

**PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MONTEREY, CA – Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Department 2017-18 Season continues with**

## **PRESENT LAUGHTER**

**By Noël Coward**

**Directed by Laura Coté**

**November 2 – 12, 2017**

***Tickets available from the MPC Theatre Box Office (831-646-4213) or [www.mpctheatre.com](http://www.mpctheatre.com)***

### **Present Laughter**

Fresh off its Tony Award winning Broadway revival, comes this delicious drawing room comedy by Noël Coward! Actor Garry Essendine, an aging but debonair rake, still leaves the ladies weak in the knees. Preparing for a tour, the self-obsessed matinée idol must contend with his long-suffering secretary, his estranged wife, a crazed young playwright, numerous women trying to seduce him...and a looming mid-life crisis! Join the theatre's favorite leading man, as he finds himself caught between fawning ingénues, secret trysts and unexpected twists, in this dizzyingly funny and Tony Award winning British farce that *The Wall Street Journal* called "Noël Coward's funniest and most perfectly wrought comedy."

### **About Noël Coward**

Known for his flamboyance and wit, British actor, songwriter, and playwright Noël Coward was born on December 16, 1899, in Teddington, England. His stage and film acting and directing career spanned six decades, during which he starred in many of his own works. Best known for his comedies of manners, such as *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives* and *Blythe Spirit*, his plays still remain popular to this day. Coward was known for using naturalistic conversation in his work and dealing with controversial subjects, including homosexuality. He was knighted in 1970 and died on March 26, 1973, in Jamaica.

### About the Director

The director of *Present Laughter* is Laura Coté. Having been an MPC Theatre Arts instructor since 2010, she is currently the Acting Department Chair of the Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Department. A native New Yorker, Laura has called the Monterey Peninsula home since 1998. A *cum laude* graduate from Vassar College with a degree in Drama, Laura enjoys combining her classical theatrical training with the more modern approaches to teach and create unique and distinctive art. She has worked locally as an actress, set designer, and director. Here at MPC Laura directed *The Guys* in 2013, the story of a New York fire captain who must prepare eulogies for firefighters who died under his command on September 11<sup>th</sup> at the World Trade Center. On the lighter side, Laura also directed four MPC Theatre's Story Book Theatre productions, including *The Princess and The Pea* (2010), *The Snow Queen* (2011), *Little Women* (2012), and *Cinderella* (2013). In addition, she directed *Glorious* (2013) and *Good People* (2014) at the fondly remembered Magic Circle Theatre. Laura first discovered her calling at the age of nine when her family took her to see *Annie* on Broadway. She remembers sitting in the audience thoroughly enchanted and thinking, "I'm going to do that one day"...and now she does!

### About the Design Team

The Design team includes **Laura Coté** (*Director*), **Doug Ridgeway** (*Technical Director & Scenic Design*), **Gloria C. Mattos Hughes** (*Costume Design*), and **Emma Satchell** (*Lighting Design*).

### About the MPC Theatre Charitable Trust

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

### Performance dates & times:

*Present Laughter* previews Thursday, November 2 at 7:30 PM and opens Friday, November 3 at 7:30 PM. Performances run for two weeks through Sunday, November 12. Show times are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2:00 PM. The full performance schedule is:

Thursday	November	7:30 PM – Preview/Discount Thursday
Friday	November	7:30 PM – Opening night
Saturday	November	7:30 PM
Sunday	November	2:00 PM - Matinée
Thursday	November	7:30 PM – Discount Thursday
Friday	November	7:30 PM
Saturday	November	7:30 PM
Sunday	November	2:00 PM – Matinée & Final performance

**Ticket Prices:**

Tickets are \$25 for Adults and \$22 for Seniors at the door, \$15 for Military and Young Adults (16-21) and \$10 for Children 15 and under. Group discounts are also available for parties of ten or more.

**Adults and Seniors can also purchase tickets 24-hours in advance for \$20 each.**

**Tickets to Thursday shows (Preview and Discount Thursday) are \$12.50 each or \$10 for children.**

**Present Laughter** is a live theatrical performance and recommended for those 10 years old and above.

**Please note that infants, babes-in-arms, and children in strollers or carriers are not permitted in the theatre**

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

**Some kiosks take quarters and others take dollar bills.**

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. Tickets are also available online at [www.mpctheatre.com](http://www.mpctheatre.com)

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*For more information contact the MPC Theatre Box Office 831-646-423 or [mpcboxoffice@mpc.edu](mailto:mpcboxoffice@mpc.edu)*