

Modern Retelling Set for 'Cinderella'

By Nettie Koo

Staff Writer

The fairy tale "Cinderella" will be brought to life by the Cal State Hayward Theatre Department and Highlands Summer Theatre beginning July 26.

According to the producers, "Cinderella" is a show for the whole family but in this adaptation the audience can expect to see some changes to the traditional story line.

"'Cinderella' is the rags to riches story of a young girl who, with the help of a fairy godmother, is transformed into the

belle of the prince's ball," said Sylvia Medeiros, arts marketing coordinator. "But in this case, it is the qualities and not the clothes that win Prince Charming's heart."

The play was adapted and directed by Karen Moore. A theater major at CSUH, Moore worked hard to steer away from the traditional story.

"I think it comes from my feminist nature, because I didn't like the idea that in the traditional Cinderella, she had to be transformed into this woman of impeccable beauty," said Moore. "Only after this spell was put on her

did the prince fall in love with her."

"I really wanted to create a story where the two of them had already in their dreams fallen in love and that it was really what she possessed inside that attracted the prince," said Moore.

"The spell just kind of got her into a place where they would meet each other in reality."

In addition to plot changes, some dance sequences have been added. In one sequence, dancers will perform to the music of the Jackson Five.

"The first thing that I thought of that dealt with kids was the Jackson Five," said Dorcas Sims,

choreographer and dance major at CSUH. "I chose the Jackson Five's 'ABC' because it's a good song to relate with kids."

Every summer Highlands Summer Theatre at CSUH gives high school students the opportunity to gain experience working with the university's Theatre Department on summer productions like "Cinderella." Fliers are sent every year to a number of high schools in the Bay Area, asking interested students to audition.

"We get a really good turnout. The kids who come really contribute a lot," said Moore. "It really runs the gamut if you have

some of the more advanced students in the Theatre Department working with kids and their first time on stage."

After each performance, the audience is invited to meet "Cinderella" and her entourage after the performance for autographs.

"It is really cool for the kids who are there for the first time to meet the actors," said Moore. In conclusion, Moore outlined the importance of the message in her adaptation of Cinderella.

"It was really important to me to not get locked into the idea that it was necessary for there to be magic in order for Cinderella

to win the heart of the prince," said Moore. "It's like the metaphor: She had it all along."

"Cinderella" will open Friday, July 26, at 8 p.m., with other performances July 27 and 28 at noon and 2 p.m.. All performances will be held in the Studio Theatre.

Tickets are on sale at the CSUH box office at the Studio Theatre. General admission is \$6 and \$3 for children. A special family rate of \$14 is good for up to two adults and two children.

Persons wishing more information may contact Sylvia Medeiros at (510) 885-4299 or by email at smedeiro@csu-hayward.edu.

Contra Costa Campus To Host Night of Banned Films

By Keeley McConico

Staff Writer

Films the public was never supposed to see, including scenes of 4-year-old call girls and gigantic gorillas eating people's heads, will come to light on July 25.

James Forsher, documentary filmmaker and professor of mass communication at Cal State Hayward, will host "Banned Movie

Night" in the Oak Room at CSUH's Contra Costa Campus.

"Whoever goes [should] be well warned that some of this will be offensive in some way," said Forsher of the films, which will include Howard Hughes' "Outlaw," which was shelved in 1943 for being sexually explicit.

Another of the films Forsher will present will be "Polly Tix in Washington," a baby burlesque film that features children in roles

made for adult stars. The film includes a very young Shirley Temple as a call girl out to seduce a young senator.

Other films have the potential of being just as offensive, with King Kong destroying people and presenting minority groups in a negative light.

"These films mirrored society at the time they were made," explained Forsher, who will give a three- to four-minute history of

each film and its significance before showing it. "This was racially and sexually explicit material, but some wasn't ready for the screen."

CSUH also will offer a three-quarter program for students who wish to earn a certificate in Non-Fiction Film Production, headed by Forsher at the Contra Costa Campus.

"I hope to find a group of people who are willing and ready

to learn about filmmaking," said Forsher of the certificate. "People need to be aware of what they are producing because of the people it can affect."

In addition to banned movie night, Forsher will offer Propaganda Film Night in August which will feature films with actors that gave tales of communism, Japanese, Germans and more.

Some of the propaganda films include cartoon characters in

roles that the Department of Defense thought would sway public opinion in favor of the country's military action.

Before returning to the academic world Forsher was a documentary filmmaker, specializing in Hollywood History, with a special affinity for social documentaries.

"After 15-years in Hollywood I have a pretty good film archive that gives me a pretty good selection to do things like this."

Online Courses Work for CSUH Economics Professor

By Brandi R. Todd

Staff Writer

The demand for Jim Potter's business and economics computer classes is overwhelming.

Thanks to the Internet, access to them is limited only by his capacity for grading student papers.

This Cal State Hayward professor, always been a fan of cyberspace, couldn't wait for a way to get his lessons online.

"Being able to work on an online course from home or work and at times that are convenient to the students is a very big advantage," said Carl Bellone, CSUH's associate vice president of academic programs and graduate studies.

It's such an advantage that

Potter seldom leaves his home, giving all his lectures, delivering readings, assignments and grades via the Internet.

"I first started putting my handouts online," said Potter.

That Web effort expanded just over two years ago, when Potter taught his first online class. He has a Web site for each of his classes, but student's use CSUH's Blackboard to access assignments, handouts and to communicate with each other.

"Students really have to be proactive, reading all the information provided, just like in other classes," said Potter.

The classes Potter teaches have a maximum student capacity of 50, with no waiting list.

Students flock to his online course, but Potter said first-timers to online courses should think

twice if they believe such study is easier than regular classroom courses.

"Online courses tend to be more difficult for some students who aren't self starters with little discipline," he said.

According to Potter, online courses are a lot of work for him as a professor dedicated to keeping communication lines open with his students through e-mails.

Potter also offers video-conferencing for students who wish to communicate face-to-face with him.

Peggy Lant, who is the online programmer for the CSUH Extension, said, "For working adults, education has to work around their schedule."

Lant, a professor in English who has courses online, believes

such instruction must be kept up to date.

"It's easy for a course to be frozen and never evolve," she said.

Potter strives to keep his courses interesting by not just offering notes but also by recording audio lectures.

Elimination of commuting and exposure to rigorous direction are among the advantages of online classes.

Nan Chico, co-director of online programs for CSUH's Extended and Continuing Education, said, "(Students) can take a break whenever they need to and can do their work when they are at their best."

Concerns about online classes remain, however.

"I have also heard concerns about plagiarism in online

courses," said Bellone. "A faculty committee is looking into this issue."

Potter makes it clear to his students that plagiarism will not be tolerated and requires that they follow his code of conduct, which demands that discussions in forums and chat rooms be courteous and respectful.

He believes online courses will never replace the classroom experience and Lant agrees: "Online courses can be isolating. When students are in a classroom, professors know when someone's not paying attention or listening."

Still, said Chico, "Education uses whatever new tools come along that have the ability to help students."

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