

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 February 2019

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MONTEREY, CA – Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Department presents

Romeo & Juliet

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Justin Matthew Gordon

February 21 to March 10, 2019

Tickets available from the MPC Theatre Box Office (831-646-4213) or online at www.mpctheatre.com

About the MPC Production of Romeo & Juliet

The MPC Theatre Company presents an exciting new adaptation of William Shakespeare's tale of teenage romance, passion and violence. Juxtaposed between Elizabethan and modern times, this bold new rendition explores gender politics and identity, sexual agency, familial loyalty, and the intoxicating, dangerous beauty of love at first sight. Directed by professional director and MPC Theatre Arts faculty member Justin Matthew Gordon, the cast features LGBTQ+ actors in prominent roles, and is made up of professionals, community members, and MPC Theatre Arts students. This exciting production aims to celebrate Shakespeare's intent, while embracing the universality of this classic, timeless tragedy.

About the Director

Director Justin Matthew Gordon is well prepared to helm this production, with its emphasis on intense classical drama and heart-stopping stage combat. Justin studied classical directing and acting at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, England, during Mark Rylance's tenure as Artistic Director. While at the Globe, he studied under Tony and Olivier Award-winning actress Jane Lapotaire, as well as the Globe's Masters of Movement, Voice, and Elizabethan Stage Combat, working under teachers with the British Academy of Stage Combat. He completed his additional theatrical combat training with the Society of American Fight Directors and received his M.F.A. in Acting at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, training under a renowned faculty, including Tony Award-winning director Daniel Sullivan. Justin's classical work in regional theatre is extensive, including

several seasons with the Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespeare Festival. Locally, he has performed in and fight directed multiple seasons with Pacific Repertory Theatre's Carmel Shakespeare Festival, including their upcoming 2019 season. Justin is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Actors Equity Association, the Society of American Fight Directors, and SAG-AFTRA. He has been working out of the Monterey Peninsula since 2015, joining the MPC Theatre faculty in 2017, where he directed last year's acclaimed and sold out production of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

About the Design Team

The Design team includes **Justin Matthew Gordon** (*Director*), **Doug Ridgeway** (*Scenic Designer*), **Eric Maximoff** (Master Carpenter), **Gloria C. Mattos Hughes** and **Ashley Tripp** (*Costume Designers*), **David Rigmaiden** (Sound Designer), **Derek Duarte** (*Lighting Designer*), **Sarah Horn** (Choreographer), and **Alina Flanary** (Stage Manager).

About the MPC Theatre Charitable Trust

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

Performance Dates and Times:

Romeo & Juliet previews Thursday, February 21 at 7:30 PM and opens Friday, February 22 at 7:30 PM. Performances run Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 PM and Sundays at 2:00 PM from February 21 through March 10. The first two Sunday matinées will include a post-show discussion. Full schedule is:

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| Thursday | February 21 | 7:30 PM | Preview/Discount Thursday |
| Friday | February 22 | 7:30 PM | Opening Night |
| Saturday | February 23 | 7:30 PM | |
| Sunday | February 24 | 2:00 PM | Matinée with post-show discussion |
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| Thursday | February 28 | 7:30 PM | Discount Thursday |
| Friday | March 01 | 7:30 PM | |
| Saturday | March 02 | 7:30 PM | |
| Sunday | March 03 | 2:00 PM | Matinée with post-show discussion |
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| Thursday | March 07 | 7:30 PM | Discount Thursday |
| Friday | March 08 | 7:30 PM | |
| Saturday | March 09 | 7:30 PM | |
| Sunday | March 10 | 2:00 PM | Matinée – Final performance |

Thursday Ticket Prices

Thursday Preview and subsequent Thursday performances are \$12.50 for all Adults

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

Some kiosks take quarters and others take dollar bills.

For All regular performances

24-hour advance tickets are \$20.00 for Adults and Seniors (or \$25 and \$22 at the door.)

Military, Teachers, and Young Adults (13-21) are \$15.00 each. Reservations are recommended.

Tickets are available online at www.mpctheatre.com or by calling The MPC Box Office at 831-646-4213.

Romeo & Juliet is a live theatrical performance containing intense violence and sexual themes, and is recommended for those of High School age and above. Infants, babes-in-arms, and children in strollers or carriers are not permitted in the theatre auditorium.

Tickets are available through the MPC Box Office on the Monterey Peninsula College Campus at 980 Fremont Street. The Box Office (831-646-4213) is located in the lobby of the Theatre Arts building on the southwest corner of the MPC campus, adjacent to parking lot "C" just off Fishnet road. The Box Office is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 3:00 – 7:00 PM and two hours prior to performances during performance weeks. Tickets are also available online at www.mpctheatre.com.

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