

TIP SHEET **California State University, Fullerton**

Performing Arts Center Box Office
(714) 278-3371 / FAX (714) 278-1335

October 29, 2007

WHO: Department of Theatre and Dance at Cal State Fullerton

WHAT: **I MARRIED WYATT EARP**, West Coast Premiere
Libretto by Thomas Edward West and Sheilah Rae
Lyrics by Sheilah Rae
Music by Michele Brouman
Eve Himmelheber, Director
Mitchell Hanlon, Musical Director
Choreography by William F. Lett

WHEN: November 16–December 9, 2007
8 p.m. Nov. 16–17 & 29–30 and December 1 & 6–8
2 p.m. December 1–2 and 8–9

WHERE: Young Theatre, California State University, Fullerton
800 N. State College Blvd. (Nutwood Ave and State College Blvd.), Fullerton

BACKGROUND: Premiering for the first time on the West Coast, *I Married Wyatt Earp* is the final theatrical production of CSUF's fall semester, which features two guest artists—Marcia Rodd and Nancy Jeris. This “creative nonfiction” musical is based on the historical events of the American West, and boasts an all-female cast of 11 members.

With a career that has spanned over 40 years, Marcia Rodd is a Tony-nominated actress for her starring role in Cryer & Ford's *Shelter*, and has performed in plays and movies that range from classical to musical to realistic drama. As a California resident for some time now, she has won raves in such plays as *Driving Miss Daisy* at the Hermosa Beach Playhouse, and *Fiddler on the Roof* as Golde opposite Topol at the Dorothy Chandler.

Nancy Jeris is a Los Angeles-based actress who has a diverse stage and film career, including roles in *Richard III* at The Odyssey, *The Trojan Women* (as Hecuba) at The Getty Museum, and credits on TV shows such as *Felicity*, *The Bill Cosby Show* and *Dallas*. Television series regular credits include two seasons on the ABC Children's series *Fudge* and *Knots Landing*.

Based on a true story, and set in 1879-1881 Tombstone, Arizona, *I Married Wyatt Earp* offers the women's perspective of the events leading up to the legendary shoot-out at the OK Corral. Young Josie Marcus (played by CSUF student Mia Ernst) from San Francisco has fallen in love with Wyatt Earp, even though his estranged wife Mattie is still in town. Josie and Mattie meet in a saloon the day of the shoot-out, along with several other women connected to the men involved. Doc Holliday's mistress, the wife and daughter of Jim Earp – Beth and Hattie, and Virgil Earp's wife Allie (played by CSUF student Leslie McKinnell) are also present at the saloon, and the musical is the imaginative recreation of these real-life characters' relationships and lives. The two guest performers, Rodd and Jeris, will play the elderly Josie and Allie in 1940s Los Angeles, as they struggle to assert whose story is the truth of what really happened so many years ago. *I Married Wyatt Earp* is built on comedy

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as well as drama, with a score that jumps from pop to country to Gilbert-and-Sullivan-esque operetta.

The cast also includes Julianne James as Mattie; Rebecca Mason-Wygal as Bess; Amanda Baker as Hattie; Carly Menkin as Kate; Alyssa Marie as Pauline; Christa Rower as Cora; and Carly Wielstein as Maude.

Ann Sheffield is scenic designer, Renee Duron is costume designer, Debra Lockwood is lighting designer, Rochelle Vargas is makeup designer, and sound designer is John Fisher.

- ADMISSION:** Advance sales \$18 (\$16 with advance Titan Discount for students, seniors or with a CSUF ID). At the door all tickets \$18.
- BOX OFFICE:** Tickets available at the Performing Arts Center box office (714) 278-3371. Hours: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Mondays-Fridays and one hour prior to performance. Or online at: www.tickets.com
- WEBSITE:** <http://www.arts.fullerton.edu>
- SPONSOR:** Panera Bread is sponsor of the 2007-08 CSUF Theatre and Dance season.