



News

University News & Information

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California



Feb. 18, 2011

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Cal Poly Theatre and Dance Presents 'Falsettos' Feb. 24-26, March 3-5

SAN LUIS OBISPO – On Feb. 24-26 and March 3-5, Cal Poly's Theatre and Dance Department will present "Falsettos," a poignant musical comedy featuring a cast of Theatre Arts majors and local talent.

The Tony Award-winning musical by William Finn and James Lapine ("The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee") is directed by Cal Poly Professor Virginia Anderson, who brought José Rivera's "Marisol" to the Spanos Theatre stage last spring.

"Falsettos" deals with real-life, contemporary family situations. Marvin struggles to maintain a tight-knit family, despite having left his wife and son, Jason, for a male lover. To add to the tension, Marvin's ex-wife ends up marrying his psychiatrist.

With his bar mitzvah looming, Jason observes his family in flux. Two lesbian neighbors provide friendship and support to the evolving family when it is needed most. The story is set in the late 1970s and early '80s, just as AIDS began to spread.

"Falsettos" offers an opportunity for the audience to reflect on the nature of family, growing up and love.

"There seems to be a constant reevaluation of how and why we define family in this country, and 'Falsettos' reminds us of what is truly important in life: love," Anderson said. "It's easy to get lost in all the politics and controversies and to forget that love is the strongest familial bond. This family reminds us of the struggles and triumphs of our own families and how we all grow up—together."

"Falsettos" will be presented in the Cal Poly Spanos Theatre on Feb. 24, 25 and 26 and on March 3, 4 and 5 at 8 p.m. An additional matinee will be held at 2 p.m. March 5. General admission is \$15 or \$12 for students, seniors and Cal Poly faculty and staff. For tickets, contact the Performing Arts Center Box Office at (888) 233-ARTS or (805) 756-2787, or order online at

www.pacslo.org.

An opening night pre-show reception to benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and the San Luis Obispo County AIDS Support Network will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at Chumash Auditorium. It is free and open to the public. Local businesses and Broadway performers have donated their time, foods and wines, and entertainment memorabilia for a silent auction and raffle. Chumash Auditorium is in the University Union at Cal Poly, across the South Perimeter Plaza from Spanos Theatre.

Parking permits are required to park on campus. They can be purchased at the Highland Drive and Grand Avenue entrances/kiosks.

The production is co-sponsored by the Theatre and Dance Department, Cal Poly Instructively Related Activity Funds, and the College of Liberal Arts. Please contact Anderson for a press photo and cast list.

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