By Michelle Morales

The Cal State Hayward Theatre and Dance Department is rehearsing its second production of the winter and spring season, "The Masque of Beauty and the Beast." Although there will be 10 performances, only two will be open to the public.

The final dress rehearsal was April 14 and performances began Tuesday, with two shows for kindergarten through fourth grade pupils from local elementary schools. "The kids loved the performance," said Professor Edgardo de la Cruz, director. The two public performances will be Saturday, May 1, at noon and Sunday, May 2, at 2 p.m. There are two different casts, one performing in April and one in May. May's cast features Monica Santiago as Beauty and Jeremy Aluma as her father, the merchant.

The storyline for "The Masque of Beauty and the Beast" is similar to the famous fairy tale. In de la Cruz’s version the merchant father becomes poor and asks each of his daughters what they would like to have. Beauty asks for a rose. The rose that her father gives her belongs to the Beast. The Beast is under a curse that can be broken only by someone falling in love with him. Eventually, Beauty breaks the curse, which transforms the Beast into a handsome prince.

By Michael Elliot Brill
Director: Edgardo de la Cruz
May 1 and 2 at Noon and 2 p.m.
Cal State Hayward's University Theatre

The Beast, played by Dustin Halterman, and Beauty, played by Genevieve Kolve, profess their love for one another (second cast).

The Beast, played by Dustin Halterman, demonstrates his powers to the merchant, played by Jeremy Aluma (first cast).

Beauty, played by Monica Santiago, and her father, the merchant, played by Jeremy Aluma (first cast).

Beauty, played by Genevieve Kolve and her father, the merchant, played by Robert Campbell (cast two).

The narrator, played by Brian Turner, fills in the audience.

Ladies in waiting with refreshments, played by Leigh Navarra (left) and Lauren Hansel (right).

Photos by Howard Gerstein