“Women are great, please don’t hate,” was just one of the chants heard as hundreds of students at Cal State East Bay went on strike over the way women were presented in the movie “A Christmas Carol.”

The strike, moving from a classroom to the stages of East Bay’s Performing Arts Center, was the culmination of an academic assignment given by Professor Mandy Ginsburg, associate professor in the Theatre Department. For the students, the assignment was to design a poster that would protest the portrayal of women in the media.

“The purpose of the class was to bring attention to the portrayal of women in the media, and to the fact that this is something that we have to be aware of,” said Aline Soules, a CSUEB librarian who sings in a choir, was one of those who spoke with James Smith, the instructor of the course.

The students had no idea that they would be asked to use the posters to protest on campus, and when it was revealed at the concert, it was one way to do it,” said Ginsburg.

The students were moved by the performance, which was highlighted by 19 pieces of music presented in five acts. The music was chosen by a committee to reflect the creativity of each poster.

“We all know that the absence of positive women role models has an effect on our sense of humanity and will rush to access it,” said Thompson. “This show infuses new technology with the portrayal of women in the media, but it’s cool!” said Soules, “We need to know that change, that they were not asked to use the posters to protest on campus, despite the fact that they were given the assignment to design the posters. The students had no idea that they would be asked to use the posters to protest on campus, and when it was revealed at the concert, it was one way to do it,” said Ginsburg.

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