A&E

'Romeo and Juliet' Kicks Off Summer Theatre Series

By Michael Chung

illiam Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" kicked off Cal State East Bay's Highland Summer Theatre series on Friday.

The final performances are scheduled for tomorrow and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. All performances will take place in the Studio Theatre at the Hayward Hills campus

The play stars CSUEB students Rachel Throesch as Juliet Capulet and Emmelie Bovington as Romeo Montague. Other CSUEB students and alumni, and students from local high schools, also starred. The play was directed by Christine Plowright.

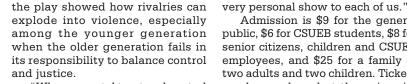
The play, written by Shakespeare in the late 16th century, is set in Verona, Italy, during the Renaissance. It portrays the violent rivalry between the Montagues and the Capulets, two of Verona's most powerful families, and the love story of Romeo and Juliet.

After a particularly violent clash between the Montagues and the Capulets, Prince Escalus orders peace in Verona. As a show of good faith, Lord Capulet promises his daughter Juliet's hand in marriage to Escalus' nephew, Paris. In celebration of the engagement, a masquerade party is arranged. Romeo attends the celebration and it is there that he and Juliet fall in love. Romeo and Juliet secretly wed the next day.

As fighting continues between the families, Lord Capulet insists that Juliet marry Paris as soon as possible. Friar Laurence and Juliet come up with a plan, in which Juliet will take a sleeping potion that will make her appear dead for 48 hours. She will be laid in the Capulet family vault, and when she awakens, Romeo will be there to steal her away.

But the plan falls apart due to unexpected circumstances, which leads to a tragic outcome for Romeo and Juliet.

Thomas Hird, chair of the CSUEB theatre and dance department, said



'When parental trust and control fail, the young can get themselves into trouble by keeping secrets or by responding in violence for petty reasons," Hird said.

This production of "Romeo and Juliet" featured several unique elements, most notably Plowright's decision to cast a female Romeo.

In a news release, Hird said Plowright made an interesting choice that probably adds additional pressure to the complication of the secret the young lovers keep.

Throesch, who has participated in several CSUEB theatre productions, including "Creon," "A Christmas Carol" and "Into the Woods," said another unique element was the performers' ability to incorporate a part of themselves into their character.

"Our director was interested in what each of us could bring to it, either something from our culture or something that plays a part in our lives," Throesch said. "I believe it's a

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"Children of Eden," based on a book by John Caird, will conclude the theatre series. Performances are scheduled for Aug. 12 and 13 and 19 to 21. It will be directed by Dawn Monique Williams. For more information, call the university box office at 885-3261.

performance.

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11:30, 12:25, 1:15, 2:15, 3:10, 4:05 5:00, 5:55, 6:50, 7:45, 8:40, 9:35, 10:30, 11:55

- Sky High(PG-13) 11:40, 12:55, 2:00, 3:20, 4:20, 5:45, 7:00, 8:10, 9:20, 10:35, 11:45
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- 9:00. 10:10 War Of The Worlds (PG-13)
- 11:45, 2:20, 5:00, 7:35, 10:15 Hustle & Flow (R) 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:25

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- Sky High (PG) 11:10, 1:30, 3:55, 6:50, 9:10
- Charlie And The
- Chocolate Factory (PG-13) 11:15, 12:50, 1:50, 3:05, 4:35, 7:35, 10:20
- Wedding Crashers (R) 11:40, 2:20, 5:05, 7:40, 10:25
- **March Of The Penguins** (G) 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20
- Fantastic Four (PG-13) 11:55, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 10:00
- The Island (PG-13) 1:10, 4:10, 5:45, 7:10, 8:45, 10:10
- Bad News Bears (PG-13) 11:25, 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55
- War Of The Worlds (PG-13) 11:05, 1:40, 4:15, 6:55, 9:45
- Hustle & Flow (R) 11:00, 12:20, 1:35, 3:00, 4:20, 5:40,
- 7:00, 8:20, 9:40 The Devil's Rejects (R) 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15
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- March Of The Penguins (G) 11:05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:25
- Fantastic Four(PG-13) 11:45, 2:25, 4:55, 6:15, 7:30, 8:50, 10:05, 11:35
- The Island(PG-13) 11:25, 12:20, 1:05, 3:30, 4:15, 5:35, 6:35, 7:35, 9:40, 10:40, 11:25
- Bad News Bears(PG-13) 11:15, 12:30, 1:50, 3:05, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50
- * War Of The Worlds (PG-13) 11:10, 1:45, 4:25, 7:55, 10:35
- Hustle & Flow (R) 11:00, 12:50, 1:40, 2:40, 3:35, 4:30, 6:20, 7:20, 8:35, 9:05, 10:00
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