

CSUH Dancer Seeks Professional Career

By Sarah Leming
Staff Writer

Bong Dizon hopes one day to see his name in lights. Dizon, a Cal State Hayward student, is about to take the plunge from the world of collegiate education into an unknown abyss of auditions in the hopes of earning a part on Broadway or a job in a dance company. A veteran of 27 musicals, plays or dance pieces at CSUH, Dizon believes he is well prepared for life as a professional dancer. And he says he has his professors to thank for that.

"All my teachers here have given me what I need," said Dizon, noting that some demanded perfection to the point that he cried. "It's just something I had to get through, and I thank them for pushing me, for saying, 'Keep going, you can do more than that.' I can't see myself doing anything else."

Dizon has been dancing all of his life, though he did not begin formal training until he reached college. He danced on the spirit squad during his junior and senior years of high school, but when he first took dance

at CSUH, he knew that he had found his place.

When Laura Renald-Wilson asked him to be in a show – a small role in "Dinner for Eight" – Dizon knew he had found a career.

It has been a long road. Dizon was born in the Philippines on Dec. 12, 1980. He immigrated to California with his younger brother and mother to join family in the Bay Area.

For Dizon, learning how to live in a new world was both challenging and rewarding.

Learning a new language was the most difficult aspect of his new life, but a daily diet of television helped. He said watching "Disney Afternoon" helped him understand American culture, and the rest he picked up as he went along.

"I just wanted to speak like everyone else," he said.

Dizon is in the process of becoming an American citizen, but he still wishes to visit the Philippines again someday. At home he still speaks Tagalog and Pangasinan with his family, but he says that he is starting to forget the languages.

Though there are things about his native country that he misses, such as playing out-

side in the warm rain, Dizon has come to feel that America is his home.

Dizon, a theater major, is poised to graduate this fall.

In addition to auditioning for Broadway and dance companies, Dizon has also toyed with the idea of starting his own company or becoming a dance teacher, but he is willing to see where the wind takes him.

Dizon recently completed his senior project, a dance show/play called "Alice In Love?" – a project he directed, starred in (as the White Rabbit), co-wrote and generally guided in every aspect. It was a great success and featured different dance styles and talents, as well as comic and dramatic flair.

For his efforts, Dizon has been recognized as an outstanding dancer and performer two years in a row, receiving the Hayward Arts Council Student Artist of Merit Award in 2002 and 2003.

Dancers: Bong Dizon practices a routine with Kristen Peralta.

Photo/Howard Gerstein



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CSUH Student Spending Fall Quarter in D.C.

By Michelle Morales
Staff Writer

Cal State Hayward political science major Mohammad Babee will be spending his fall quarter in Washington D.C., while still earning credits at CSUH.

Babee is the winner of a scholarship that requires him to take a class at the Washington Center and work an internship at the Federal Trade Commission.

The internship at the FTC includes working for the consumer protection department, where Babee is assisting with coordinating a panel discussion about peer-to-peer networking or file-swapping software from the consumer aspect. Some topics that will be addressed are pornography, music and children. This panel discussion will take

place over the course of two days, Dec. 15 and 16.

In addition to coordinating the discussion, Babee contacts consumers who have been awarded settlements due to faulty products. He also helps to track down companies that falsely advertise products such as Abtronics. Abtronics marketed a product they claimed could tone stomach muscles with pulses of small electrical shocks.

Also, Babee is attending a human rights class at the Washington Center. The class focuses on different human rights initiatives. He originally signed up for a class in international law, but the class was canceled.

This is Babee's first time in the nation's capital.

"It's interesting to see all the nuts with propaganda," said

Babee. "Usually it's anti-Bush stuff."

He also has been enjoying the controversial opening of a new American Indian museum and the Smithsonian.

Babee said that Washington D.C. is a town that is politically divided, especially among federal agencies.

"I have roommates that work for both Democrats and Republicans," said Babee.

Switching from the quarter system to the semester system has been challenging for Babee. The scholarship was scheduled to begin on Sept. 2., but since Babee was enrolled in the summer quarter and finals were the same week, he wasn't able to arrive until Sept. 4. Babee's scholarship will conclude on Nov. 15, which means the fall quarter will



Right On: Babee earned a scholarship to complete an internship in Washington D.C.

Photo/ Michelle Morales

finish early for him.

Professor Norman Bowen told Babee about the scholarship a day or two before the deadline for submission. Babee learned he won the scholarship over the

Area college student dating self

THINGS ARE REALLY STARTING TO HEAT UP



Eric Peterson, top, has one of many romantic dinners with himself at their favorite restaurant.

By LISA CHENEY

Local college student Eric Peterson recently announced that he's entered a committed relationship—with himself. Peterson vehemently denied rumors that the two were dating other people. "We're totally committed to each other. We've never been happier." When asked what prompted the campus heartthrob to take himself off the market, he chalked it up in large part to his current financial situation, claiming that monthly fees from his checking account were making it too expensive for him to date around. "It was partly a cost-effective decision

on my part, but it's been really nice for us to spend more time together." Peterson was apparently unaware of Free Checking from Washington Mutual. It's an account with no monthly fees and the option to add Deluxe services like free online bill pay. And he could have gotten Free Checking just by visiting a Washington Mutual Financial Center, then signed up for online bill pay at wamu.com. "Dang," said Peterson, "if I had known about Free Checking Deluxe, my current dating situation would be different. I probably wouldn't have settled down with someone so soon."

"We've never been happier."

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