

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 12, 2016

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MONTEREY, CA – Monterey Peninsula College Theatre Department finishes 2015-2016 Season with

SCAPIN

Based on Molière's *Les Fourberies de Scapin* (*Scapin's Deceits*)

Adapted by Bill Irwin and Mark O'Donnell

Directed by Susanne Burns

April 28 – May 8, 2016

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

About the play

In 1671 French dramatist Jean-Baptist Poquelin, better known as Molière, took the well-known Commedia dell'Arte stock character Scapin, and made him the central character in one of the world's best-loved comedies. The 1995 American adaptation by Bill Irwin and Mark O'Donnell has charmed audiences with the same wildly imaginative schemes of the crafty and arrogant servant, while adding a late twentieth century spin to both the language and action. It even throws in a few final lines from Molière's *La Contesse D'escarbagnas*. ***"I have never laughed so hard and so long as the first time I saw this version of SCAPIN,"*** says MPC Theatre's Artistic Director, Gary Bolen. ***"The adaptation by Bill Irwin is the best I've seen or read in capturing the feel of Molière while having an innate "American-ness" to the dialogue and action."***

Commenting on the rich history behind this timeless classic, returning Director Susanne Burns notes that ***"Scapin has very distinct personalities based on commedia dell'arte characters. Regardless of the scenario, the characters remain the same. Servants such as Harlequin, Scaramouche and Scapin, masters such as Pantalone, the Doctor and the Captain each have their own distinct characteristics."***

You might think that portraying such historic and well known characters would be daunting to modern actors, but Director Burns stated that ***“It was a great process for the actors in this production to explore their commedia characters, and then add their own unique personality traits - basically adding a little modern pop to an ancient acting art.”*** **SCAPIN** has been described as a comedic tale of people trying to find each other and be together. As Director, Suzanne hopes that the audience will be drawn to these crazy and unique characters and will be thrilled for them when they finally do find themselves and each other.

The Story

Promising to help his neighbor's son, Octave, as well as his master Geronte's son, Leander, Scapin attempts to obtain money so that the young men can both marry two beautiful women they believe to be destitute. An inveterate schemer, Scapin convinces Octave's servant Sylvestre, to play portray various characters to deceive the family patriarchs. Spinning incredible tales of kidnapping, foreigners and ransom, Scapin tricks the patriarchs out of large sums of money. Thinking his master Geronte said something nasty about him, Scapin sets out to exact his revenge. When his lies and stories backfire, he flees, but his schemes reveal the penniless beauties to be the missing children of both patriarchs. Scapin returns to his post, with the pleasant punishment of having to marry the maidservant of one of the daughters. There is a final vaudeville-like chase and dance among the participants, ending in a raucous and delightful curtain call.

Bill Irwin and Mark O'Donnell

Known as “America's Clown,” Irwin attended the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Clown College and helped found the Pickle Family Circus in San Francisco, contributing to the renaissance of American circus during the 1970s. As an actor, Irwin has performed on Broadway, film, and television. He is known as Mr. Noodle on ***Sesame Street's "Elmo's World,"*** and as a therapist on ***Law and Order SVU.*** American writer and humorist Mark O'Donnell shared the 2003 Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical and Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Book of a Musical with Thomas Meehan for their work on ***Hairspray.***

About the Director

Susanne Burns has been an adjunct faculty member and acting teacher at Hartnell College. She has been a resident actor and director for The Western Stage, as well as TWS Young Company & Outreach Coordinator. Acting credits include; Mrs. Lovett in ***Sweeney Todd***, Lillie Vanessi in ***Kiss Me Kate*** and Agnes Gooch in ***Mame.*** Her directing credits include; ***The Hostage, Rabbit Hole, Real Women Have Curves,*** and ***The Arsonists.*** She was last seen on the MPC stage as Miss Hannigan in ***Annie (2005).*** Susanne directed both ***The Ant and the Grasshopper (2012)*** and ***Huck Finn (2013)*** for MPC Theatre. This past year she was Assistant Director for the highly enjoyable MPC production of ***Almost Maine (2015).*** She is Casting Director at Pacific Repertory Theatre in Carmel, *where she will direct **Mary Poppins, The Musical** in June & July of 2016.*

About the Design Team

SCAPIN is incoming Technical Director Doug Ridgeway's first production for the MPC Theatre, having taken over the position of longtime and recently retired T.D. Dan Beck. As Scenic and Lighting Designer for this production, Doug is working with **Eric Maximoff** (Master Carpenter), **Desma Johnson** (Music and Sound Design), **Gloria C. Mattos Hughes** (Costume Design), and **Megan Root** (Stage Manager), as well as Artistic Director and Department Chair, **Gary Bolen**.

SCAPIN previews Thursday, April 28 at 7:30 PM and opens Friday, April 29 at 7:30 PM. Performances then run Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 PM with Sundays Matinees at 2:00 PM through Sunday, May 8th.

(Please note, there is no performance Thursday May 05) The full performance schedule is:

Thursday	April 28	7:30 PM - Preview
Friday	April 29	7:30 PM - Opening
Saturday	April 30	7:30 PM
Sunday	May 01	2:00 PM – Matinee (With post-show Mix and Mingle)
Thursday	May 05	*No Performance*
Friday	May 06	7:30 PM
Saturday	May 07	7:30 PM
Sunday	May 08	2:00 PM – Matinee and Final performance

Please Note: Campus Parking is required for Thursday evening performances and is \$2.00

Tickets are \$25 Adults and \$22 Seniors; \$15 Young Adults (16-21) & Military, and \$10 Children 15 & under. Adults & Seniors can also purchase discount tickets 24-hours in advance for \$20.00 each. Group discounts are also available for parties of 15 or more.

\$75.00 Show & Reception tickets to the Sunday May 1 matinee include a post-show mix & mingle with the cast, hors d'oeuvres by Michael's Catering, Monterey County wines, and a silent auction—all to benefit the MPC Theatre Company!

Tickets are available at the MPC Box Office, on the Monterey Peninsula College Campus at 980 Fremont Street. The MPC Box Office (831-646-4213) is open Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM, and two hours prior to performances. Tickets are also available online at www.mpctheatre.com

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