

## Running Gags

**N**OW in its seventh year, Mercer County Community College's comedy troupe Mouthworks will perform its blend of comedy, song and dance June 7.

After the kick-off performance, MouthWorks will take its show on tour for the first time ever with benefit performances at local firehouses and rescue squads. Performances will be held at White Horse Volunteer Fire Company June 12, Kingston Volunteer Fire Company June 20, and Lambertville-New Hope Rescue Squad Aug. 29.

According to communications faculty member Kathi Paluscio, the adviser for the group, the economic downturn was the catalyst for the tour, providing her students with an exciting new challenge and giving community organizations a novel and enjoyable way to bring in revenue.

With a PG rating — “practically G,” says Ms. Paluscio — the show is modeled after traveling theater troupes of Medieval Europe. “The theme is of poor vagabonds who make do with ill-fitting costumes and bad props. The show includes music, puppetry, and comedic skits. The tone is crazy and chaotic. Every moment is planned, but it doesn't look like it.”

MouthWorks has presented shows on campus twice a year since 2003. Ms. Paluscio notes that most of the actors have had no previous training in the performing arts when they audition and none are theater majors. The performers get a huge return on their effort. “Students learn high level leadership skills,” Ms. Paluscio says. “They significantly enhance their speaking and presentation skills. These students learn how to stand out.”

MouthWorks will perform in CM 122, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor, June 7, 8 p.m., free; paluscik@mccc.edu



The members of MouthWorks will bring their blend of comedy and music to Mercer County Community College in West Windsor.

