

Shakespeare's 'Much Ado' Through this Sunday

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William Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing", with the storyline set in the 1940s, will be presented the next two weekends on the University Theatre stage of Cal State East Bay's Hayward campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd.

The Highlands Summer Theatre production will be performed Fridays and Saturdays, July 27 and 28 and Aug. 3-4, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 5 at 2 p.m.

The story revolves around young lovers Hero and Claudio, who are to be married in one week. In the meantime, they conspire with Don Pedro to set a "lover's trap" for Benedick, an arrogant confirmed bachelor, and Beatrice, his favorite sparring partner. Meanwhile, the evil Don John conspires to break up the wedding by accusing Hero of infidelity. In the end, though, it all turns out to be "much ado about nothing."

The classic tale is directed by Melissa Hillman and Dawn Monique Williams, faculty members of the university's Department of Theatre and Dance.

"It's always my goal, when directing Shakespeare, to make it as accessible and entertaining as possible," said Hillman. "I think people lose track of just how much fun these plays can be.

"I'm always thrilled with the level of professionalism, dedication, and talent of CSUEB's Theatre Arts Department. It makes directing here a dream job. I think audiences will be amazed at the professional quality of the acting and design," Hillman added.

Tickets, at \$10 for general admission, \$7 for seniors/youth/alumni, and \$5 for CSUEB students, can be ordered via e-mail to tickets@csueastbay.edu, or by telephone (510) 885-3261 for reservations.

Additional information about the theatre productions and ticket information is available online at http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/Tickets_and_Box_Office_Information.php^[1].

Following "Much Ado About Nothing," the Highlands Summer Theatre will present the 1960s American musical "Hair" on Aug. 10, 11, 17, 18, and 19. The Friday and Saturday performances will begin at 8 p.m., with the lone Sunday performance starting at 2 p.m.

"Hair," directed by theatre and dance professor A. Fajilan, was called "a ritual, an ecstatic celebration, a protest, a happening, a comedy, and a tragedy" when it was performed in New York between 1967 and 1972.

Tickets for "Hair" are priced at \$14 general admission, \$12 for senior/youth/alumni, and \$8 for CSUEB students. They can be ordered via e-mail at tickets@csueastbay.edu.

CSUEB welcomes persons with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodation upon request. Those needing such assistance should call the University Theatre at (510) 885-3261 at least two weeks in advance of the performance date.