

Summer Theatre Presents

'Children of Eden'

- **August 3, 2005**

The Highlands Summer Theatre of California State University, East Bay will conclude its season with the inspiring musical, "Children of Eden," at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 19, and 20, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 21. All performances will be held at the University Theatre, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward.

"Children of Eden" tickets are \$14 for general admission; \$10 for seniors, youth, faculty, and staff; \$8 for Cal State East Bay students; and \$35 for a family of two adults and two children. Tickets are available at the University Box Office Monday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m. and one hour before the curtain rises. The phone information and voice reservation line is (510) 885-3261.

From Stephen Schwartz ("Wicked," "Godspell," and "Pippin") and John Caird ("Les Misérables") comes a joyous show about family, hope, and faith. Freely based on the story of Genesis, "Children of Eden" is an examination of the age-old conflict between parents and children. Adam, Eve, Noah, and the Father who created them deal with the headstrong actions of their respective children. The show ultimately delivers a bittersweet but inspiring, message that "the hardest part of love... is letting go." The score is a mix of pop, folk, rock, reggae, and gospel.

"Children of Eden follows the story of the creation and the flood as accepted by three of the world's major religions, but the music is joyful and the story really deals with classic generational issues," said Dawn Monique Williams, the play's director. "Children will love the colorful animals that inhabit the worlds of this show. It would be a wonderful summer treat for young and old alike."

"This is a must-see production," said Alden Reimonenq, dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences.

Thomas Hird, chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance, noted the diversity of the show's cast.

"This summer we have a diverse company from all over Alameda County, including performers from Castro Valley, Arroyo, Moreau, and Bishop O'Dowd high schools," Hird said.

Williams returns from her first year in graduate school to direct the show, while April McNeely-Zissman, who recently completed work for her master's degree in the university's Music Department, is guiding the vocal work and conducting.