

# New X-Box Elite Instant Wii Play

By Ryan Hoster  
Staff Writer

When the X-Box 360 was released in November 2005, it was the first system to have every title available in high-definition with Dolby Digital sound, and to offer some sort of online capability.

Now, 17 months later, Microsoft is outdoing itself. The X-Box 360 Elite is planned for release on April 29. The system, controller and headset will all be black, while the previous X-Box 360 and accessories were all white. The Elite will also sport a hard drive six times bigger than the original and the unit will come equipped with a high definition multimedia interface (HDMI) port, which was not available in the older versions.

The new system is expected to sell for \$479.99. While gamers have said they wanted a bigger hard drive and an HDMI port for their gaming experiences, it appears Microsoft is upgrading the system to allow it to handle all entertainment, not just games.

The X-Box 360 was designed to handle some media. It can load pictures, music and play some video content. Microsoft also expanded the system's abilities by adding an online video library. For a price, users can download movies and television shows, some even in high definition.

Additionally, Microsoft released a HD-DVD drive add-on component for the system, which allows users to play high-definition DVDs on their X-Box 360.

The upgraded system will allow for better playback of high-definition content on some televisions and prepare the unit to be a television receiver. Just as satellite and digital cable replaced standard cable, a new technology known as internet protocol television (IPTV) is expected to soon replace the older technologies.

Like digital cable or satellite, IPTV will require a set-top box for each television, and the additions to the X-Box 360 will allow it to act as that set-top box. Users will be able to watch television through their system, and—just as with TiVo—even record shows onto the hard drive.

Despite the added benefits the system will offer, not everyone is pleased with the new version. Many people who already own an X-Box 360 have been saying they wish their unit had these features, especially the HDMI port. However, the port is built into the new Elite system, meaning that current owners can't add it on to their older units and will have to purchase a whole new system.

Although Microsoft has mentioned nothing about a trade-up program, that doesn't mean it won't happen. Since the release of the X-Box 360, they have listened to what the gamers want, and tried to incorporate those features.

But when you want everyone to use your system for everything, it makes it impossible to keep everyone smiling.

By Sophia Tong  
Staff Writer

Three of the four top-selling games in February happened to belong to Nintendo, one of them is Wii Play, a follow up to Wii Sports.

It has been challenging for some to get their hands on the console. Even more frustrating is that the Wii-remotes and nunchuck attachments are hard to find as well.

Luckily, Wii Play comes with its own Wii-remote and includes mini-games that seem to be geared toward honing players' Wii-remote skills rather than making them break out into a sweat.

The reason Wii Play is selling so well is most likely due to the fact it comes with a Wii-remote and people are hoping it will be as engaging as Wii Sports.

Wii Play is only a two-player game, making it less of a party game, but it can still be entertaining playing with a friend. Many of the games require patience and skill, so it is not like Wii Sports, where people are screaming at each other while boxing or playing tennis.

The game comes with nine mini-games with only one available to players at the start. Playing through each game allows you to unlock the next one until they're all unlocked.

Some of the mini-games include a shooting game, a Where's Waldo-type game as well as table tennis, billiards, fishing and laser (air) hockey.

A mini-game worth mentioning is the cow racing game. Players hold the Wii-remote sideways and tilt it forward to get their cow to run. The goal is to hit as many scarecrows as you can. Players have a distinct advantage as long as they stay in front of their opponent since they get to hog all the scarecrows. There is a good sense of speed and some mild chaos involved, which makes this one a personal favorite.

There is a tank game which is the most involved mini-game players will come across in Wii Play. A player and a partner have to take out the enemy tanks using the nunchuck—which unfortunately doesn't come with the bundle—to steer, as well as the Wii-remote to fire. It's also the only game that has multiple levels to clear and provides a decent challenge.

It didn't take very long to play through the set of nine games. There were a handful of games that were fun to play more than once, but after a while, one will want to move on to something else.

Since Wii Play comes with a Wii-remote, it really turns out to be a \$10 game, which is worth it if one is having a hard time finding a Wii-remote separately.

“17 months later, Microsoft is outdoing itself.”



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## Getting to Know You

# Regina Cate Is No Drama Queen

By Marie Arcidiacono  
Staff Writer

Quick-witted, energetic, and fiery are three words that can be used to describe Cal State East Bay's Regina Cate.

Cate, a professor in the Theatre and Dance Department, isn't a stranger to CSUEB, as she has been teaching here since 1978.

She also is not a stranger to the CSU system, as she is a product of the system herself. Cate, who went to high school in Chico, graduated with a Bachelor's of Arts in English from Chico State. She was, she said, "a typical college student."

After graduating from Chico, Cate enrolled at Stanford University where she received a Master of Fine Arts degree.

Along the way Cate got married. The Cates have been married for almost 40 years, and Cate says they are still best friends.

Cate has a daughter who currently lives in New York with her new husband and Cate tries to visit as often as possible.

Cate currently resides in Oakland with her husband, although she lived in San Francisco for over 30 years before moving.

She still enjoys visiting The City. "When (Cate) said she liked to visit The City I almost died," said CSUEB sophomore Ashley Warn, who had Cate her freshman year. "How many professors refer to San Francisco as The City?" Warn said.

Cate likes to go to The City for special occasions, the opera being one of them.

For Cate, the opera is a chance to see something new, and go out for a nice steak. One of her favorite steak

houses is Ruth's Chris because it's the closest to a New York steak you can get in the Bay Area.

Cate is young at heart and engages in activities that keep her that way.

She likes to draw and paint and tries to go cross country skiing at least once or twice a year.

"My husband's not very athletic so cross country skiing is something we can both enjoy," Cate said.

Although she likes to ski, she has zero interest in snowboarding, claiming, "I don't want to break my neck!"

Cate has a knack for adventure and for her all the world really is a stage.

While Cate has performed on the stage, she usually works behind the scenes.

One of her passions is costume design and you may have seen some of her many creations at any of the CSUEB theater plays.

Cate enjoys doing the research necessary to make sure the costumes are as creative and interesting as possible.

"I like to read the play, or listen to the music and figure it out in my head," she said.

While she enjoys the creative process of design, her least favorite

activity is the dress rehearsal.

Along with designing the costumes for many CSUEB plays, Cate brings her love for the theater to her students.

She is a professor in the Ancient World Cluster (AWC), in which she teaches freshmen about Ancient World Theater.

A student from the AWC claimed that Cate kept the class going with her dramatic flair when it came to bringing plays like "Women of Troy" alive.

One thing she likes about the cluster system is that it is broken down into different elements, which allow her to focus solely on the play itself, and not the history behind it.

According to Cate, it is the students and especially the diversity of the students at CSUEB that keep her coming back year after year.

Cate loves to see student-written plays, and said they never cease to amaze her.

If you're interested in trying your hand at theater design, costume or makeup design, make sure you sign up for one of Cate's classes. You never know, the stage might be a good place to call home.

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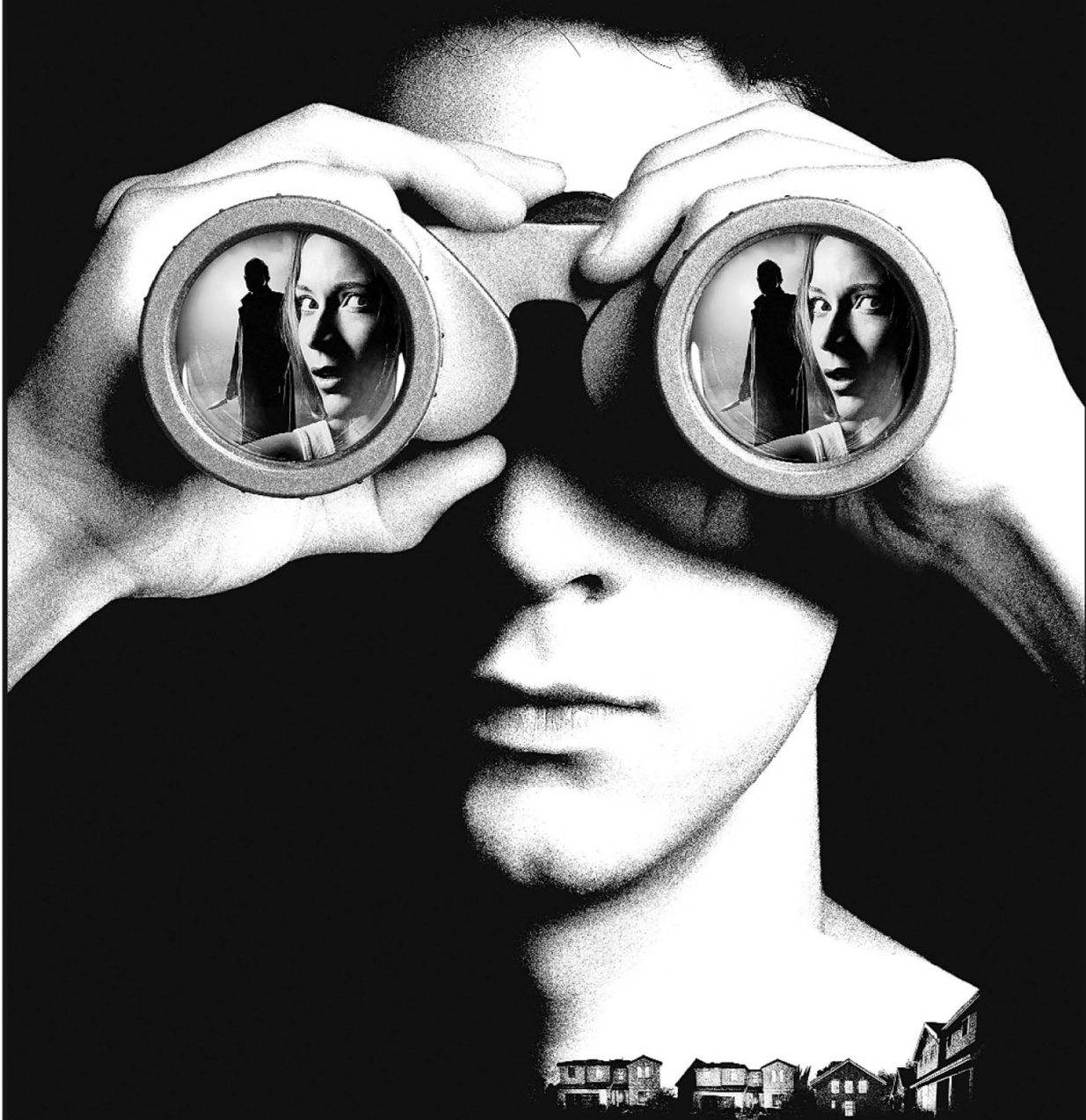
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