

'Cloud 9' at CSUEB's Studio Theatre Nov. 16-18

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From "Cloud 9," (l-r) John Terrel, Kate McDermott, and Richard Tabor. (Photo by Sarah Vincent)"Cloud 9," a satire by British playwright Caryl Churchill that uses the absurd to illustrate how societal pressure dictates the roles that people live, will be performed in the Studio Theatre on the Hayward campus of California State University, East Bay, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Friday and Saturday, Nov. 9-10, and Friday through Sunday, Nov. 16-18.

The curtain rises for the Friday and Saturday performances at 8 p.m., with the Sunday show beginning at 2 p.m. Show tickets; at \$10 general for general admission; \$7 for alumni, students, and seniors; and \$5 for CSUEB students with ID card; are available by telephone at (510) 885-3118 or by e-mail at tickets@csueastbay.edu.

"Imagine colonial South Africa, but with men playing women, and the women playing men, in a funny, sexy, bawdy British burlesque style," said Darryl V. Jones, the play's director. "Then, fast-forward 100 years to London, same actors, but in different roles. Society has taken a giant leap forward, or, has it?"

Jones says the thought-provoking play is well suited to the Bay Area, and is an appropriate vehicle for illustrating the affects of time on society during this, the university's 50th anniversary year.

"The character archetypes in 'Cloud 9,' are prevalent and easily recognizable in our modern society," Jones said. "Some people find themselves trapped in roles that they reluctantly and discontentedly play, others-encouraged by the relative open-mindedness of the present time-defy norms and societal demands."

"Cloud 9" features Caitlin O'Leary of Pleasanton as Maud, Chris Celotti of Livermore as Harry Bagley and Gerry, Jocelyn Ugay of Union City as Pussycat Doll, John Terrell of Turlock as Clive and Martin, and Josh Ticas of San Francisco as Cathy and Pussycat Doll. Other major performers are: Kate McDermott of Turlock as Ellen, Mrs. Saunders, and Betty; Kim Steele of Compton as Joshua; Lindley Ross of Anchorage, Alaska as Victoria; Naomi De La Cruz of Upland as Lin; Reggie White of Upland as Harry Bagley; Richard Tabor of Alameda as Betty and Edward; Robert Inscho of Modesto as Edward; and Veronica Ventura of Fontana as Pussycast.

The show's crew is led by stage manager Adam Rabinovitz of Hayward, costumes are coordinated by Jesse Miller of Hayward, and lighting is being handled by Jason Butcher of Berkeley.

Tom Hird, chair of Cal State East Bay's Department of Theatre and Dance, said: "For me, the appeal of 'Cloud Nine' is in the extreme exaggeration. The show is both funny and thought-provoking because it really makes you consider how dehumanizing stereotyping can be when you want to laugh at very human frailties.

"We have some very talented students working hard to bring this play to life. Professor Jones directed our sold out performances of 'The Wiz' last year," Hird noted. "I hope the campus and community will be tempted to discover his dramatic talent in November."

Additional performance details are available online at: <http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/>^[1].