

GENTRAIN SPECIAL EVENT



Moliere's

Tartuffe

Berkeley Repertory Theater

Saturday, March 21, 2015

\$72.00 Per person

The next Gentrain Society Regional Theater Trip will be on **Saturday, March 21**, when we travel to Berkeley to see Molière's *Tartuffe*. During his career Molière skewered many kinds of vice and folly, always personified in a single character: the miser, the hypochondriac, the suspicious husband, the social climber. But when he created Tartuffe as a religious hypocrite, he ran into a firestorm from his personal enemies and the church, who convinced the king to forbid its performance. It took many rewritings and several years to get it back on stage, since when it has become one of the most frequently performed comedies in the Western world. Like Molière's other plays, this one is less about Tartuffe himself—who is after all an out-and-out villain—than it is about his victims, those taken in by his shows of incredible piety. How is it possible, the play asks, that someone like Orgon, or his mother, can be so duped by what everyone else can see as a blatant scam? What is there that makes such willing victims? And how can they be helped—saved from their own folly? The play has its usual cast of Molière types: rapturous lovers, a tricky servant girl, the sensible brother-in-law, the hot-tempered son; but at its heart is the serpent and its prey, the slithering and unctuous Tartuffe, and the dazzled and adoring Orgon, who winds up willing to do almost anything to wind the hypocrite ever deeper into his house and family. The questions the play raises are all easily translated into the terms of our own culture, making it a thoughtful way to spend a couple of hours; and the exposure scene, featuring Tartuffe, Orgon, and Orgon's wife, Elmire, is one of the most brilliant comic scenes ever written.

Grant Voth, Professor Emeritus and former Gentrain Coordinator at MPC, will give a class on the play on **Friday afternoon, March 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. in LF101**, the purpose of which is to enhance understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the next day's play.

The bus will leave the MPC Parking Lot B on Fishnet Road at 9:30 a.m. for arrival in Berkeley around 11:30. The play begins at 2:00 p.m. You will be dropped off near the theater, where there are numerous restaurants for lunch prior to the play. The bus will pick you up in front of the theater our return trip to Monterey.

The cost is \$72.00 per person which includes play ticket, bus transportation, snacks on the bus. **Please make your check payable to the "MPC Gentrain Society"** and mail to Wayne Cruzan, 75 Via Chualar, Monterey, CA 93940. **Please put your telephone number on your check.** Questions? Call Wayne at 375-2371.