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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 6, 2019

MoCo Arts Students to Present the Classic Play, “You Can’t Take It with You”



KEENE, NH – Join MoCo Arts in celebrating a cinematic classic with their production of *You Can’t Take It with You* on Friday, May 17th at 7pm and Saturday, May 18th at 2pm in *The Founder’s Theatre* at MoCo Arts. The Pulitzer Prize winning play first premiered on Broadway in 1936 and was adapted for the big screen in 1938 with the release of the romantic comedy of the same name starring James Stewart and Jean Arthur. The show will be performed by MoCo Arts students in 9th – 12th grade and will be directed by popular Peterborough Players actors Bridget Beirne and Tom Frey.

"Playwrights Kaufmann and Hart threw everything comedically they could at this play. From farce to slapstick, wordplay to sight gags and sit com, *You Can’t Take It with You* is a perfect vehicle for comedic technique," says Co-Director of MoCo Arts’ High School Play, Tom Frey. "It endures because at the heart of it the authors are asking the question, ‘What happens when we choose to live our lives according to our own desires, rather than other peoples’ expectations?’" A thoughtful question that Tom asks his students to consider during rehearsal.

As the story plays out, we see how Tony, attractive young son of the unhappy Kirby’s, falls in love with Alice Sycamore and brings his parents to dine at the Sycamore home. The shock sustained by the Kirby’s shows Alice that marriage with Tony is out of the question. Meantime, Tony, who knows the Sycamores are right and his own people wrong, will not give her up, and madness ensues! Not to mention the strange activities of certain members of the household engaged with the manufacture of fireworks, or of the ex-Grand Duchess, earning her living as a waitress, the printing press set up in the parlor, Grandpa’s interview with the tax collector, and more outrageous events.

"While comedy and drama are obviously different, the acting technique behind the playing of both comes from the same place," says Bridget Beirne, who is Co-Directing the play. "We wanted to continue to work with our actors on the idea that their performances must still be rooted in honesty, no matter the situation their characters are in. If it isn’t true, it isn’t funny!"

A timeless classic, and one of the most popular and successful plays of modern times, *You Can’t Take It with You* will delight audiences of all ages. Tickets are \$14 for general admission and can be purchased at MoCo Arts, 40 Roxbury Street in Keene, or by calling (603) 357-2100. For more information, please visit www.moco.org.

MoCo Arts is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, multi-arts educational organization located in downtown Keene offering dance and theatre classes and multi-arts vacation and summer camps for children ages 18 months to 18+ years. As part of the educational process, MoCo Arts provides professional quality performance experience for students and family-friendly performances for audiences of all ages throughout the year. MoCo welcomes all students, beginners through advanced, and tuition assistance is available. MoCo Arts is sponsored in part by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information please visit MoCo Arts, 40 Roxbury Street, Keene, NH 03431 or www.moco.org

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Photo caption: The cast of MoCo Arts’ High School Play, “You Can’t Take It with You.” Photo by Colleen Manzi