

Tatarin Performance Enthralls Audience

By Kwesi Wilson
Staff Writer

Revival Arts Production, a Filipino theater group made up of alumni and Cal State East Bay students, kicked off its six-day showing of Tatarin at the CSUEB Theatre on Jan. 20.

Tatarin, a play about an old ritual exclusively performed by women in the Philippine Islands, sheds light on issues concerning the social oppression of women.

The play had a profound effect on the audience.

"I cried," said Holly Matthews, 25, a San Francisco resident who came to see the show. "I was captured emotionally. I think it's a timeless issue even though the play was set in the 1920s.

"It's a shame. You can see that the actors put a lot of work into it to bring (it) to life."

The Revival Arts team, made up of dancers, drummers, actors and other behind-the-scene workers, did, in fact, put a lot of effort into the production.

"We absolutely put a lot of work into it," said Austin Delfino, the assistant director. "We practiced four hours a day, three days a week starting in mid-October and later to four and five days a week. "Everybody worked hard to (make) Tatarin a cohesive unit."

Tatarin had three acts, and this was the first time Revival Arts had multiple acts in one play. They credited their new director, Mark Marking, and his assistant, Delfino.

"I set the expectations up-front," said Marking. "Respect and consideration for each other is the best way to be effective and efficient. When everyone shares an equal role, egos are

kept in check. And it really paid off."

Marking first saw Revival Arts perform in August at Bindlestiff Studios in San Francisco, where he was also an artistic director and an actor. He joined Revival Arts after that performance.

He was pleased with the group's performance, as was the group's manager.

"It was excellent," said Richgail Enriquez, 22, manager and an alumna of CSUH. "It was what we worked for. It can only get better in the future."

Tatarin will play again today through Saturday. Tickets can be purchased at the door or be placed at will call at the CSUEB box office by calling 885-3261. Tickets are \$3 for students, children and seniors and \$6 for the general public.

For more information, visit www.revivalarts.org.



Moving The Crowd: The performance of the cast members of Tatarin wooed the audience during the company's six-day engagement at the Cal State East Bay Theatre.

Photo/ Stacie Colwell

Seniors Display Work for Public Consumption in Student Art Gallery

By Ifeoma Achike
Staff Writer

When Joanne Jensen hosts her reception Monday in the student art gallery, it will complete an educational journey that began more than three decades ago.

Jensen, 57, left school in the late '60s during the civil rights movement and moved to Canada, in part, she says, to escape the political climate of the era.

Another motivation for putting off her educational pursuit was the fact that she could not afford to be a "starving artist" at a time when making a living was her priority.

"I knew I had to make a living first, then come back and follow my passion," she said.

Her exhibit, "Figures and Faces," opens with a reception Monday from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Jensen is just the latest Cal State East

Bay art student to have her work displayed in the school's art gallery, located in the Arts and Education Building, room 274.

All senior art majors are required to participate in the show, which is reviewed by faculty. Each student has one week to display what he considers his best work along with a summary explaining the meaning or inspiration behind it. The gallery is open to the public, which officials say gives students a feel for what to expect after graduation.

Michael Henninger, associate professor

in the art department and co-director of the graduate multimedia program, said the art show, for most students, marks the first time they have exhibited

their work publicly. "Part of that life (as a professional artist) is exhibiting your work. We are able to provide that in a less competitive, less threatening manner," he said. "It's a really big deal when students get out of school and they have to try to take that next step of approaching a commercial, nonprofit or community gallery."

Jensen knows all about the pressure that comes with working in a competitive environment. While in Canada, she worked in the high-tech industry — yet she always found a way to incorporate her passion for art.

"When I was in sales, I sold things that had to do with art or creating art, and before sales I did cartography," said Jensen.

Today her art reflects a fascination with the human body. She found landscape figures to be boring due to their

rigidity, and became fascinated with the interesting positions the body can find itself in at any given moment.

Jensen says she sees beauty, for example, in what most may see as a simple turn of the ankle. With the use of oil paint and collage, she forms images that she says express a "moment-in-time" feeling.

"Usually the image I want has already passed, and the photo I take usually represents the next moment," she said. "I try to recall the original feeling I had when I took the photo."

Currently on display is "The Portrait Series" by Ana Bravo. Works by Romel Pastores will be on display Feb. 7 to 11. His reception is Feb. 9 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Hours at the Student Art Gallery vary depending on the exhibition. For information call 885-3111.

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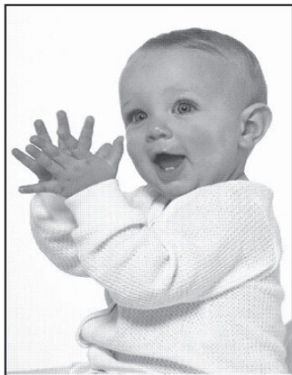
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