

# Famous Photographer Showcased at Oakland Museum

By Michael Chung  
Staff Writer

“Edward Weston: Master-works from the Collection,” an exhibit of 58 photographs by one of the world’s major figures in photography, opened Saturday at the Oakland Museum of California.

The exhibit spans Weston’s career from his early, soft-focus images in the Pictorialist style in the early 1920s to his later, darker images at Point Lobos. The exhibit will run through June 11 at the museum, located at 1000 Oak St. in Oakland.

“In his era, Weston was more highly regarded than Ansel Adams, and he remains a role model today,” said Drew Johnson, the museum’s curator of photography. “He was among the first Californians to embrace

Modernism in photography. He lived and worked with absolute single-mindedness and dedication to a very developed and thought-out vision.”

The exhibit is divided into thematic sections, including Early Work (Pictorialism) and Mexico, Point Lobos and the Coast, Portraits, Still Lives, Nudes and Landscapes. The exhibit also features Weston’s letters, portfolio cases, books and magazines that contain his photographs, along with portraits of Weston by his associates, Ansel Adams and Imogen Cunningham.

Weston was born in Illinois in 1886. For his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, Weston received his first camera and began taking photographs of various Chicago parks and his aunt’s farm. Weston was a natural photographer and his photographs

were exhibited in the Chicago Art Institute the following year.

“Anything that excites me, for any reason, I will photograph,” said Weston, according to London’s Hayward Gallery Web site. “Not searching for unusual subject matter, but making the commonplace unusual.”

After moving to California in 1906, Weston decided to pursue a career as a portrait photographer and settle down with his family. 1922 marked a transition period for him as he renounced Pictorialism in favor of Straight Photography, which attempts to depict a scene as realistically and objectively as permitted by medium.

In 1927, Weston began to work on the mediums of Nudes, Still Lives, and Landscapes.

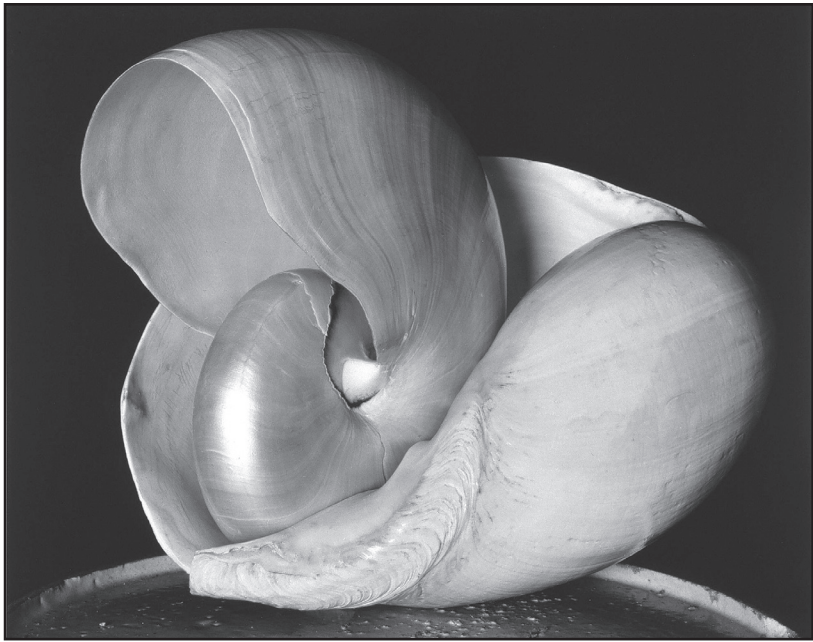
Stricken with Parkinson’s disease, Weston made his last photographs at Point Lobos in 1948.

Two years later, Weston published his “Fiftieth Anniversary Portfolio,” which was printed by his son, Brett.

Weston died at his home on Wildcat Hill in Carmel in 1958.

The museum is open Wednesdays through Sundays. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students.

**Sensational:** One of Edward Weston’s most famous photographs, entitled the “Shell,” is one of many images on display at the Oakland Museum of California until June 11.



Photo/ Courtesy

# Troupe Invites Masses to the ‘Evil Empire’

By Daniel Schutz  
Staff Writer

To alleviate the pressure that comes from starting new courses, some students have decided to simply take a break from it all and enjoy a good laugh.

The Cal State East Bay comedy troupe “Evil Empire: Genesis” provided laughs in their self-entitled sketch comedy show which opened Friday in the CSUEB Studio Theatre at the Hayward Hills Campus.

The show began with a satirical rendition of “boy band” dance numbers. The crowd laughed and cheered, eagerly awaiting the first skit, which was titled “Harry Potter and the King of Pop.”

“The show was really funny; I really liked the improv,” said Gina Vortman, a CSUEB alumna who came back to witness the shenanigans.

Vortman also came to cheer on her friend, cast member Helen Nesteruk, who played a sassy version of Little Red Riding Hood, among other roles.

Evil Empire actor Jesse Miller played a very high-voiced and comically-received Michael Jackson.

Many of the sketches put new twists on age-old stories. The troupe said their motto is “comedy from a twisted perspective,” which proved to be a theme throughout the show. The troupe tackled familiar subjects from telemarketers to the Big Bad Wolf to clowns. Interspersed between the acts were several improvisational games, including one that needed audience participation.

No matter what the troupe did,



Showing off their Assets: ‘The Evil Empire’ is (from left to right): Brian Turner, Nate Maggio, Jesse Miller, Alex Buckley and Rob Mueller.

Photo/ Courtesy

they kept the laughs coming from the audience.

Twelve different scripted skits and additional improvisational pieces were included.

The writing credits go to Rob Mueller and Alex Buckley, both students at CSUEB. Buckley said his comedic inspiration comes from his cousin, Dominic.

“(Dominic) is the most hilarious person I know, although nobody has heard of him,” Buckley said.

Buckley also said that “everyday

things that people go through” is a major source for his material and that Mueller “goes for the shock and awe” type of comedy.

Mueller wrote a skit entitled, “The Crun-Chee Cookie Company,” which one must see to understand.

Three remaining shows are scheduled for tomorrow and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. All performances will be held in the Studio Theatre, with tickets ranging in price from \$8 for general admission and \$5 for students.

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