



Larry Gelbart

PRESS RELEASE

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Indian Wells Theater will “go dark” for Larry Gelbart

PALM DESERT, Calif. (September 29, 2009) – The Indian Wells Theater on the Cal State San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus will “go dark” on Saturday, October 24, in honor of Larry Gelbart, who died of cancer on September 11.

Gelbart was to kick off the theater’s “Conversations with...” series on October 24.

In 1972, Gelbart helped create the Korean War comedy drama "M*A*S*H." The show went on for another 11 years, although Gelbart only wrote and produced "M*A*S*H" for the first four seasons. The show won 50 awards, including eight Golden Globes.

In addition to his film and television credits, Mr. Gelbart won the Tony Award for best author of a musical (with Burt Shevelove) in 1963 for “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum” and the Tony Award for best book of musical in 1990 for “City of Angels.” His plays “Sly Fox” and “Mastergate” were also produced on Broadway.

Gelbart’s works also included the 1982 hit film "Tootsie," "Oh, God!" in 1977 and the 2003 film "And Starring Pancho Villa As Himself," which starred Antonio Banderas. "Tootsie" earned Gelbart an Oscar nomination for best writing.

Patti Gribow, host of the “Conversations with…” series said, “I am deeply saddened that I am going to miss the opportunity to once again sit and converse with a man who has worked with the likes of Sid Caesar and Dustin Hoffman. Larry was instrumental in creating some of my favorite characters, including Michael Dorsey in ‘Tootsie’ and ‘Hotlips’ in ‘M*A*S*H.’ He will be remembered as a leader in bringing social commentary to television with ‘M*A*S*H,’ and Borscht Belt humor to ancient Rome in Stephen Sondheim's ‘A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum’”.

The “Conversations with…” series will now debut on Saturday, December 12, with **Jerry Van Dyke**. **Peter Marshall** will follow on February 13, and **Dean’s Girls “The Goldiggers”** will conclude the series on March 27. All three will begin at 7 p.m. and tickets can be purchased by calling the Indian Wells Theater Box Office at 760.341.2883, ext. 78154.

For general information about the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus, contact Mike Singer in the campus’ Office of Public Affairs at 760.341.2883, ext. 78107.