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Show Goes on at Greek Festival Despite Cold

By Shatiqua Purifoy

The Cal State Hayward Department of Theatre and Dance made its fifth consecutive performance at the Greek Festival on Saturday.

Over 100 people gathered at the outdoor theater to watch the CSUH cast perform a piece of the play, "Creon," an adaptation of two other Greek plays, "Seven Against Thebes" and "Antigone.'

The cold temperature and steady wind forced some spectators to take cover indoors, but



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the show went on as scheduled. "There were a few hiccups here and there, but it went

well," said Toda, who wrote the play and co-directed with fellow graduate Dawn Williams. According to Toda, who also

played Oedipus in the adaptation, this was the group's first live performance, only two weeks after reading the final script.

"The cast put in a tremendous amount of work and were tolerant of the many script changes," he said. "The credit is all theirs."

'Creon" is a play about a man in the middle of a moral and political wartime dilemma that threatens to destroy him, his family and his kingdom, and follows a CSUH tradition of combining the old and the new. Toda credits Edgardo dela Cruz, the CSUH professor who died earlier this year, with being a master of the technique.

"A necessity of theater is to present something new," Toda said. "How do we say the same message in relation to the world today?"

Milt Vassis, festival advertising director, said that people usually have a good time at the event and they look forward to the performance by the CSUH theater department.

The theme of the festival, which was in its 32nd year, was "Celebrate ancient Greece," and the slogans were "Dance with us! Feast with us!" and "Keep the Olympic spirit alive.'

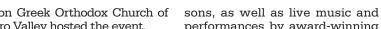
The three-day festival was a celebration of Greek culture, food and tradition, and took place from



Greek Tragedy: Juniors Monica Santiago and Jennifer Hall perform "Creon" at the 32nd **Photos** / Howard Gerstein annual Greek Festival at Centennial Hall.

rection Greek Orthodox Church of Castro Vallev hosted the event.

Friday until Sunday. The Resurbooths, cooking and dancing les-



Patrons were able to choose from a host of events, including touring a replica Orthodox church,



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performances by award-winning dance groups form Greek churches around the Bay Area. There was plenty of jewelry,

Greek paraphernalia and trinkets to buy, but the real excitement was the food and dancing. There were many varieties of Greek food and pastries, and even Greek wine and beer. Food, which most people devoured while walking, included lamb chops or pastries like Loukoumades.

Robert Kaady, of Oakland, and his wife have been coming to the festival for many years.

"The music is most exciting, and it's fun to see people dance, said Kaady as he watched a crowd learning a Greek dance.

The Sons of Ulysses, always a crowd pleaser with their table dancing act, performed again at the festival. They picked up chairs and tables with their teeth and seemed to balance them with ease.

The church tour traced the history of the Orthodox Church, the oldest Christian church, and the roots of Byzantine music, developed by ancient Greeks. Clergy members also performed a live chant.

According to Vassis, who is also a member of the church, attendance at the festival was lower than normal, but it did nothing to dampen the spirit of festival organizers.

"This is our opportunity to share



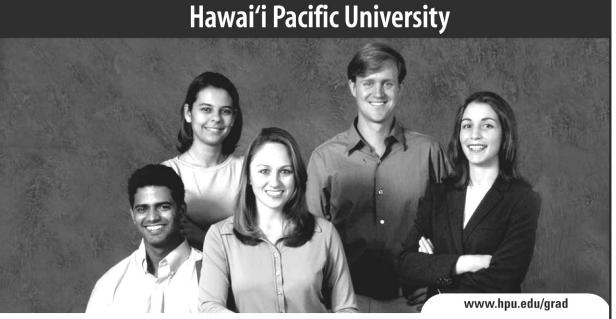
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our culture, food and history with the community, and we are grateful for your support" he said.

The full production of "Creon" will run in the University Theatre at 8 p.m. on Oct. 29 and 30 and Nov. 12 and 13, with a 2 p.m. matinee offered on Nov. 14.

Thomas Hird, chair of the department, said students were originally invited to perform at the festival about five years ago after a number of locals, who had heard about the troupe performing internationally, invited them to put on a show for the church. The group has been a mainstay at the festival ever since.



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