A&E

Thousands Pack Greek for Jazz Fest 2006 New 'John Tucker' Comedy a Flat Liner

By Rachel Lang

housands of jazzed up fans crowded into UC Berkeley's Greek theater Saturday to see legends like Chaka Khan and Stanley Clarke at the annual Berkeley Jazz Festival

This star-studded event brought people from all around the Bay Area together to be entertained throughout the entire nine-and-a-half hour event.

"It was so great," said Cheryl Lang, a 49-year-old attendee from Oakland. "I was having so much fun that I didn't even realize that we'd been there for so long."

The concert was sponsored by the Bay Area radio station KBLX and included performances by Khan, Will Downing, George Duke and Stanley Clarke, Norman Brown, Pieces of a Dream and Poncho Sanchez Latin Jazz Band.

At a calm 80 degrees, weather proved to be just as good as the entertainment-especially considering the heat wave the weekend before that sent dozens to the hospital for heat-related illnesses at a concert in Concord.

"I was worried last week that it would stay hot for this concert,"

said Cynthia Brown, a 41-year-old attendee. "But the weather was perfect.'

Last year's performers, which included Lalah Hathaway and Boney James, brought the audience to their feet dancing, and this vear's show seemed even more exciting.

"I loved Norman Brown," Lang said. "I was dancing through his entire show."

KBLX will also present next year's Berkeley Jazz Festival, which should once again continue the tradition of a fun-packed day filled with great music and dancing.

By Jimmy Cheatum Staff Write

he great trailers with funny scenes and hype that accompany "John Tucker Must Die" make most moviegoers want to head for the theater to spend \$10 for a movie ticket

Unfortunately, this picture is worth about \$2.50.

"John Tucker Must Die," rated PG-13 for sexual content and language, stars Jesse Metcalfe ("Smallville," "Desperate Housewives") and Brittney Snow ("American Dreams," "The Pacifier") in a story about three popular girls from competitive high school cliques who find out that they have dated the same guy—basketball captain and serial heartbreaker John Tucker.

The girls, Carrie (Arielle Kebbel), Heather (Ashanti) and Beth (Sophia Bush), conspire to get revenge on Tucker by pairing him romantically with someone who will break up with him deliberately in order to break his heart.

The girls find a fellow student, Kate (Snow), who they believe fits the scheme. Because Kate is eager to make friends with the girls, she agrees to the plan.

At this point, you already know what is going to happen next. And that, in a nutshell, is what's wrong with "John Tucker."

Eventually-to no one's surprise—Kate begins to fall for Tucker, causing a dilemma for her because of her loyalty to her three new friends. But this "surprise" development is something that viewers knew was going to happen all along.

The movie isn't completely bad, however. For example, Kate begins a friendship with her chemistry lab partner, Scott (Penn Badgley), who is John's younger brother. Scott begins to fall for Kate, but doesn't want to tell her how she really feels because he knows how much John likes Kate.

Another novel touch was casting Jenny McCarthy as Kate's mom, since a lot of the stars in this movie are relatively new to the movie world.

If you are a fan of "American Pie,' The New Guy" and other films of this ilk, this picture may appeal to you. For teenagers, this movie makes the grade; but for the older audience, it's not a hit that's going to catch any eyes.

Wait to rent the DVD; at least the price will be right.

Aces Draw Full House for 'Scapin the Cheat'

By Nimray Husain Staff Writer

S coring a full house at the High-land Theater at Cal State Fast land Theater at Cal State East Bay, 'Scapin the Cheat,' which ended its run last Friday, was a comedic hit.

Directed by Dawn Monique Williams and Ulises Alcala, this 60's rendition of a late 17th-century play written by Moliere was a delight for both adults and children alike.

The play, one of Moliere's bestliked, was put together by the Aces Wild Theater troupe and introduced the company's two new directors, Alcala and Williams

Aces Wild transports the setting of "Scapin" to London's swinging Carnaby Street in the 1960's. In a commedia inspired family farce about fathers, sons, abduction, love, money, the servant Scapin weaves a hilarious web of mistaken identities, double talk and deceit.

from abroad, Leander (David Toda) and Octavio (Alex Buckley) are both faced with the prospect of marrying two unknown women.

Since Leander has just proposed to a young gypsy, Zerbinette (Sarah Vincent), and Octavio has recently married Hiacinth (Rachel Throesch), they seek the help of the wily servant Scapin (Julie Brown) to resolve their problems.

Cast in the challenging and unrelenting role of Scapin, Brown comes from an extensive background in Japanese performance techniques including kabuki, kyogen, and butoh. The fusion of these physical the-

atre techniques with the commedia tradition is reason enough to see the play

Also in this internationally diverse and multicultural cast are Monica Santiago as the petrified assistant and April Rodriquez as Geronte.

On the return of their fathers Their performances highlight the humor and energy of this demanding play. Aces' core company is comprised

of professional and teaching artists, advanced university students, alumni, and community youth from CSUEB.

Williams, who earned a bachelor's degree in theater from CSUEB, is making her third trip to Europe with the university's performers, taking "Scapin the Cheat" to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland.

The entire cast will be paying their own way for the trip, assisted by generous donations from international tour sponsors, Mike and Lisa Schneider, John Manion, Mary Flynn, Tom and Nancy Hird. William Dinehart and others.

Williams said the company had chosen "Scapin" because CalState students had never produced a play by Moliere and there were no issues of copyright infringement with this particular translation.





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