

'Tatarin' To Be Performed by Theatre Group

By Kwesi Wilson
Staff Writer

The Filipino theater group Revival Arts Productions, made up of Cal State Hayward students and alumni, will hold a six-day presentation of "Tatarin" at the CSUH Theatre starting today at 8 p.m.

Set in the 1920s during the American occupation of the Philippines, Tatarin revolves around the issue of sexuality, gender discrimination and nationalistic pride in a manner that is traditionally and visually appealing, according to the group's Web site.

Written by the late Nick Joaquin, Tatarin sheds light on an old Filipino fertility ritual, restricted to women, that empowered women.

"Tatarin portrays issues surrounding the sexual, social and political liberation of the Filipino woman," said Richgail Enriquez, 22, an alumna of CSUH, who

earned her degree in mass communication.

The group hopes to not only entertain its audience but to educate them about the issues that it believes are pervasive in all cultures.

"The™ battle of the genders is not a Filipino issue," said Enriquez, who manages Revival Arts Production. "The issue Tatarin attempts to address is thought provoking and it transcends through all races. We hope to educate our audience as well as build a community"

Marc Dolor and Kevin Correa, CSUH students, founded Revival Arts in 2001 after taking a Filipino dramatic literature class in the spring quarter of that year.

Professor Boots Y. Pascual is credited with inspiring the directors of Revival Arts. Professor Tom Hird, department chair of theatre and dance, and Ed Wright, the theatre department's production manager, encouraged

and supported the group.

Although the group has enjoyed many successful shows, having held three plays at CSUH since 2001 and one at the Bindlestiff Studios in San Francisco last year, it had to overcome many challenges.

"Trying to get people to believe in us and our work was especially challenging," said Correa, 25, co-founder of the group. "We came in with no experience and an overwhelming confidence. It really feels good that we are putting out a good piece. Seeing our performers grow in confidence and skill keeps me going."

Tatarin will be performed through Saturday and again from Jan. 27 to 29.

Admission is \$3 for students (with ID), seniors and children under 12, and \$6 for the general public.

Advance tickets can be purchased and placed at will call by calling the CSUH box office at 885-3261. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m.

For more information, contact Enriquez at 449-7918 or e-mail rgenriquezrevivalarts.org or log on to www.revivalarts.org.



Performing Arts: Cast members of the Revival Arts Organization run through final dress rehearsals for "Tatarin" which will run six showtimes at the CSUH Theatre.
Photo/ Stacie Colwell

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