

# Production Provides Impact in Five Short Plays

By Elisa Lewak  
Staff Writer

Anyone looking for a night of drama with a thought-provoking script should stay away from Impact Theatre's "Impact Briefs: The How-to Show." However, anyone looking for a night filled with levity should most certainly see the show, which plays at Berkeley's La Val's Subterranean Theatre until May 28.

Director Alyssa Bostwick masterfully put together five short plays intermixed with three slideshows and quirky old film footage. All plots make fun of the how-to genre. One title that

embodies that theme is "How to Avoid Drowning in Two Inches of Water." And, no, the potential drowning victims are not animals or small children.

The slideshow, written by local playwright Dave Dyson, mockingly demonstrates various survival techniques an adult might use in such a situation, including wearing scuba gear.

The plots grow increasing ridiculous as the night moves on, building to a beautiful crescendo of amusement at the end.

The shows begins with "How to Write a Play: A Rooftop Lesson." This is a lesson on what constitutes good writing.

The joke might have gotten old fast if playwright Rich Orloff had not put in a twist at a crucial moment.

Do not see this multimedia show unless you can stay for the entire production because the most incredible of the plays is the finale, "How to Gain Controlling Interest." It puts children in real life impossible situations, yet the language and the plot that arises keep the audience hanging on its every word.

The weakest of the plays, "How to Teach Math," suffers from the growing old joke. After all, how many jokes can a person tell about a classroom lecture

before it gets repetitive?

This does not mean that Pete Caslavka fails to carry the sketch with his performance. With his mannerisms and force of voice, the young actor easily becomes a 50-year-old socially awkward professor.

The only contribution that does not work is the old films, which show how an older generation instructed its community. The antiquated instructions are funny the same way old newsreels tend to be, but they pale in comparison to the play and Dyson's hilarious slideshows.

For more information go to [www.impacttheatre.com](http://www.impacttheatre.com).

# Jazz Concert on Tap Monday

By CSUEB News Service

Two members of Cal State East Bay's renowned jazz faculty and four accomplished musicians, who learned their craft at the university, will join forces to present the Faculty and Alumni Jazz Concert at 8 p.m. on Monday in the university's Studio Theatre.

The jazz concert is a benefit to support the CSUEB Jazz Ensemble's 2005 European Tour this summer.

The performance will blend the sounds of faculty members Dann Zinn on saxophone and Dave Eshelman on trombone, with alumni Mike Olmos on trumpet, Noel Melanio at the piano, Daniel Lucca Parenti on bass and Steve Moretti on the drums.

"This will be a must-see event," said Alden Reimonenq, dean of CSUEB's College of Arts, Letters and Social Sciences.

Eshelman, director of jazz studies, and Zinn, instructor of

jazz history and saxophone, are popular musicians who perform often at Bay Area jazz events.

Parenti, Moretti and Olmos were members of the late singer Rosemary Clooney's band "Big Kahuna and The Copa Cat Pack" and performed on her Grammy-winning album "Sentimental Journey."

Melanio is a member of the "Richard Cheese & Lounge Against the Machine" band which has gained fame as the house band of NBC's Last Call with Carson Daly and will be performing in Las Vegas in May and June.

In recent years, the university's Jazz Ensemble has performed concerts in Europe and South America including the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, the Umbria Jazz Festival in Perugia, Italy and in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Tickets are \$10 each. For information: 885-3167 or visit [www.isis.csuhayward.edu/dbsw/music/Faculty\\_Alumni\\_Jazz.php](http://www.isis.csuhayward.edu/dbsw/music/Faculty_Alumni_Jazz.php).

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