

# Cabaret: More than Just a Pretty Bustier

By Veronica Velasquez  
Staff Writer

"Cabaret," presented by the Cal State Hayward Theater and Dance Department and directed by Edgardo de la Cruz, sparkles and glitters like a desert vision. But the vision is, after all, a mirage. Beneath the glamour is an awful truth: this is Berlin, Germany in the 1930s, and here there be monsters.

The play, based on John Van Druten's 1966 musical revival, focuses on pre-World War II Germany and



Photo/ Howard Gerstein

shows the emergence of the Third Reich as a subtle hint of disquiet in the background that grows steadily larger, more oppressive, and finally, suffocates Europe, crushing her under the weight of one maniac's madness and the unrelenting military strength behind him.

The infamous Kit Kat Club presents a welcome escape from the horrors of the world. It is a third-rate club, and the showgirls wear moth-eaten lingerie and worn out stockings. None of that matters to its world-weary patrons.

"The Kit Kat Club distracts everyone from the fact that the Nazis are rising to power in Europe," said Marianna Wolff, associate director of music. "There is a concept of denial, so people don't see, or don't want to see, the changes that are happening because of the Nazis."

Helping the illusion along is the EmCee, played by Monica Santiago. Traditionally a role played by men, "The EmCee does not really exist in the reality of the show," said Wolff. "She functions like a magnifying glass; she guides the audience through what is happening in the real world."

The other main characters are Clifford Bradshaw, an American who falls in love with showgirl Sally Bowles, and Frau Schneider and Herr Schultz, two elderly Germans who also fall in love, but with so many more complications.

"Frau Schneider is a German woman who sees clearly what is happening in Germany, and she makes her decisions based on reality,"

Wolff said. "Schneider is really the main character, not Sally Bowles (the showgirl), as you might think."

Guinevere Tecson, as Frau Schneider, and Dominic Delgado, as Herr Schultz, are captivating in their roles as star-crossed lovers.

We feel such joy for them at first to have found each other, only to see them wrenched apart by the events of the day. The feeling of loss is total, as they suffer the injustice of denying their love.

"I enjoy how Schultz is the life of the show, but he's still a simple character," said Delgado, a theater arts major at Chabot College. "He looks past people's flaws, and that's a lot like me. I'm a happy-go-lucky kind of guy."

"My most challenging part was exploring how to emphasize the text with the different styles of the actors and singers I have," said Wolff. "My idea about Sally's ballad, for example, came from the character herself, from what Christa Boggs brought to the stage."

One particularly funny moment is when Sally is singing "Don't Tell Mama," in which she confesses all her dirty little secrets about her life as a showgirl in the seedy, hole-in-the-wall club, and beseeches the crowd not to tell her mother what she's up to. She bumps and grinds playfully, and allows that it's okay to tell Papa, because he comes into the club himself every night (wink!).

Christa Boggs handles her role with all the expertise of a real showgirl; her expressions and movements are flirty and comical for the first half of the show, and then she transforms into a tragic ruin of her former self in the latter half.

Brian Turner as Clifford Bradshaw exerts the right amount of earnestness, as he successfully leaves boyhood behind and becomes a man

when "the party is over."

"I didn't know about the political side of it," said Dorcas Sims, a CSUH Theater alumna. "I caught the story at the end, the whole bit about the Nazis."

The voices of the characters ring out with amazing clarity and tone. Most of the songs are sung by the women, and it's hard to believe that such a powerful sound could come out of such itty bitty bodies. It is truly wonderful to hear.

Santiago shines brilliantly as the EmCee. She is so stunning that it takes your breath away, as she thrums with the energy of a live wire, electrifying and unpredictable, grabbing males and females indiscriminately and making them dance for her amusement, striking a haunting Nazi-esque pose, taunting the crowd with her outlandishly sexy costume and even sexier moves.

Santiago is every inch a showwoman, and she makes sure that the audience is completely powerless to stop themselves from watching the whole, wicked performance without covering their eyes.

"It's a rough-around-the-edges type of character," Santiago said of her role. "Edgardo de la Cruz taught me to discover my own character, and being the EmCee brought out a lot that I didn't know about myself. I take risks more now."

"With 'Cabaret,' we are aiming to enlighten people," said Santiago. "It's not all about being sexy, or pretty. We want them to feel the gravity of the story, so that they don't leave the same as they were when they came in."

"We want people to feel involved, and so they should come dressed up in period clothing, if possible," said Wolff. "Those new to 'Cabaret' will probably be very surprised at what goes on. Those who have seen it before will get enrichment and an invigorating feeling from it. It's a really powerful experience."

The play finishes up this weekend, with performances running March 5 through March 7. The March 7 show is a matinee and starts at 2 p.m. More information and tickets can be obtained by calling 885-3261.

## Calendar of Events

### Thursday, March 4, 2004

**Musica delle Donne**  
Celebrating the Music of Women Composers - Faculty Recital. Works by Armer, Zwilich, Leonard, Clarke, and Ono. Featuring faculty Lawrence Granger, cello; Priscilla Granger, piano; Betsy London, viola; Jennifer Navarrete, piano; Janice Ortega, harp; Phil Santos, violin; and Ellen Wassermann, piano. 12 p.m. MB1055 Admission is free. This is a CSUH Music Department's Women's History Month celebration.

**Media Careers Night**  
A career exploration and professional networking event for all students, freshmen through graduate student, who are interested in a career in the media. Students will hear from representatives from a variety of industry mediums and have the opportunity to talk to representatives, ask questions and network. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., University Union 311.

### Friday, March 5, 2004

**"Machu Picchu Revisited"**  
The C. E. Smith Museum of Anthropology will hold a public reception and preview from 4 to 7 p.m. Meiklejohn Hall 4th floor. Admission is free. The Machu Picchu exhibit will run through June 12, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Including four Saturdays (3/6, 4/17, 5/15 and 6/12) from 1 to 4 p.m. The museum will be closed March 22 to 28, March 31 and May 31.

**Cabaret 8 p.m.,** University Theatre  
This performance will be preceded by a "Kit Kat Klub" Party in the Studio Theatre, 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., a benefit for campus programs supported by the Alumni Association and Friends of the Arts. For tickets call (510) 885-2839 or purchase online at [www.csuhalumni.org/events](http://www.csuhalumni.org/events).

### Saturday, March 6, 2004

**Cabaret 8 p.m.,** University Theatre  
**Sunday, March 7, 2004**  
**Cabaret 2 p.m.,** University Theatre  
**University Singers,** Chamber Singers and University Chorus Concert, Kathryn Smith, Conductor 7 p.m., Old Mission San Jose, 43300 Mission Blvd., Fremont, Admission: \$7 general/\$5 seniors and students/free to CSUH students; Information (510) 885-3167.

### Tuesday, March 9, 2004

**Student Composers Recital**  
Department of Music 12p.m. MB1055 Admission is free. Scenes from Opera and American Musical Theatre  
April McNeely, musical director; Marianna Wolff, stage director, Department of Music, 2 p.m. MB1055, Admission is free.

**CSUH Symphony Orchestra Concert,**  
Gregory Barber, conductor; Michelle Caimotto, flute soloist; Music Bldg., Recital Hall, MB 1055 8 p.m. Admission: \$7 general/\$5 seniors and students/free to CSUH students; Information (510) 885-3167.

### Wednesday, March 10, 2004

**"Should We Be Afraid of the Trade Deficit?"**  
Dr. Nancy Yonge, Smith Center Research Fellow, 2:45 p.m. University Union, Room 311. University Wind Ensemble and Faculty/Alumni Wind Orchestra Concert Timothy M. Smith, conductor. CSUH University Theatre; Admission: \$7 general/\$5 seniors and students/free to CSUH students; Information (510) 885-3167

### Thursday, March 11, 2004

**CSUH Percussion Ensemble Recital**  
Arthur Storch, director, 12 p.m., University Theatre, Admission is free. Scenes from Opera and American Musical Theatre  
April McNeely, musical director; Marianna Wolff, stage director Department of Music, 2 p.m. MB1055, Admission is free. Information (510) 885-3167.

### Upcoming Events:

**University-Community Chorus Concert**  
James Gilman, conductor with the Hillsdale High School Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, Shawn Reifschneider, Conductor. Sunday, March 14, 2004 8 p.m. University Theatre; Admission: \$7 general/\$5 seniors and students/free to CSUH students; Information (510) 885-3167.

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## UPCOMING EVENT

At California State University, Hayward

### "Should We be afraid of the Trade Deficit?"

Nancy Yonge  
Smith Center Research Fellow

### Wednesday, March 10, 2004

**2:45PM** in the University Union, Room 311  
California State University, Hayward

Free and Open to the public.

Light refreshments will be served.

Questions (510) 885-2640

Parking permits are available in lots C, G, & K for \$1.50.

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Map showing the location of the event in the University Union building.

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## GOOD LUCK TO WOMEN'S SWIMMING & MEN'S BASKETBALL AT THE UPCOMING NAIA II NATIONALS.

# Women's Water Polo Tournament

## Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup>

UC Davis A vs St. Mary's @ 8:15am
Cal Tech vs Sonoma @ 9:30am
Cal Lutheran vs UC Davis B @ 10:45am
Hayward vs Chapman @ 12:00pm
Sonoma vs St. Mary's @ 1:15pm
Cal Tech vs UC Davis A @ 2:30pm
Cal Lutheran vs Chapman @ 3:45pm
Hayward vs UC Davis B @ 5:00pm

## Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup>

UC Davis B vs Chapman @ 8:15am
Cal Tech vs St. Mary's @ 9:30am
Hayward vs Cal Lutheran @ 10:45am
UC Davis A vs Sonoma @ 12:00pm
4 <sup>th</sup> in A vs 4 <sup>th</sup> in B (7 <sup>th</sup> place) @ 1:15pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> in A vs 3 <sup>rd</sup> in B (5 <sup>th</sup> place) @ 2:30pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> in A vs 2 <sup>nd</sup> in B (3 <sup>rd</sup> place) @ 3:45pm
1 <sup>st</sup> in A vs 1 <sup>st</sup> in B (Championship Game) @ 5:00pm