

# The Crucible To Hold ‘Fire Opera’

By Michael Chung  
Staff Writer

The Crucible will celebrate its seventh anniversary with yet another “fire opera.”

“The Seven Deadly Sins,” written by Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht, will be performed Wednesday through Jan. 14 at The Crucible, located at 1260 Seventh St. in Oakland. All performances will begin at 8:30 p.m.

The production follows Anna, the heroine who descends into seven American cities, each introducing a new deadly sin. Caught between two worlds, Anna struggles with having to earn money to build her family a new home in Louisiana and her inner desire to create art. As times goes on, Anna is weighed down by family pressure and the evils of consumerism and capitalism. She is also confronted by her demanding kin, who counter her urge to succumb to temptation.

“What is so amazing about this production is the marriage of high art and industrial capabilities,” said Thomas Sepe, who will perform in the production. “Where else can you see live blacksmithing with glowing red-hot steel while listening to a full live symphony? And that is just one of the many ‘fire arts’ taught that will be incorporated into the action. There is simply nothing quite like this show.”

The production, directed by Roy Rallo of the San Francisco Opera, will feature artists from the San Francisco Opera and the Oakland East Bay Symphony. The production will also feature sculptures by The Flaming Lotus Girls, Justin Gray, Orion Fredericks, Vance Cearley, The Sun Brothers, Jeremy Lutes and several of The Crucible’s students.

Lutes said he submitted two pieces, which will be used either in the production or as decoration.

“The first is a sculpture titled ‘Finial,’ which is a rhombic cube, actually, made out of stainless steel wire, light emitting diodes and electronics,” Lutes said. “Each of the six facets of the piece contain 64 LEDs and the LEDs are controlled in such a way as to suggest the ripples of waves on water.”



**Explosive:** The Crucible’s 2005 fire opera, “Dido & Acheas,” received rave reviews. The new opera, “7 Deadly Sins,” will light up on Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Photo/Edgar Lee

Lutes said his second piece is comprised of three identical, long bundles of optical fiber, which are lit by color-changing LEDs.

“These elements hang from a ceiling in a group, forming a trio of colorful, ethereal trails, and they move gently in any passing breeze,” Lutes said.

Fredericks will also be contributing to the fire opera.

“I will be showing a piece called Echevaria,” said Fredericks.

According to Fredericks’ Web site, the 64-by-84 foot piece is comprised of glass, stainless steel, a 120-volt light and propane.

Fredericks, who lives in Oakland, has displayed his art in more than 30 exhibitions, and has experience in many crafts, which includes work as an illustrator, photographer, weaver, toolmaker, line cook and baker.

Sepe, who teaches performing arts at The Crucible, said he began performing at the Moraga Playhouse when he was 5 years old.

“Currently I perform with AP-SARA and Mystic Family Circus doing stilt-walking, fire-breathing and clowning, and I recently performed for the opening night of Cirque Du Soleil’s ‘Corteo,’ as well as numerous corporate parties and summer festivals,” Sepe said.

Ticket prices range from \$25 for each advance purchase to \$30 for tickets bought at the door. Each ticket for reserved seating is \$50 while VIP tickets cost \$100 apiece.

The Crucible is a non-profit arts education center that fosters a collaboration of arts, industry and community. Through training in the fine and industrial arts, The Crucible promotes creative expression, reuse of materials and innovative design while serving as an accessible arts venue for the public.

# ‘Kong’ is King of the Box Office

By Priscilla Shiohwan  
Staff Writer

Director Peter Jackson’s remake of “King Kong” is absolutely the must-see movie of 2005.

I saw a late showing of the movie, unaware of its long length (approximately three hours, 11 minutes). I was surprised that when I left the theater at 2 a.m., I was not drained.

This movie, rated PG-13, is the whole package. There were parts of the movie that had my eyes watering, others that had me laughing out loud and still others that had me holding onto the person next to me.

Although the film starts off a bit slow, it quickly gains speed and never lets up. Three hours seemed

like a mere two. With a well-written storyline and great cast, the film moves viewers through the city, across the sea, onto a not-so-deserted island and all the way up the Empire State Building.

Fully developed characters and larger-than-life visuals really made this movie worth watching. There were many major visuals: giant insects, dinosaurs, creepy natives and, lest we forget, Kong himself. My favorite part had to be Kong fighting not one but three Tyrannosaurus Rexes. That fight has pay-per-view written all over it

and is one reason to see the movie again.

Another reason to catch this movie would be the characters in the film. The star of the movie, without a doubt, is Kong himself.

*“Another reason to catch this movie would be the characters in the film. The star of the movie, without a doubt, is Kong himself. With the help of new technology and special effects, this Kong was the best of all the previous apes.”*

# Karaoke Box Allows Privacy for Entertainers of Every Age

By Emi Saito  
Staff Writer

Hisato Saeki enjoys singing her favorite songs with her friends at a karaoke box.

Saeki, a CSUEB junior, goes to many of the Bay Area’s private karaoke stores, known as karaoke box or KTV, where she can sing in a private room.

“I like to sing at a karaoke box because I can concentrate on singing and also I can share a good time with only my friends,” said Saeki.

While she said she has been to karaoke bars before, she added that she doesn’t like to sing in front of strangers. Thus, the karaoke box is perfect for her.

“Karaoke bars are still more popular than a karaoke box in the Bay Area,” said the manager of Gamba Karaoke in Cupertino, who asked not to be identified. “Karaoke bars can’t allow people under 21, but the karaoke box is good for family and students to

*“Karaoke bars are still more popular than a karaoke box in the Bay Area. Karaoke bars can’t allow people under 21, but the karaoke box is good for family and students to enjoy singing.”*

The Japanese karaoke box opened in June. The store has 10 small, private rooms and one party room with Japanese karaoke machines, including a TV monitor, wireless microphones, tables and sofas. Performers can sing Japanese, English, Chinese, Spanish, Korean, Filipino and Vietnamese songs in a relaxed environment

With the help of new technology and special effects, this Kong was the best of all the previous apes. His character is unarguably entertaining, from his terror and rage in the jungle to his almost child-like tendencies on Manhattan’s outdoor ice-skating rink. Despite his giant character, he does not overshadow the rest of this all-star cast.

Naomi Watts plays the beautiful and skillful Ann Darrow, the object of Kong’s affection. The bond between Ann and Kong is portrayed so sincerely in the film, it is almost tangible.

The comedic Jack Black plays money-hungry director Carl Denham. As is his nature, Black adds humor throughout his scenes, despite his character’s selfishness.

Last but not least, Oscar Award-winning actor Adrien Brody plays Jack Driscoll, Carl’s screenwriter and Ann’s eventual love interest.

Although “King Kong” is not flawless, it is one of the best movies this year, and I do not feel generous when I give it the full five stars. If you have not seen this movie, get yourself over to the nearest theater. Your money will be well spent.

that includes only their friends or family.

“Some customers prefer drinking and singing, but we aren’t allowed to serve alcohol by the city’s regulation,” the manager said. “Also, customers can’t bring anything to the rooms.”

This regulation may limit some customers, so it might be difficult for the karaoke box to replace karaoke bars in the Bay Area.

According to the Japan Karaoke Industrialist Association (JKIA), the karaoke industry was established in bars in the 1970s. Daisuke Inoue, a Japanese bar accompanist, created a karaoke machine for the bar’s customers in Kobe, Japan. The machine is like a juke box that contains an amplifier, coin box and microphone.

In the 1980s, karaoke boxes began to pick up steam. Today, karaoke boxes are the main karaoke style in Japan, with business reaching nearly \$10 billion a year, according to JKIA.

# Original Comedy Sketches To Open Friday

By CSUEB News Service

“Evil Empire: Genesis,” a collection of original comedy sketches, will open the 2006 theater season at California State East Bay with performances on Friday and Saturday, and Jan. 13 and 14 at 8 p.m., and on Jan. 15 at 2 p.m.

The shows will be held in the Studio Theatre of the university’s Hayward campus.

The show is directed by “Evil Empire Comedy,” a recently recognized CSUEB student club consisting of students Rob Mueller, Nate Maggio, Alex Buckley, Jesse Miller and Brian Turner.

The show consists of student-

written comedy sketches interspersed with improvisational pieces. All of the sketches were written by Mueller and Buckley last summer and refined since then in a weekly theater incubator.

“We’re giving you permission to laugh at all the things that society told you it was wrong to laugh at,” said Mueller. “You want to be safe? . . . stay at home.” You want intelligent comedy that’s a little bit dangerous? . . . come on in! Our humor is mostly dark and off-kilter, but it is all very funny.”

The club’s slogan is: “Sometimes we do comedy, sometimes we take over the world.”


“I guess this is what happens

in a world where we turn creative students loose in a room without windows,” said Thomas Hird, chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance.

“If anyone takes this seriously, heaven help us,” said Alden Reimonenq, dean of Cal State East Bay’s College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences.

Tickets are \$8 for general admission and \$5 for students. Tickets are available for purchase at the box office or by telephone. The box office will be open weekdays.

Due to innuendo and simulated violence, the show is not recommended for young children.

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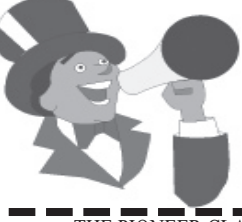
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