



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MARIN STUDENTS IMMERSED IN DAYLONG SUMMER THEATER CLASSES,
IN FULL SWING AT MARIN THEATRE COMPANY**

**Full productions for grades 2–12 include *The Phantom Tollbooth*, *Honk!*,
Urinetown, and *Freak*.**

MILL VALLEY, CA—All available spaces at Marin Theatre Company, including the lobby, are bustling with middle school students running lines, working out dance routines, and practicing harmonies in preparation for their production of *The Phantom Tollbooth* as part of MTC’s Summer Theatre Camp. A few blocks away at Marin Horizon School, high school students are rehearsing for their production of the hit Broadway musical, *Urinetown*. In a few weeks, new groups of students will begin the process again for productions of *Honk!* and *Freak*.

Students from schools in San Anselmo, Mill Valley, Tiburon, Belvedere, Fairfax, Corte Madera, Larkspur, and San Rafael work with experienced theater professionals and teaching artists. This summer, teachers include Mill Valley’s Ryan O’Donnell (director) and San Rafael’s Jef Labes (musical director) working on *The Phantom Tollbooth*; Dixie Elementary School drama teacher Blanca Florido teaching dance; and Tam High graduate Katherine Zdan teaching improvisation, among others. MTC Producing Director Ryan Rilette will teach in the second Teen Drama program, and MTC Artistic Director of Expanded Programs Josh Costello will direct the Teen Drama production, *Freak*, beginning July 20.

Classes include improvisation, musical theater, clowning, freestyle rap, stage combat, dance, playwriting, set and costume design, and acting techniques, as well as daily production rehearsals. Culminating each three or four week camp session, shows are fully staged with costumes, lights, and sets on MTC’s Boyer and Lieberman stages. About 15 percent of the summer students receive scholarships.

“We give the students a broad range of training,” says Costello “We hope to inspire our students with classes like playwriting and design and circus, as well as by giving them

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the opportunity to be on stage. It makes for a lot of long days and a lot of hard work as well as a whole lot of fun—it's a great way to spend the summer.”

The MTC Summer Theatre Camp is one of several Expanded Programs, including student matinee performances of our mainstage season productions, classes and after school programs at schools around Marin, Teachers Night Out, an intern program, and the School Tour Program, which will premiere an adaptation of *Aesop's Fables* by playwright Steven Yockey as part of the MTC 2009-10 season.

2009 SUMMER CAMP PRODUCTIONS

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL

Grades 6-8 | 3-week program | June 22-July 11

The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster, Sheldon Harnick, and Arnold Black
Based on the book by Norton Juster, this new musical pits Milo and Tock against the Mathemagician, Dr. Kakofonous A. Dischord, and the Demons of Ignorance. *Performs in MTC's Boyer Theatre July 10 & 11.*

TEEN MUSICAL

Grades 9-12 | four-week program | June 22-July 18

Urinetown by Mark Hollmann and Greg Kotis
The Tony award-winning satirical musical comedy about people fighting for their right to flush. *Performs in MTC's Boyer Theatre July 17 & 18.*

YOUTH MUSICAL

Grades 2-5 | three-week program | July 13-August 1

Honk! Jr. by Anthony Drewe and George Stiles
If you think you know the story of the ugly duckling, think again. Filled with singing, dancing, and lots of laughs, *Honk!* won the 2000 Olivier award for Best Musical. *Performs in MTC's Boyer Theatre July 31 & August 1.*

TEEN DRAMA

Grades 9-12 | four-week program | July 20-August 15

Freak by Naomi Iizuka and Ryan Pavelchik
Somewhere in America, there's a New Girl at the high school who may or may not be a robot. In a world of skateboards, chewing gum, rockers, swimmers, poets, and drama kids who want to change their world, New Girl wonders if she'll ever be more than a Freak. *Performs in MTC's Lieberman Theatre August 14 & 15.*

ABOUT MTC. In its 42nd year, Marin Theatre Company is one of only five LORT theaters in the Bay Area, and is the largest professional regional theater company located in San Francisco's North Bay. It produces an annual season of more than 200 performances on its two stages. MTC provides a forum for contemporary, classic and emerging playwrights and, through Expanded Programs, an environment that introduces people of all ages to the transformative power of theater. Through its public performances, school tours, and various educational programs, MTC serves more than 40,000 people annually.

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