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News from Merced College

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MERCED COLLEGE THEATRE DEPARTMENT HOLDS AUDITIONS FOR 'THE RIVALS'

Merced College's Theatre Department has announced auditions for its production of Richard Brinsley Sheridan's classic comedy of manners "The Rivals." Auditions will be held in the college theater on Monday, Aug. 17 from 5 to 10 p.m.

"The Rivals" was produced and published in 1775. It has remained one of most popular plays from that era, with one of the most memorable characters, Mrs. Malaprop, whose mangling abuse of the English language continues to bring modern audiences to tears and laughter.

"The Rivals" follows the romantic troubles of Lydia Languish, who is determined to marry for love, even if it means living in poverty. Realizing this, the wealthy and aristocratic Captain Jack Absolute woos her while claiming to be the poor Ensign Beverley. But her aunt, Mrs. Malaprop, will not permit her to wed a mere ensign, and Lydia will lose half her fortune if she marries without her aunt's permission.

Among the play's many plot complications is the appearance of Sir Anthony (Jack's father). Through a series of comical plot twists, eventually Lydia abandons her sentimental notions and agrees to marry Jack.

According to critics, the situations and characters of the play were not entirely new when first written, but Sheridan's rich wit and remarkable sense of theatrical effect gave them freshness.

For more information, call the Merced College Theatre Department at 209.386.6644.

The Rivals August 2015

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