Theater and El Teatro Campesino on projects such as *Zoot Suit* and *Disney's High School Musical 1 & 2*. Daniel made his MPC theatre debut last summer as Mark in *Rent*. He is transferring from MPC to California State University Long Beach this fall to continue his work on a degree in Pre-Med Kinesiology. Daniel is excited to perform at Carmel's unique Forest Theater for his first time and work with another extraordinary cast.

Jennifer Newman (Queen Aggravain) is honored to be working once again with her talented friends from MPC. As a teacher by day, she finds that theatre at night is the creative outlet she needs to keep a balance in her life. You may have seen her at MPC in such roles as Charlotte (the therapist) in *Beyond Therapy* and Sarah (the food addict) in *Company*. Other roles she has played on the Monterey Peninsula are Sister Robert Anne in *Nun-crackers! The Christmas Nunsense Musical*, Mrs. Gloop in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, and Mama Martin in *Chicago*. She would like to thank her husband for his unwavering support and love, her family for their love and for making the journey, her friends for allowing her to play in the sandbox with them, and Gary for believing in her ability to pull this off.

Mike Baker (King Sextimus the Silent) is glad to be working with MPC Theatre again after being seen most recently as Leo in *The Producers* and to be working at Forest Theatre again where he played one of his favorite roles, Judas, in *JC Superstar*. Other favorite roles include Sancho in *Man of La Mancha* (PRT), Tobias in *Sweeney Todd* (Western Stage), and Fagin in *Oliver* (Western Stage). He performed his one man show "*Mike on Mime*" across the US back in 2001 and is a founding member of the vocal group *The Mystery Machine*, which performed throughout CA, Nevada, and Japan. Mike is, also, a songwriter and multi-instrumentalist.

Sean Boulware (Minstrel) is thrilled to be making his Forest Theater debut in the 2011 production of *Once Upon A Mattress*. Sean has been on stage in one form or another since he was 8 years old. He is a choral conductor and teacher of vocal technique all over the US and Europe. He has been part of 2 National Tours of *Les Miserables* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Sean has also performed and conducted in New York at Lincoln Center, and appears regularly at Carnegie Hall. Currently, Sean is the Director of Worship at Carmel Presbyterian Church and is also the conductor of The Monterey Peninsula Choral Society. In 2012, Sean will conduct at the Summer Olympics in London, England.

Michelle Boulware (Lady Larkin) is a sought after conductor and vocalist. She has appeared in several local theater productions, including *Anything Goes*, *Company*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Broadway, The Musical*. Her performances number in the dozens including opera, musical theater and solo recitals. Michelle's experience as a soloist and conductor has taken her to New York, Germany, Austria, Canada, England, Ireland and Scotland. She has sung backup for Josh Groban, Michael McDonald, Carmen, and Tommy Sims. Michelle currently is the Director of Choral Activities at Carmel High School and Middle School as well as a soloist at Carmel Presbyterian Church. She has a Bachelors degree in Music Education from Cal State Long Beach. Michelle is married and has 2 adorable sons.

Dale Thompson (Jester) from his very first performance as Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol* at the age of four, Dale has demonstrated great enthusiasm for theatre. During his high school years he played Peter in *JC Superstar*, Daniel in *Once on this Island*, Jesus in *Godspell*, and Space Punk in *Starmites*. Some notable more recent performances include Tim in Monterey Peninsula College's *Noises Off!*, Perchick in Forest Theater's *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Teen Angel in MPC's *Grease*. Dale has worked for a variety of companies including MPC, Forest Theater, Western Stage, Pac Rep, and Shakespeare Santa Cruz. He graduated in 2008 from UC Santa Cruz with a BA in Theatre Arts. Currently Dale is working for the third straight summer as an actor performing deck shows at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Drama is his passion and he hopes to have many more opportunities for acting in his future.

Keith Wolhart (Sir Harry) has been in over 70 productions on the Monterey Peninsula over the past 25 years. In his first two MPC productions, he played the part of the Beadle in *Sweeney Todd* and Amos Hart in *Chicago*. He has recently played General Harrison Howell in *Kiss Me Kate*, Sir Evelyn in *Anything Goes*, as well as Peter in *Company*, which Gary Bolen directed. The last time he stepped on to the Forest Theater stage, he was the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*. Keith is excited to be a part of this unique and memorable experience of being directed by Gary at the Forest Theater.

The Director: Gary Bolen

Mr. Bolen joined the MPC faculty in fall 1999, and now serves as the Chairman of the Theatre Arts Department. Previously he had been a Theatre instructor at College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita beginning in 1990, and served as that department's coordinator from 1994-98. 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. He was Dr. Parker in "The Young and the Restless" and Harry Shaw on "General Hospital" along with numerous roles on "Days of Our Lives". He also appeared in the teen hit "Empire Records." 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.

The creative team includes **Gary Bolen** (*Director*); **Susan Cable** (*Choreographers*) **Barney Hulse** (*Musical Director*), **D. Thomas Beck** (*Technical Director*), **Nicole Bryant Stephens** (*Scenic Designer*), **Dennis Randolph** (*Lighting Designer*), **David Rigmaiden** (*Sound Designer*), and **Domini Anne** (*Costumes*).

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS marks a turning point for the MPC Theatre Company, as this is the first production we are mounting being totally out of our "home". The MPC Theatre Arts building at MPC closed as of June 13th, for an eighteen month long renovation and facelift. Also this is the first production to be mounted after the retirement of long time Theatre Arts instructor, and Co-Chairman, Peter DeBono. De Bono served as our second department chairman since 1982, following the retirement of Morgan Stock, founder emeritus.

About The MPC Theatre Company

The performing arts have always played an important part of life on the Monterey Peninsula, and for over 55 years the MPC Theatre Company has been entertaining, educating and enriching our community. In addition to making live Theatre a major part of our local culture, some of our past students have gone on to professional careers in theatre & television, and others have started their own amateur and professional theatre companies. MPC Outreach Programs also fund and support many local performing arts organizations, including Junior High & High School Drama Departments, Children's Theatres, and Dance Companies, as well as Community and Professional Theatres, such as the Pacific Repertory Theatre, the Staff Players Repertory Theatre, and the Forest Theatre Guild.

About The Forest Theater Guild and The Outdoor Forest Theater

Founded in 1910 by Herbert Heron as the Forest Theater Society, The Forest Theater Guild is dedicated to promoting the performing arts in our community, and mentoring of the theater arts for our local youth. The Guild strives to present quality performing arts and to foster growth and appreciation of the dramatic arts utilizing community talent, with emphasis on youth. The oldest outdoor theater west of the Rockies, it is also the longest continually producing theatre on the Central Coast. The Outdoor Forest Theater was built in 1910 by Herbert Heron and Carmel's Bohemians to provide an open-air theater where plays could be produced by locals, who would also have fun doing the acting, directing, lighting, costuming, and staging. Today, the Guild continues this tradition and the shared vision that community theater is an essential societal value in our current culture and continues to encourage arts for our youth and betterment of our society.

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