

Performances of 'The Wiz' Begin This Weekend

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"The Wiz," the toe-tapping musical adaptation of the "Wizard of Oz," will be performed during the first two weekends of March in the University Theatre on the Hayward campus of California State University, East Bay, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, March 2, 3, 9 and 10, and Sunday, March 11. Curtain call for the Friday and Saturday shows is at 8 p.m., while Sunday's begins at 2 p.m.

Audiences will have the opportunity to "Ease On Down The Road" with Dorothy and Toto, as they encounter a hip-hop Scarecrow, a salsa dancing Tin Man, and a leaping Lion, all performed by a diverse cast reflecting the East Bay population, according to Darryl V. Jones, assistant professor of theatre and dance, who is the show's director.

"This award-winning Broadway musical is loaded with heart, soul and plenty of funky music," said Jones, who works closely on the production with choreographer Laura Ellis, a lecturer in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

"Universality of theme and an open-ended location are marks of a timeless story," said Tom Hird, chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance. "People who see our 'Wiz' will recognize our community and the importance to the whole Bay Area of messages found in songs like 'Home' and 'Believe in Yourself.' 'The Wiz' is a fun musical. We are having fun doing it. People will have fun watching."

Tickets, at \$14 for general admission, \$10 for youth and seniors, and \$8 for CSUEB students, are available at (510) 885-3261.

The CSUEB Alumni Association and Friends of the Arts will host a reception from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre, also on the Hayward campus, prior to the opening performance. Tickets to that event are available at 510-885-2877.

The musical is a program of the Department of Theatre and Dance, which is part of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences