

'Mulan and Aladdin' to Take Audiences Global

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'Mulan' cast, top to bottom (l-r) Daniel Roberts, Kara Penrose, Justin Walker, Kate Pinedo, Lauriel Martinez, Kelly Boessetter, Cyndy Hardwick, Nancy Wong, Mo Her, Josh Ticas, Lindley Ross, David Ravnik, Naomi De La Cruz, Kim Steele, and Natascha Moulton. (Photo by Sarah Vincent)"Around the World with Mulan and Aladdin: A Holiday Magic Carpet Ride," created by students of California State University, East Bay, will take audiences of all ages around the globe on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 14 and 15.

"Mulan and Aladdin," a celebration of international folktales-with stage settings in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and North America-will be performed at 7 p.m. on Dec. 14, and at 3 and 7 p.m. on Dec. 15 in the University Theatre, on Cal State East Bay's Hayward campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd.

"The tour will touch on folktales and myths that reveal the essential holiday spirit of compassion, kindness and gratitude, as told by talking and singing animals, creepy villains and brave warriors," said Ann Fajilan, director of the production and assistant professor of theatre and dance. "This community collaborative will feature a multitude of performers of all ages, talents and cultures."

As is tradition, this family production also will be performed for school-age groups that have made advanced arrangements to attend morning performances Monday, Dec. 17 through Thursday, Dec. 20.

"Audiences can expect an international holiday experience," said Thomas Hird, chair of Cal State East Bay's Theatre and Dance Department.

The production's cast includes Natascha Moulton of San Leandro; Jocelyn Ugay of Union City; Kate Pinedo of Brawley; Justin Walker of Memphis, Tenn.; Daniel Roberts of Newark; Ryan Macasero of Antioch; Chelsea Colbert of Walnut Creek; Lindley Ross of Anchorage, Alaska; Laurial Martinez of Ogden, Utah; Nancy Wong of Carmichael; Kelly Erikson of Castro Valley; Kim Steele of Compton; and Naomi De La Cruz of Upland.

Fajilan said she wanted "an inclusive showcase that spoke to everyone about the essential gifts" of the holiday season.

"I hope to open everyone's eyes and hearts to the global community and help us realize how utterly connected we are and affected by everyone's actions, no matter the legalese, political policies or media blackouts," Fajilan said.

Tickets for "Mulan" are on sale at \$8 for general admission; \$6 for alumni, students, and seniors; \$4 for CSUEB students; and \$20 for a family of two adults and two children. They are available via e-mail at tickets@csueastbay.edu or by telephone at (510) 885-3118. Additional information is available online at <http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/>^[1].