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**FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, HARVARD'S HASTY PUDDING THEATRICALS  
(HPT) WILL HAVE GENDER INCLUSIVE CASTING**

**WOMEN TO APPEAR ON THE PUDDING STAGE AS CAST MEMBERS FOR THE FIRST  
TIME IN 175 YEARS.**

**HPT 171 Will Mark a Historic Year for the Hasty Pudding Institute of 1770**

**For the first time since 1844, the Cast of Harvard's Annual Hasty Pudding Show Will  
Include Undergraduate Women. All HPT Casting from HPT 171 Onward to be Gender Inclusive.**

**Show to Debut Friday, February 8, 2019 at  
Harvard Square's Historic Farkas Hall**

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The Hasty Pudding Theatricals (HPT) of Harvard University is proud to announce that its 171<sup>st</sup> annual show will have gender inclusive casting.

"The Pudding" is a living undergraduate organization that has presented its unique brand of student-written theater every year since 1844, the only exceptions being for World Wars I and II.

Longtime fans can expect the same ribald humor, outrageous sets and costumes, student-written book and score, and world-famous kick line they've come to know and love. The core identity of the show remains just as "Pudding" as it's always been.

Undergraduate Harvard students of all genders have been a part of the storied Hasty Pudding Theatricals company for decades: as members of the technical crew, the band, the writing team, and the business staff.

Women have been part of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals dating back to the 1960s (with leadership roles on the executive board from the 1970s through today). The last three HPT presidents have been Harvard undergraduate women—but never before have women been cast in the annual production.

The Hasty Pudding is committed to casting women in this year’s show.

HPT 171 will mark the first year where casting will be open to students of all genders (including women, trans, and/or gender non-conforming Harvard undergraduates).

Each role will be cast with the best student performer.

“We as an organization continue to be in awe of the level of talent of the students on Harvard’s campus, and we are so excited that for the first time in 175 years, Harvard students of all genders will have the opportunity to showcase that talent on the Hasty Pudding stage” Grace Ramsey ’19, President of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals.

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**ABOUT THE HASTY PUDDING THEATRICALS.....**The Hasty Pudding Theatricals (HPT) is America’s oldest theater company and is the third oldest theater company in the world. It is made up of around 50 Harvard college undergraduates. Every year, since 1844, HPT has produced an original, entirely student-written and composed, pun-filled musical extravaganza. Each season, the show runs for four weeks in Cambridge before an annual tour in New York City and Bermuda. Some of America’s most prominent personalities got their start in the Pudding, including Teddy Roosevelt, FDR, JFK, Jack Lemmon, Alan Jay Lerner, Rashida Jones, and even the two most recent Governors of MA.

**HPT WOMAN AND MAN OF THE YEAR .....**Every year, the Hasty Pudding Theatricals bestows the and Woman of the Year (WOY) and the Man of the Year (MOY) awards on figures who have made lasting and impressive contributions to the world of entertainment. For Woman of the Year, past honorees include Katharine Hepburn, Jane Fonda, Elizabeth Taylor, Meryl Streep, Whoopi Goldberg, Julia Roberts, Halle Berry, Scarlett Johansson, Amy Poehler, and Octavia Spencer. For Man of the Year, past honorees include Paul Newman, Robert De Niro, Sean Connery, Steven Spielberg, Steve Martin, Bill Murray, Clint Eastwood, Tom Hanks, Tom Cruise, Robin Williams, Neil Patrick Harris, Justin Timberlake, and Ryan Reynolds. A more complete list of HPT’s illustrious WOY and MOY recipients [here!](#)

**THE HASTY PUDDING INSTITUTE OF 1770.....**The Hasty Pudding Institute of 1770 is comprised of the Hasty Pudding Club, The Hasty Pudding Theatricals, and the Harvard Krokodiloes. Over the last two centuries, it has grown into a premiere performing arts organization, a patron for the arts and comedy, and an advocate for satire and discourse as tools for change worldwide. The Institute of 1770’s philanthropic mission is to provide educational and developmental support in all aspects of the performing arts for the underprivileged and the censored, to encourage satire and comedy, and to cultivate young talent around the world. “The Institute’s” philanthropic partners include Ghetto Film School, the Arthur Miller Foundation, and the Black List. More on these inspiring groups [here!](#)

**FROM PUDDING TO THE PRESIDENCY.....** Pudding alums (who were also United States Presidents) include John F. Kennedy, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, John Q. Adams, and John Adams. **We look forward to adding the names of women and students of all genders soon to grace the Hasty Pudding stage to this list!**

**THE PUDDING STORY.....** In 1795, twenty-one Harvard students crowded into a dorm room to celebrate the establishment of a new on-campus society. Members pledged to maintain the club's secrecy and "to cultivate the social affections and cherish the feelings of friendship and patriotism." Most importantly, they mandated that "the members in alphabetical order shall provide a pot of hasty pudding for every meeting." With this ritual, the Hasty Pudding Club found its namesake, and the theatrical organization of today found its simpler roots.

The turn of the century saw the introduction of a new tradition into club meetings. In response to increased rowdiness and anarchy, a mock criminal court was improvised to try club members for "insolence" and "contempt of the club."

These trials were a great success, and the club constitution was amended to incorporate these dramatizations into every club meeting. No figure was safe from condemnation by this amateur court system — Cortez was convicted for "massacres and cruelties," the British Parliament stood guilty for its beheading of Charles I, and the college administration was indicted for "compelling the whole body of students to pursue the dry, repulsive . . . study of mathematics." Through the years, these productions became more elaborate, with the addition of costumes and eventually scripts.

In 1844, Harvard senior Lemuel Hayward broke with tradition and secretly arranged the production of an opera, "Bombastes Furioso," instead of the expected mock trial. Thus, the first Hasty Pudding Show was born, starting a tradition that has continued for 171 productions, interrupted for only four years by the two World Wars.

The modern Pudding Show has evolved into a spectacle beyond anything ever envisioned by the founders of the original secret society. Undergraduates are now provided guidance by theatrical veterans and sets and costumes rival those of many professional productions.

With the introduction of the Woman of the Year celebration in 1951, and the Man of the Year in 1967, the Pudding has gained an international audience— but remains at its heart an organization driven by the enthusiasm and exuberance of its undergraduate members.

The Pudding Show remains in its essence a no-holds-barred burlesque.

**Now with Harvard students of all genders welcome as cast members on stage.**

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Released 09/17/18