

# 'Bette and Boo' Despite a Few Boos is Mostly a Good Bette

By Alan Dye  
Staff Writer

"The Marriage of Bette and Boo" currently playing at the CSUH University Theater is a foray into one of the darkest sources of comedy: the American Family.

And the humor is very dark. Do you think that you could laugh at a dead baby being kicked across the floor? If you see this production you just might.

As with all dark comedies, the very horrible nature of the subject matter can cause both revulsion and laughter. If the families

that are portrayed in Christopher Durang's script bear any resemblance to your own you probably need help.

However, no matter how horrible the characters being portrayed are there always seems to be something about them that we can all relate to or recognize.

"Bette and Boo" is a nostalgic look back at two very dysfunctional families as seen through the eyes of an emotionally damaged grandchild. The play begins with the wedding of Bette Brennan and Boo Hudlocke and follows the merging of their two families.

It jumps back and forth in time as the grandson; Matt (Craig Marker) narrates the story of Bette (Marissa Keltie) and her ill-fated marriage to Boo (Sean Roberts). Director Ric Prindle's production features a solid cast of both young and veteran actors who all turn in very solid performances.

The relationships between the characters are difficult, complex and at times even absurd but are somehow made believable by an excellent ensemble effort. Keltie's performance is especially noteworthy since there are moments where the whole weight of the production rests on her shoulders.

While she never really seems to adjust her age as Bette grows older, she makes the insane optimism of the character seem believable and very human. There is an extremely touching moment where we see an older Bette sitting alone with a telephone and desperately calling an old elementary school friend that she hasn't spoken to in years.

In that scene, Keltie captures the anguish of Bette's realization that her childhood is gone forever and that she is alone with the choices that she has made.

While the director has been very successful at creating a unified ensemble of characters, he

has had somewhat less success with bringing about a unified design.

The set, consisting mostly of rolling platforms filled with pieces of furniture, fails to unify the action in the space.

There is obvious intent to be very theatrical in the staging, and yet there is black masking partially hiding the backstage areas. I say partially, because gaps in the masking make it possible to see into the backstage area to anyone not sitting in the center of the house.

The gaps appear to be accidental but give cause to wonder why there was a need for mask-

ing at all since most all of the set pieces remain in full view even when not in use.

There were many pieces of scenery that were independently very nice; including a hilarious and clever "honeymoon bed," but nothing brought all of the scattered elements together as a unified whole.

In spite of these minor problems the play was engaging because of the excellent performances and the extremely funny (albeit dark) script. "The Marriage of Bette and Boo" runs through this weekend. Those seeking box office information should call: (510) 885-3261.



## PREGNANT? OR THINK YOU ARE?

Birthright of  
San Lorenzo



**Free Confidential and  
Caring Assistance  
Free Pregnancy Test**

Call Us or Visit Our Website  
www.birthright.org



**24 Hr. Toll Free Hotline**  
(510) 481-9677  
800-550-4900



Volunteers  
Wanted

1048 Grant Ave. San Lorenzo, CA

## Calendar

Nov. 22-Dec. 4

Shamanic Power Objects  
University Art Gallery CSUH  
October 24, 2002 - February 15,  
2003 Gallery hours: Wednesday-  
Saturday, 12-3pm for more info  
please call (510) 885-3299

Friday Nov. 22

Bountiful Basket Food Drive Con-  
test drop off UU 101 10am-3pm

Satirist Christopher Durang's  
"The Marriage of Bette and Boo"  
at Cal Sate Hayward Performance  
dates: Nov. 22 & 23 at 8:00pm  
and Nov. 24 at 2pm For box of-  
fice call (510) 885-3261 or

contact Sylvia Medeiros  
(510) 885-4299

Information Technology Society  
club. Certification Seminar pre-  
sentation on Microsoft, Oracle &  
Sun Microsystems Certification at  
3:00pm Rm. MB 2079

Lines Between Spaces Nov. 5th -  
Dec. 9th, 2002 Adobe Art Center  
20395 San Miguel Ave., Castro  
Valley, CA (510) 881-6735 Gallery  
hours Monday - Thursday 9am-  
4pm Gallery staffed Thursday -  
Saturday 11-3pm

Monday Nov. 25

Beautiful Basket Food Drive Con-  
test. Exhibit 9am - 12pm Recep-  
tion 12pm UU101 Presented by  
Associated Students

Tuesday Nov. 26

CSUH Percussion Ensemble Re-  
cital. At CSUH University Theatre  
(25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hay-  
ward) Starting at 12:00 pm. Con-  
tact Teresa Dulborg, Music Re-  
source Center or (510) 885-3167

Open Weight KPE 202 1-3pm  
Cross Training KPE 202 5-6pm  
Aikido KPE 201 6-7pm

CSUH Percussion Ensemble Re-  
cital, Arthur Storch. Location

CSUH University Theatre 25800  
Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward at  
12pm. Admission: FREE Contact  
Teresa Dulberg (510) 885-3167

Wind Ensemble, Symphonic  
Band, and Chamber Winds Con-  
cert, Will be at CSUH University  
Theatre at 8:00 p.m. Admission  
will be \$7 general, \$5 seniors and  
it's Free for CSUH students. Con-  
tact Teresa Dulberg (510) 885-  
3167

Wednesday Nov. 27

Noon Groove & As Giveaway  
Agora stage 12-1pm  
Yoga UU 307 12-1pm  
Open Weight KPE 202 7-9pm

Thursday Nov. 28

Happy Thanksgiving

Friday Nov. 29

CSUH Closed

Monday Dec. 2

Open Weights KPE 202 7-9pm  
Free Massage Contra Costa Union  
4:30-6:30pm

Associated Students Holiday Arts  
& Crafts Fair at San Francisco  
State University, Cesar Chavez  
Student Center on Dec. 2-5  
Monday-Thursday, 9am-7pm.  
For further info. Call (415) 338-

2444. Free admission and over  
30 vendors of fine handcrafted  
goods.

Tuesday Dec. 3

As Holiday Crafts UU  
South Lounge 12-2pm  
Free Massage Contra Costa Union  
4:30-6:30pm  
Cross Training KPE 202 5-6pm  
Aikido KPE 201 6-7pm


CSUH University Theatre.  
Admission \$7 general, \$5 seniors  
and Free to CSUH students

Wednesday Dec. 4


Yoga UU 307 12-1pm  
Free Massage Contra Costa Union  
4:30-6:30pm  
Spiderman UU 102 7-9pm  
Open Weights KPE 202 7-9pm

The Hayward Public Library pre-  
sents the feature motion picture,  
Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole  
Christmas" 7pm at the Weekes  
Branch Library and 7pm on Thurs-  
day Dec. 5 at the Main Library.  
For more info call (510) 782-2155  
or (510) 881-7946

Annual Christmas Pottery Sale  
Stoneware & porcelain, functional  
& decorative pottery will be in  
#1204 Ceramic Room in the AE  
Building from 10-6pm




## L'Amour Shoppe




GIFT AND VIDEO STORE FOR  
DISCRIMINATING ADULTS

We carry a wide selection of magazines,  
novelties, gifts, DVD's and Video Movies.  
Modern Arcades.



### Come & Visit Us Today!



22553 Main St. • Hayward • (510) 886-7777



# Bally Total Fitness®

## SPECIAL RATES for Students & Faculty!

- ◆ Cardiovascular Training Area
- ◆ Free Weight Area
- ◆ Selectorized Resistance Equipment
- ◆ Bally® Retail Store
- ◆ Child Care
- ◆ Group Fitness Classes, including:  
SPINNING®, Kick Boxing, Yoga

Amenities vary by location.  
Additional charges for some services.



## 510-727-6778

**771 Jackson St.  
Hayward**

6 Bay Area locations to serve you!

ballyfitness.com