

Rock Musical 'Hair' at Univ. Theatre Until Aug. 19

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Cast members (l-r) Josh Ticas, Hannefah Hassan-Evans, Adriana Ramos, Brittany Harrington, Rodrick Stovall. "Hair," the 1960s rock musical, will be presented the next two weekends on the University Theatre stage of Cal State East Bay's Hayward campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., by the Highlands Summer Theatre.

Directed by A. Fajilan, "Hair" will be performed on Fridays and Saturdays, Aug. 10-18, beginning at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, Aug. 19, at 2 p.m. The show is rated PG-13 for language and content.

"CSUEB's production of 'Hair' celebrates the spirit of the '60s by embracing the joys and compassion of communal living," Fajilan said. "Our production clarifies the simplicity of the '60s' essential message: 'Make love, not war.'"

Tickets for the CSUEB production, at \$14 for general admission, \$12 senior/youth/alumni, and \$8 for CSUEB students, are available at via e-mail at tickets@csueastbay.edu or by telephone at (510) 885-3261 for reservations. Additional theatre information is available online at http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/Tickets_and_Box_Office_Information.php^[1].

"Hair" was originally produced by the New York Shakespeare Festival, then moved to Broadway's Biltmore Theatre where it completed a six-year New York run. The book and the musical's lyrics were written by Gerome Ragni and James Rado. The music was written by Galt MacDermot.

When it opened, the show's depiction of illegal drug use, sexuality, profanity, irreverence for the American flag, and nude scenes stirred comment and controversy. The musical broke new ground by defining the genre of the "rock musical," utilizing a racially integrated cast, and inviting the audience onstage for a "Be-in" finale.

Several of its songs became Top 40 hits, including "Let the Sun Shine In," "Good Morning Starshine," and "Easy to Be Hard."

"It has been enlightening for the students to see life through their parents' eyes and to discover how the '60s' idealism has begun to affect their current life view," Fajilan said. "The main motivation during our process has been 'At what point do you do something about the world around you?' We hope the soul of the '60s will find its way into our current, isolated, disconnected, wireless world of 2007, and remind us how utterly connected we truly are."

CSUEB welcomes persons with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodation upon request. Please notify event Highlands Summer Theatre by telephone at (510) 885-3118, at least two weeks in advance if a special accommodation is needed.