

MOORPARK Acorn

From across the pond to a parking garage

October 08, 2021



OUT OF THE BOX—Moorpark College presents the comedy “Neil Gwynn,” both live and streaming from a campus parking garage. Courtesy photo

The Moorpark College theater arts department will present, in person and virtually, “Neil Gwynn,” a comedy that chronicles the true story of a prostitute turned orange-seller who becomes the mistress of King Charles II in 17th century London.

Showtimes are 8 p.m. Thurs. and Fri., Oct. 7, 8, 14 and 15; 10 a.m. Wed., Oct. 13; and 2 p.m. Sat. and Sun., Oct. 9, 10, 16 and 17 in the parking garage on the southeast side of Moorpark College, 7075 Campus Road.

The Oct. 14 and 15 performances will be livestreamed at no cost to viewers.

In adherence to COVID-19 safety guidelines, the department received approval to perform the play in a parking garage on the college campus, creating an indoor-outdoor theater.

“This decision to perform in a parking garage was not easy, and it has presented many challenges. But with those challenges have come unexpected triumphs,” said Suzanne

Fagan, show director and theater arts instructor.

Set designer Brian Koehler said, “We are attempting to create something that is as much an art/scenic installation as it is a theatrical production set.”

Playwright Jessica Swale wrote the award-winning play, which premiered at Shakespeare’s Globe in 2015 and in the U.S. in 2018. It features music by Nigel Hess.

Moorpark College students Jade Morrissey and Erin Baxter share the role of the saucy, bawdy title character.

“I love Nell because she represents someone that I think most people can relate to and get attached to,” Baxter said. “She feels very real to me, and I’m honored to be able to bring this amazing woman to life.”

Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for the general public. Seating is limited.

For details about the live or streaming performances or to buy tickets, go to the box office at moorparkcollege.edu/pac.

For more information about the show, call (805) 378-1485. or email mcboxoffice@vccd.edu.