



Animal Yackers: Charlotte's Web cast members Nancy Wong, Brian Turner, Tatiana Soriano, Seth Thygesen and Aileen Castillo Millikin.

Photos/ Ben Ailes

"Charlotte's Web" Is Spun by CSUEB Thespians

Pioneer Staff Report

Local residents who may have missed the recently released film of "Charlotte's Web" now have an opportunity to see a live action version of the tale right in their own backyard.

Cal State East Bay's Theatre and Dance Department will be staging its own production of E.B. White's classic children's story at the University Theatre tomorrow and Saturday.

The play will be directed by A. Fajilan, who said of the production, "Children of all ages will find something to smile about."

White, a prolific author perhaps best known for his popular guide to writing, "Elements of Style," wrote the book on which the play is based in 1952. "Charlotte's Web" went on to become the best-selling children's book of all time.

The tale, described by its author as "a story of friendship and salvation on a farm," has formed the basis for two feature length movies, an animated film released in 1973 and last year's version—a combination of live-action and computer animation.

"This is only Fajilan's first year, but already I see her inspiring students and faculty alike to wonderful and imaginative ideas for her shows," said Thomas Hird, the chair of CSUEB's Department of Theatre

and Dance.

The CSUEB version of the play will feature puppets and live actors ranging in age from children to those in their sixties.

"I'm sure children will enjoy the playful puppets and 'climbing Charlotte' the cast and crew are creating for our unique production," Hird said.

Performances have been scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday night in the University Theatre, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. In addition, a matinee performance

is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Benjamin Bowser, the interim dean of the College of Letters and Social Sciences, calls the production "A magical play that will hook you and any young person on theater."

"Turn off the television and come see the real thing," Bowser said.

Ticket prices are \$7 general admission, \$6 for youth and seniors, \$5 for CSUEB students, \$3 for children, and \$16 for a family of up to two adults and two children. Tickets and information are available by calling (510) 885-3261.

Cal State East Bay Jazz Combos Take First and Third in Reno Jazz Festival

Pioneer Staff Report

Despite the small size of the music department at Cal State East Bay, students walked away with high honors and first place awards from the Reno Jazz Festival last weekend.

The Jazz Festival is the largest competition of its kind on the West Coast. Performance categories included Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo.

CSUEB Jazz Combo 1 took first place among four-year colleges and Jazz Combo 2 took third. Both performed under the direction of Dann Zinn.

CSUEB Jazz Ensemble took first place and the Jazz Workshop fourth place. The Jazz Ensemble and Workshop were directed by Dave Eshelman.

"This was a clean sweep. CSUEB won first prize in every collegiate category: soloists, big band and combos," said Frank La Rocca, music department chair.

"This is remarkable in itself, but when you consider our small size as a department relative to other campuses, this is nothing less than extraordinary. But then, jazz has a long history of excellence at CSUEB. Bravo to all our students!"

Carlos McCoy, a senior liberal studies major, was named Outstanding College Saxophonist and Tommy

Folen, a senior music major, was named Outstanding College Rhythm Section Performer.

"My hat is off to the CSU East Bay Jazz Ensemble members. The judges

The Jazz Festival is the largest competition of its kind on the West Coast.

commented that they played with such sensitivity and musicianship that they definitely stood out from the competition. The band received two scores of 99 (out of 100) and one of 97. That's a first for our jazz program. Congrats to the band," said Eshelman.

Faculty in the music department will be holding a fund-raising concert for the CSUEB Jazz Ensemble's upcoming Summer 2007 European Tour. Money raised will go to help CSUEB jazz students perform at major jazz festivals in Europe.

The faculty concert will be held Sunday at 3 p.m. Performers will include Zinn on woodwinds and Eshelman on trombone.

The performance will be in the Studio Theatre. Tickets are available in the Music Resource Center in MB2047 and cost \$10. For more information call 510 885-3167.



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