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Moorpark Theatre Arts Department presents fall production 'Nell Gwynn'



Sean McCarthy and Kat Gutierrez perform in 'Nell Gwynn' on Sunday, Oct. 10 in Moorpark, CA. Photo credit: Valeri Roussak

By Kate Hernandez (https://moorparkreporter.com/staff_name/kate-hernandez/)

October 22, 2021

Moorpark Theatre Arts Department returned to live on-campus performances featuring the fall production, 'Nell Gwynn.'

The performance took place from Oct. 7 to Oct. 17 on the second floor of the parking garage on the south side of campus. A livestream option was available on YouTube as well.

Theatre Arts Director Suzanne Fagan expressed her excitement for this year's fall production to take place in person.

"We are so happy to take over a parking garage for our fall production," said Fagan. "It feels rewarding to rehearse again in person and to have actual eye-to-eye contact."

1 Underwood Family Farm's Fall Harvest remains a yearly tradition for many despite the pandemic



(<https://moorparkreporter.com/4015896/news/underwood-family-farms-fall-harvest-remains-a-yearly-tradition-for-many-despite-the-pandemic/>)

2 College of the Canyons prevails over Moorpark College Women's Soccer



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5 Inter-Club Council announces return to in-person club rush



(<https://moorparkreporter.com/4017295/student-life/inter-club-council-announces-return-to-in-person-club-rush/>)

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parking garage, it made sure to take advantage of the space, according to Scenic Designer Brian Koehler.

“There was no way to hide the parking garage, so instead of trying to ignore the fact that we were in a parking garage we embraced it,” explained Koehler. “Not only did ‘Nell Gwynn’ need to be designed, but the whole venue needed to be designed. It takes a lot of scenic pieces to create the environment we were after.”



Jade Morrissey, left, and Lorena Duarte Carneiro, right, perform in 'Nell Gwynn' at the Moorpark College parking garage on Sunday, Oct. 10 in Moorpark, CA. Photo credit: Valeri Roussak

The production featured three different sets with multiple scenes, and the audience was able to view the production from center stage and from the left and right.

‘Nell Gwynn’ takes place in the 17th century’s Restoration Period, when females weren’t prominent to perform and rehearse lines. Gwynn, alternately played by Moorpark’s Erin Baxter and Jade Morrissey, was one of the first female actors to perform on stage that was heavily male-dominated.

As she rose to popularity, she caught the attention of King Charles and had to decide whether she would dedicate her life living in the palace or performing on stage. Baxter shared her explanation of what Gwynn



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More information about future events by the Moorpark College Theatre Arts Department can be viewed here (<https://www.moorparkcollege.edu/departments/academic/theatre-arts>).

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About the Contributor



Kate Hernandez, Staff Writer

(https://moorparkreporter.com/staff_profile/kate-hernandez/)

Kate Hernandez is a staff writer for the Moorpark Reporter. She plans to transfer to a four year university to pursue her career in Journalism. Hernandez is passionate about anything that has to do with media, arts, and entertainment, with an interest in becoming a screenwriter someday. Kate can be found reading or spending time at a record store.



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