

# 'Dance for All Bodies, Abilities' Welcomes Visitors

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Two special programs by the California State University, East Bay Department of Theatre and Dance will prove that dance is for everyone—even those in wheelchairs, who use canes, who are blind or hearing impaired.

The public is invited to experience the class on Wednesday, Nov. 15 from 1-2:50 p.m. in room 140 of the Physical Education building on the Hayward campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd. A performance of this dance experience will be on display by the fall quarter students on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 2 p.m. at the University Theatre of the Hayward campus. Admission to both the class and performance is free.

"Dance for All Bodies and Abilities" was introduced on the Hayward campus last winter and has escalated in popularity to the point where it is being offered three academic quarters a year with two classes most quarters.

"The classes serve as laboratories in which I guide the students, and they guide me, to develop techniques of modern dance, improvisation and partnering that are applicable to people of all abilities, sizes, ages and mobility ranges," said Eric Kupers, program founder and professor in the Theatre and Dance Department.

"We've had wonderful successes," said Kupers, referring to the way dance improvisation relates to performance technique, communication skills and psychological healing.

"Kupers provides an example of a special kind of artist who not only thinks creatively about his art, but thinks creatively about who can and should be dancing; what creativity in movement can mean to someone with limited mobility," said Thomas Hird, chair of the Theatre and Dance Department. "Where have you heard about this before? Have you seen a deaf or blind person dance? What about "big" people and the wheelchair bound expressing themselves through dance? We are about to see art that most of us never imagined and Kupers is leading the way."

"This outstanding program demonstrates the inclusiveness that is becoming our university's trademark," said Alden Reimonenq, dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences.

As an example, the fall class includes eight participants from the Clausen House, an Oakland non-profit organization that works with developmentally disabled adults from throughout the East Bay. The program has attracted support from the Student Disability Resource Center, Project Impact and a host of other community organizations.

Further information on "Dance for All Bodies and Abilities" is available by contacting Kupers at (510) 885-3185 or via e-mail at [erickupers@hotmail.com](mailto:erickupers@hotmail.com). Registration for winter classes has begun and community members are invited to register through the Cal State East Bay Division of Continuing and International Education. The winter quarter class will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7:50 p.m. on the Hayward campus starting Jan. 9.