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**MPC THEATRE COMPANY 2012 SEASON****THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER**

February 3-19 (Friday/Saturday 7:00 PM; Saturday/Sunday 3:00 PM)

Carmel Middle School

Directed by Susanne Burns

It's a classic fable that the entire family will enjoy! While the Grasshopper enjoys himself in the warm summer sunshine, singing and hopping about, the hard-working Ant toils away, preparing for the coming winter. The Grasshopper pleads with the industrious Ant to play with him, begging him to take a break and enjoy himself, as the winter seems so very far away. Sooner than expected, however, the bitter chill of winter arrives, covering the ground in a thick, cold, blanket of snow. With no food available and nothing at all stored up for the frozen winter, where shall the hungry Grasshopper turn? A funny, updated version that Aesop himself would enjoy!

**THE MUSICAL OF MUSICALS ...(THE MUSICAL!)**

April 5 - 29 (Thursday - Saturday 7:30pm; Sunday 2:00 pm)

Bruce Ariss Wharf Theatre

Directed by Gary Bolen

The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!) is a musical about ... you guessed it: Musicals! In this hilarious satire of Musical Theatre, one story becomes five delightful mini-musicals, each one written in the distinctive style of a different master of the form.

June, an ingénue who can't pay the rent, is threatened by her evil landlord. Will the handsome leading man come to her rescue? This basic plot is first musicalized the way Rodgers and Hammerstein might have envisioned it, taking place in Kansas in August, complete with a Dream Ballet. The same story is then done in the style of Stephen Sondheim, featuring the landlord as a tortured, artistic genius who slashes the throats of his tenants because they don't appreciate his Art. When presented in the style of Jerry Herman, the story becomes a splashy production number in the style of AUNTIE MAME, while the Andrew Lloyd Webber version is a rock musical, with borrowed themes from Puccini. The story is re-told one last time in the style of Kander and Ebb, set in a "CABARET" in "CHICAGO." It's an entire season of musical theatre rolled into one enjoyable performance that the Associated Press called "A delightful, fizzy concoction!"

**LITTLE WOMEN**

May 4-20 (Friday/Saturday 7:00 PM; Saturday/Sunday 3:00 PM)

Carmel Middle School

Directed by Laura Côté

Based on the classic 1869 autobiography of Louisa May Alcott, **LITTLE WOMEN** is the heart-warming story of the four March sisters, Jo, Meg, Am, and Beth, and their mother Marmee. With the Civil War raging far from their New England home, the sisters must fend for themselves, while their father is off fighting. The eldest, Meg, is on the brink of love. Jo, the tomboy, longs to be a writer. Sweet-natured Beth always puts others before herself. Twelve year old Amy, the youngest and most precocious of the four, is the flower of the family. Through happy times and sad, sisterly squabbles and the pressures of growing up, the spirited March sisters never lose their family's infectious sense of fun and their joy of life. **LITTLE WOMEN** has been enjoyed by one generation to the next, so come and share in the tradition!

**CABARET**

June 28 - July 15 (Thursday - Saturday 7:30pm; Sunday 2:00 pm)

Center for the Performing Arts at Carmel High School

Directed by Gary Bolen

When aspiring writer Cliff Bradshaw travels to 1930's Berlin in search of inspiration, he happens upon quirky dancer Sally Bowles at a cabaret known as The Kit Kat Klub, overseen by a charming, yet sinister Master of Ceremonies. The two soon become lovers and move in together, living in a boarding house run by Fräulein Schneider and her suitor, Herr Schultz, a Jewish fruit-shop owner. As the specter of the Nazis grow stronger day by day, everything is thrown into ever increasing disarray. Based on the play "I Am a Camera" by John Van Druten and "The Berlin Diaries" by Christopher Isherwood, **CABARET** features the hit title song, as well as "Mein Herr" and more!

**ANDROCLEAS AND THE LION**

Sep 7 - 23 (Saturday &amp; Sunday 2:00 PM &amp; 5:00 PM)

Outdoor Amphitheatre at MPC

Directed by Carey Crockett

A modern adaptation of Aesop's classic story of the escaped slave who overcomes his fear and befriends a Lion, removing a thorn from the poor creature's paw. Later, when Androcles is captured and facing certain death, his selfless act of kindness is repaid, showcasing the power of compassion and friendship, in true Storybook fashion.

**SCAPIN**

Sep 27 - Oct 7 (Thursday - Saturday 7:30pm; Sunday 2:00 pm)

Location TBA

Directed by Peter DeBono

When Octave and Léandre's love lives take a turn for the worse, the young men must turn to Léandre's crafty servant Scapin for help. Léandre's love, Zerbinette, is being held for ransom by gypsies. Octave has already married Hyacinthe in secret, but his father has other wedding plans for him. Can the wily Scapin swindle the money he needs out of the fathers, save Hyacinthe from the Gypsies, prevent Léandre from committing bigamy, and reunite all four lovers, before his schemes become unraveled? This classic slapstick farce by Molière, brilliantly adapted by "America's Clown" Bill Irwin, answers all these zany questions, and many more.



**CHRISTMAS CAROL**

Dec 6 - 23 (Thursday - Saturday 7:30pm; Sunday 2:00 pm)

Bruce Ariss Wharf Theatre

Directed by Gary Bolen

While Ebenezer Scrooge is wealthy, he is truly poor in spirit. The miserly businessman has lost all affinity for his fellow man, has no charity in his heart, and cares for nothing but money. Haunted by the ghost of his late partner, Jacob Marley, Scrooge is then visited on Christmas Eve by spirits of his past, present and future. He is whisked away on a journey that takes him from the painful losses of his youth to a grim possible future, where he reclaims his lost humanity on a glorious Christmas morning.

Bring the entire family to this song-filled new adaptation of Dickens' classic tale that reawakens the true spirit of Christmas in a heart-warming story of yuletide redemption that will chase the 'humbug' out of the most miserly Scrooge!