

Diversions

3 state-of-the-art venues to host coming MCC season

By Dawn Zimmer

Master performers along with an impressive array of up-and-coming student artists will be featured during Mesa Community College's Spring 2017 arts season.

Performances and exhibitions are presented in three state-of-the-art venues on MCC's Southern and Dobson campus.

The college's Performing Arts Center consists of two performance spaces built with what performance-hall experts say are exceptional acoustics and visibility for musical, instrumental and dance events.

Boasting theatrical modernizations, the MCC Theatre, a community landmark, delivers an intimate experience to stage performances.

A recently opened Art Gallery embraces the dynamic and multidisciplinary nature of today's visual culture.

The current season, which opened last month, continues in February with "The Deep Blue Sea," a National Theatre Live screening, part of a groundbreaking initiative to broadcast productions from the London stage to cinema screens worldwide.

It features Helen McCrory and Tom Burke, McCrory playing what has been called one of the greatest female roles in contemporary drama. It plays Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Richard Renaldi's Touching Strangers traveling exhibit, which creates relationships that may only last for the moment the camera shutter is released, is on display through March 24. The Art Gallery is free and open to the public Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

"Our Souls Delight" sacred choral music concert will be presented at 7:30 p.m. March 2.

"Effects of Altitude," photography from MCC students during their stay in the Eastern Sierra Nevada mountains, will be on display April 3-14.

The annual Juried Art Student Show" will be on exhibition April 24-May 12, showcasing the creations of MCC art students as they explore the mediums of ceramics, digital, drawing, painting, photography, 2D and 3D.

Music lovers will want to attend a Community, Concert Band and Orchestra Concert, showcasing MCC's Instrumental Music Program featuring MCC students and community ensembles. Performance at 7 p.m. Feb. 28.

Three more National Theatre Live screenings are scheduled for March. "Amadeus," adapted from the Academy Award-winning film about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and court composer Antonio Salieri

with Lucian Msamati of Game of Thrones playing Salieri at 7:30 p.m. March 3 at 7:30 p.m.

"Saint Joan" starring Gemma Arterton as Joan of Arc, a production of Bernard Shaw's classic play that follows the life and trial of a young country girl who declares a bloody mission to drive the English from France will be screened on at 7:30 p.m. March 4.

"Hedda Gabler," played by Ruth Wilson of Luther and The Affair, is trapped but determined to try to control those around her, only to see her own world unravel, may be seen at 7:30 p.m. March 24.

Patrons should use the Solar Way entrance east of Dobson Road for easy access to the MCC Theatre and Art Gallery. The Longmore Way entrance west of Longmore Street is nearest to the Performing Arts Center.

Those who are interested in a glimpse behind the scenes during the development of the shows are encouraged to follow progress on social media—MesaCC Facebook; MesaCC Twitter; and MesaCC Instagram.

Arts Center focuses on Western history

Western POP: Facts and Fiction of the American West is The Gallery at TCA's newest exhibition, featuring artworks, memorabilia, music and historical displays celebrating the nostalgia tied to the Western genre.

The event, which runs through May 6, also sheds light on the facts and fiction about morality, race relations and economics in the American West.

"Growing up in the Southwest I knew a lot about

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