

'Angels in America' Flies Onto Studio Theatre Stage

By Anne Cunningham
Staff Writer

Cal State East Bay students celebrate the official start of the theater season with performances of Tony Kushner's 'Angels in America' beginning Nov. 3 in the Studio Theatre.

Considered one of the greatest plays of the American theater, 'Angels in America' is the winner of two Tony Awards and the 1991 Pulitzer Prize for drama. The play is comprised of two full-length plays; CSUEB will be performing 'Part One, Millennium Approaches.'

"'Angels in America' is a most impressive and ambitious undertaking, and an excellent example of the quality of work being performed

by our Theater and Dance Department," said Alden Reimonenq, dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences (CLASS). "I hope everyone will make the effort to attend, they won't be disappointed."

Set in 1986, the play mixes magical realism with high comedy and presents the America of the Reagan era as a nation at a political, spiritual and sexual crossroads. The play is recommended for mature audiences only.

"I see the play as representing a time in America when several different forces came crashing together to make the country what it would become today," said Jacobs. "The show explains a lot about how what went wrong in the past has influenced how politically and spiritually divided the country is today."

The sexual revolution of the 70s was suddenly knocked out by the onset of AIDS. The political liberalism that had also been a part of that era was sidelined by the surprising popularity of Ronald Reagan and the new conservatism.

"Usually when I start directing a show, I try to encapsulate what the theme is in one simple sentence for the actors," said Jacobs. "For instance, 'Othello' is about jealousy; 'Hamlet' is about a student's disillusionment with a corrupt world. But 'Angels' balances so many themes successfully that it defies that kind of reduction."

In the story, Prior Walter is a man

newly diagnosed with AIDS. His lover Louis has left him and become involved with Joe, an ex-Mormon and political conservative working for the infamous Roy Cohn, the gay but homophobic power wielder and one of the leaders of the communist witch hunts of the 50's.

Meanwhile Joe's wife, Harper is having valium-induced hallucinations that collide with Prior's fantasies. The play is a meditation on what it means to live and die and

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be connected.

"For me, Angels has been a journey of hope and redemption," said Katherine McDermott who plays Harper. "How human beings, even in the darkest times, can grasp onto some slight glimmer of hope."

"It's been great working with Marc, because he always encourages us to find the humor in the drama. In a show like this, that's really needed for our own sanity as well as our characters and the audience!"

"All the characters in 'Angels in America' are on some kind of journey of discovery-good or bad," said Jacobs. "The play follows them through a physical journey that starts in the nineteenth century and becomes a spiritual and sexual one as the 'new millennium' approaches."

Many of the actors in the show are playing several roles; even the stage managers are performing on stage as well as behind the scenes.

"Rehearsals have been amazing, with these wonderful student actors really digging inside themselves and taking enormous chances in their performances," Jacobs said.

The play is demanding for everyone involved, but the efforts will pay off.

"The issues in 'Angels' are as important now as they were 20 years ago," said Thomas Hird, chair of the Theater Department. "This show is theater in every way, not just its message."

Olympus Fashion Week Heats Things Up in New York City

By Liza Atamy
Staff Writer

Carmen Marc Valvo, Diane Von Furstenberg, Badgley Mischka, Marc Jacobs and Carolina Herrera were just a few of the many talented and prominent designers that featured their line for the Spring 2007 season, in New York City last month.

Celebrities, fashion journalists, buyers and social types came together from all over the world to observe next season's style.

"Fashion Week is filled with anticipation and excitement. Everyone looks forward to viewing the upcoming trends for the next season and observing what top designers have created before it hits the retail stores," said Ziba Atamy, who has worked as a fashion designer for many well-known designers, such as Andrew Marc and Ralph Lauren.

This year, Fashion Week in N.Y. is sponsored by Olympus, so it is referred to as Olympus Fashion Week. The weeklong shows are held in New York City's Bryant Park on 42nd street and Sixth Avenue.

The beautiful eight-acre park is transformed into a fashion arena with grand, air-conditioned tents containing several venues for the designers to show their collections. Some

designers, however, choose to have their collections shown in showrooms or other off-site venues during that week.

"Bryant Park is more alive than ever during Fashion Week. It is incredible to see how the park is transformed into a grand tent full of sophisticated and trendy venues for the shows," said Nancy Velasquez, a fashion lover, who attended the Carolina Herrera show this year. "You feel like you're in another world when you're sitting in one of the beautiful venues, watching designers displaying their work as a form of art. You can feel their passion exuding through their designs."

What is the newest rave in fashion for next season, you ask? Beautifully fitting, flowing and light, neutral-colored pieces, that hug one's body and accentuate one's figure.

Next season's theme focuses on elegant and conservative yet chic dresses and separates that exude class. Designer Carolina Herrera's line is a perfect example, where realism was certainly the order of the day, served with a dash of couture-like touches and Verdura jewelry.

"Carolina Herrera always has a

way of making a woman feel very feminine and powerful at the same

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time," said Velasquez. "Her designs are filled with elegance and class. I was taken aback by her designs for next season. The colors were welcoming and the fabrics were flowing. The models looked angelic in her pieces."

Why is Fashion Week so important? It is an excellent opportunity for American and international designers to put their upcoming collections on display. Fashion journalists write about the shows and upcoming trends in detail, to inform the public of what's hot for next season.

For accomplished designers, Fashion Week upholds their credibil-

ity and successful reputation for their exceptional talent that is manifested in their designs. More importantly, up-and-coming designers are given the privilege to showcase their pieces and as a result attain major exposure via the media covering the shows.

This gives new designers a once in a lifetime opportunity and advantage to get their foot through the door into the unpredictable, fast-paced and ever changing world of fashion and design.

Fashion Week is held twice a year. The fall shows are held the preceding winter (January-February) and the spring shows are held the preceding late summer (September-October).

IMG Fashion, a division of the media giant IMG, is the global leader in the management and production of Fashion Week events and designer fashion events all over the world. They produce/manage shows in New York City, Los Angeles and Miami; Melbourne, Milan, Paris, Moscow and London (to name a few cities).

Styles that are still hot for next season include baby doll dresses, tapered pants, silk blouses, sailor shorts and big belts.

Museum Showcases Unique San Francisco Transit System

By Chris Toomajian
Staff Writer

As soon as visitors step into the San Francisco Cable Car Museum, the intense odor of pungent oil fills their nostrils.

All other sounds are drowned out by the enormous deafening wheels that are constantly spinning. The entire atmosphere seems to scream history.

The San Francisco Cable Car Museum, one of the city's least known historical attractions, has been in operation since 1974, but just re-opened on Oct. 1 after a lengthy shutdown for renovation.

The organization offers plenty of educational activities, including exhibits, displays and a short film about the history and operations of the city's unique cable car system.

Best of all, it is one of the few things in San Francisco - one of the world's most expensive cities -- that

is absolutely free.

"This museum is absolutely amazing. It is free to get in, so it's a great place to go for tourists that are on a budget," said 22-year-old Lindsey Kivett, a tourist from Ohio who recently visited the facility. "I would definitely recommend it."

The facility is split into two parts. One side is educational, where tourists go to learn about the history of cable cars. The other is the actual cable car station, where giant wheels approximately 10-feet in diameter are constantly spinning to keep the cable cars moving around the city.

The museum offers tons of educational information, everything from cable car parts to the conductor's uniforms.

One of the first things to catch a visitor's eye is a giant placard informing visitors about how the cable cars actually work. The giant wheels that rumble away constantly are actually spindles for the cable

that operates the system, turning at a rate that keeps the cables moving underground at a steady nine miles per hour.

The cars have a mechanism underneath them that extends into the slot in the ground above the moving cable and clamps onto it. The car itself has no motor, engine or means of propulsion. Instead, the moving underground cable actually pulls the ramshackle cable cars along the track from below.

When the conductor needs to make a stop he/she simply grips a lever that disengages the car from the cable, and then applies the brake to keep the car from rolling.

When passengers have finished getting on and off and the conductor is ready to move on again, he releases the lever, engaging the car back onto the cable which will get it moving once more.

It is the car that makes frequent stops while the cable keeps moving

throughout the day.

Located in the corner of the museum is a video station where guests can go to watch a historical video about the organization.

There are numerous cable cars on display, but one of the most interesting among the bunch is the first cable car ever made.

The museum also has a gift shop that sells a wide variety of souvenirs. Guests can buy T-shirts, mugs, portraits, and miniature cable cars.

The Cable Car Museum is located at 1201 Mason St. near Washington in San Francisco, only a couple of blocks from the top of Nob Hill. The hours of operation are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., seven days a week.

Although it is free to enter, the organization does ask for donations to go toward the upkeep of the museum.

For more information you can visit CableCarMuseum.org or call (415) 474-1887.

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Register between November 1st and November 13th at the club nearest you. For additional details, log onto www.bayareaweightlosschallenge.com or call 1.800.FITNESS®.

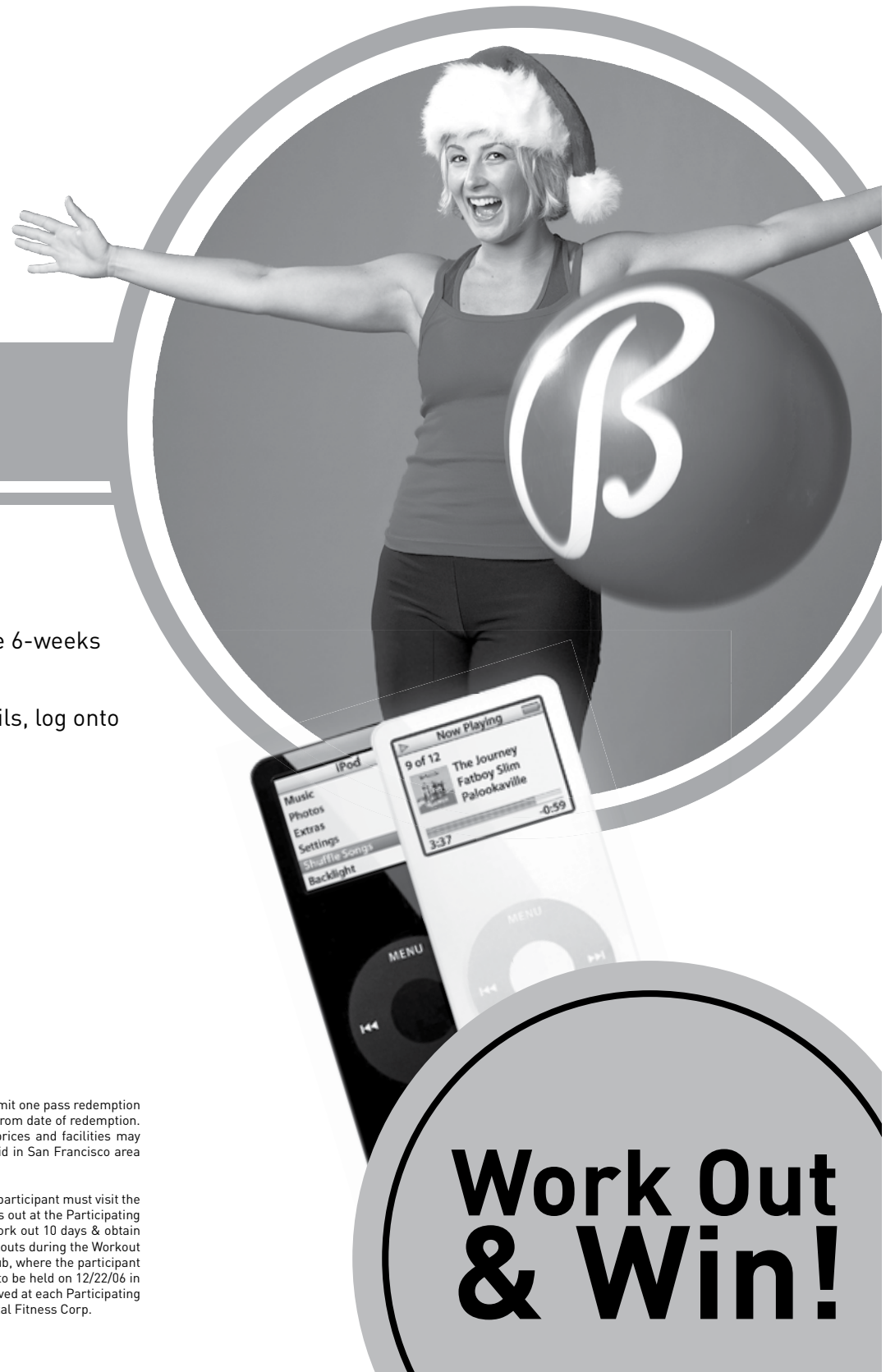
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