

# Diversions

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MCC Music Department chair Sue Anne Lucius takes a pre-opening tour of the college's new performing arts center, where an open house is planned Oct. 25.

— Photo courtesy Mesa Community College

## New venue, new showcase for young talent

### Curtain rises for MCC's performing arts center

Mesa Community College's sparkling new performing arts center is only days from completion, and few will miss the significance of that long-awaited occasion.

Hundreds of students, faculty, community members and aficionados of the arts plan to be on hand for an open house that runs 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25.

The free event is open to the public and features a sneak preview of the kinds of music, dance and musical theater that will regularly be performed in the 462-seat, state-of-the-art venue.

Students and faculty will lead guided tours, including a glimpse of behind-the-scenes areas such as performance classrooms, music practice rooms and the scene shop, in addition to the main stage.

"We are excited to be able to open our doors to our community to showcase the talents of our vocal, instrumental and dance students in this long-awaited world-class venue," said Sue Anne Lucius, chair of

MCC's Music Department.

The center's inaugural season will officially kick off Oct. 30 and 31 with the dance performance *Who Dunnit*, presented by MCC's Dance Company with special guests *On Tap* and *Propel*, followed by the Act Musical Theatre's production *Hairspray*, Nov. 13-22.

Free admission is offered to patrons attending *Who Dunnit* in costume on Oct. 31.

MCC's commitment to providing affordable arts and entertainment to community-based audiences will complement performances in the college's newly remodeled MCC Theatre, which began its fall season with the family favorite *Rumpelstiltskin* on Oct. 10.

Additional information about upcoming shows and events at MCC's Performing Arts Center may be found at [mesacc.edu/pac](http://mesacc.edu/pac). News about the MCC Theatre and its productions are available at [mesacc.edu/theatre-shows](http://mesacc.edu/theatre-shows).

## Marcos thespians honored

Two of Marcos de Niza High School's theater-arts productions have received major accolades as part of a National Youth Awards competition among schools and youth theaters around the country.

Marcos thespians received 18 nominations, five of which resulted in

awards. The fall play *Almost, Maine* and the spring musical *Little Shop of Horrors* were the productions reviewed by NYA judges.

Awards were formally presented the NYA Western Regional Ceremony in Phoenix early in September. NYA is an organization that reviews productions nationwide and nominates participating youth and adults for its yearly awards.

For the 2013-2014

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