



*Youth Musical Theater Company*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **YMTC TO STAGE *THE MOST HAPPY FELLA*, JULY 21–30**

*Berkeley, California. May 15, 2017*—For a midsummer treat, bursting with song and romance, don't miss *The Most Happy Fella*, Frank Loesser's classic musical produced by YMTC (Youth Musical Theater Company). It tells the story of Rosabella, a young woman from San Francisco, who is wooed by Tony, an aging Italian grape farmer from Napa Valley. Their age difference naturally leads to trouble, but love prevails. With a gorgeous score of nearly 40 songs, including "Standing on the Corner" and "Warm All Over," this richly emotional show will warm your heart!

"*The Most Happy Fella* is such an exciting show for us to do," says YMTC Artistic Director Jennifer Boesing, "not just because of its operatic scope and because it's so rarely done, but because it's a love story about the transformative power of kindness and forgiveness. And, at this moment in history, when so many people feel divided and afraid, it's hard to think of anything we need more."

*The Most Happy Fella* features a cast of 40 performing arts students (ages 13 to 22) from cities throughout the East Bay. Participation by professional directors, designers, and musicians ensures a polished result. Jennifer Boesing is the director; David Möschler, the musical director; and Pam Crane, the choreographer. This production will feature a 30-piece orchestra playing the original orchestrations of Don Walker.

The book, music, and lyrics were written by Frank Loesser, also the composer of *Guys and Dolls* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Möschler elaborates, "It took Loesser a year to write the music and lyrics for *Guys and Dolls*, another year to write the music and lyrics for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, and five years to write *The Most Happy Fella*. The work remains powerful and challenging because of the intense love and craft he put into what many consider his magnum opus, and more so because the scope of the story transcends his craft as a songwriter with its message of the power of forgiveness."

Performances run for two weekends at El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater, 540 Ashbury Avenue, El Cerrito. Friday and Saturday evening shows begin at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday

matinees begin at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available online at [www.ymtcbayarea.org](http://www.ymtcbayarea.org) or at the door one hour before curtain. Ticket prices are \$15–\$28, with discounts for students, seniors, military, teachers and groups.

The matinee on Sunday, 7/23, and the evening performance on Friday, 7/28, will feature a talk one hour before each show by Resident Musical Director David Möschler on the music of Frank Loesser. YMTC offers one “pay as you will” performance during every run to provide affordable musical theater to all in the community. For *The Most Happy Fella*, this performance will be on Friday, 7/28, when seats will be offered for cash-only at the box office. Reserved seats can still be purchased online.

### **ABOUT YMTC**

YMTC is dedicated to providing exceptional training to young theater artists through the production of exceptional musical theater. The organization brings together the Bay Area’s most talented and dedicated young singer/actors—as well as students of technical theater—with professional directors, designers, and musicians. They take on challenging and sophisticated musical and dramatic themes, and productions are always accompanied by a full, live orchestra.

### **CALENDAR LISTING**

#### ***YMTC presents Frank Loesser’s musical THE MOST HAPPY FELLA***

When a young woman from San Francisco is wooed by an aging Italian grape farmer from Napa Valley in this music- and dance-filled romantic musical, he nearly botches everything until his true goodness shines through.

**Show Run:** July 21–July 30, 2017

**Opens:** Friday, July 21, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

#### **Performances:**

Friday 7/21, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday 7/22, 7:00 p.m.

\*Sunday 7/23, 2:00 p.m. (pre-show talk 1:00 p.m.)

\*Friday 7/28, 7:00 p.m. (pre-show talk 6:00 p.m.)

Saturday, 7/29, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, 7/30, 2:00 p.m.

\*Sunday 7/23 and Friday, 7/28 feature a pre-show talk on the music of Frank Loesser by Resident Music Director David Möschler, starting one hour before the show.

**Where:** El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater, 540 Ashbury Avenue, El Cerrito.

**Ticket Prices:** \$15–28. Student, senior, teacher, military, and group discounts are available. Purchase tickets at [www.ymtcbayarea.org](http://www.ymtcbayarea.org) or at the door one hour prior to performance.



