

Feb. 15, 2013
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly to Present 'A Year with Frog and Toad' Feb 28-March 3 and March 8-9

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly’s Theatre and Dance Department will present evening and matinee performances of the family musical “A Year with Frog and Toad” on Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 28-March 3 and Friday-Saturday, March 8-9 in Cal Poly’s Spanos Theatre.

Nominated for three Tony Awards, including Best Musical, “A Year with Frog and Toad” is a treat for the whole family, said Virginia Anderson, theatre and dance professor and director of the production.

The play features a cast and crew of Cal Poly students from multiple majors and class years.

Based on the beloved children’s books by Arnold Lobel, “A Year With Frog And Toad” follows the two great friends as they share adventures throughout the year. Frog and Toad wake from hibernation to welcome the spring; go swimming in the summer; bake cookies, rake leaves, and tell scary stories in the fall; and go sledding and exchange gifts in the winter.

“The musical offers children of all ages a heartwarming experience that will leave everyone laughing and reaching for the hand of a best friend,” Anderson said. “Frog and Toad are joined by birds, moles, and other woodland creatures to share just over an hour of fun. Complete with singing, dancing, and even some juggling, the production is interactive and child-friendly and is an exciting and educational way for families to experience live theater.”

Anderson teaches courses in children’s theatre, theatre history and dramatic literature. “In the rush and chaos of our daily lives, it’s wonderful to be reminded of the simple joys of friendship and take special note of the passing of the year,” she said. “That’s what Arnold Lobel’s wonderful books continue to do for children learning to read. Our production shares in that purpose.”

Using a small ensemble cast, the musical is set on the Spanos Theatre stage with the audience surrounding the set on three sides. Lily pads have been placed on the ground to encourage children to sit in the front and interact with the actors throughout the show.

Department Chair and set designer Tim Dugan pays homage to the memorable illustrations in Lobel’s books, while Thomas John Bernard’s costumes playfully contribute to the world of imagination at the heart of the stories.

The musical will also feature the choreography of new assistant professor of dance Christy McNeil, who “brings the woods to life in celebrations of the seasons.”

A team of students has created a website (cpfrogandtoad.webs.com) and outreach program for local families, classrooms and teachers, and through a generous grant from the Central Coast Center for Arts Education, tickets will be provided to CASA and Children’s Services.

Performance times are: 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28; 7 p.m. Friday, March 1; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, March 2; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 3; Friday, 7 p.m. March 8; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, March 9.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for students, seniors, children, and Cal Poly faculty and staff. For tickets, call 805-756-4TIX or visit www.polytix.calpoly.edu. Seating is limited.

For more information, contact Anderson at 805-756-7505 or vlanders@calpoly.edu.

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