Sun Gallery in Hayward Holds Wild West Exhibit

BY ASHLEY MATUSZAK

The Sun Gallery in Hayward aims to bring inspiring perspectives to the people of the East Bay. “This place is here because we support our local artists, and they need a place to show their work,” said Bender. "The Sun Gallery is funded by grants and by people in the community who support art education and work to reverse this by giving art a backseat in local public schools. Sun Gallery tries to bring these perspective to kids, and we also offer a free art class to all ages twice a month, where participants do a mixed media project for two hours. "We encourage kids and their parents to come to our classes," said Bender.

Perhaps their biggest art-outreach to the community is their seven week summer camp for kids ages 6-13. “One of our goals is: get art back in schools,” said Bender. “We can go to a school and teach a class, or they can come here. Children need art because it inspires them to be creative, imaginative and it is beneficial to their overall development. It should be incorporated into their curricula.”

There are three paid employees at Sun Gallery, and the rest of the staff are volunteers. Local Hayward resident and volunteer Billy Lopez, a Shafter College student, enjoys volunteering at the gallery, and notices the importance of art education. “The kids really take to the art when they see it,” said Lopez. “I love watching their faces when they see the gallery.”

The Sun Gallery’s current exhibit, the Wild, Wild West II, is a collection of Western and Native American art, all done by local artists. The timing of the collection was due in part to the Rowell Ranch RIdeo in Castro Valley, which takes place this month. Featuring works with Native American, old West and even Asian influence, this current exhibit offers multiple perspectives into American History.

The Sun Gallery’s next exhibit, “High Art,” will feature artwork done by students from local high schools, as well as some home-schooled ones. This is an important exhibit to Bender, as she feels it will inspire local kids to create art of their own. The art displayed at Sun Gallery in Hayward holds Wild West Exhibit.

Wayward Dance Recital a Crowd Pleaser

BY SAUL GALDAMEZ

The Cal State East Bay theater and dance department premiered their latest show titled “Wayward” to a sold out crowd May 7 in and around the University Theater. Directed by Cal State East Bay dance professors Nina Haft and Eric Kupers, “Wayward” is out of the ordinary yet delightful. The show is best described as “dance theater.”

“I thought the show was very creative,” said Piedmont resident Ann Porter. “I didn’t know what to expect at first but I was amazed by the show.”

Spectators who arrived early were treated to a pre-show performance outside the theater lobby. The piece, titled “Over the river and through the woods…” and “Icy,” was a site-specific dance. “It had a lot of beautiful movement,” said V.J. Moon, a resident of the Hayward hills. “It was some gorgeous dancing.”

As soon as dance ensemble members finished their pre-performance, it was time to act. “It was a site-specific dance,” said Moon.

The Friday and Saturday night shows were put on by the Cal State East Bay dance professors Nina Haft and Eric Kupers. “They played with a lot of scenarios that it seemed as if the content in the performance tried to push people’s buttons.”

“Wayward” contains non-sexual nudity and kissing. “The show is completely zany, strange, unexpected but wonderful,” said Mala-nie Sutradha, an actress in the show and CSUEB student. It’s definitely something you want to come see.”

Tickets for the show may be reserved at http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/Ticket_Reservations.php.