

Summer Theatre Features 'Godspell' in August

- **June 30, 2008**
- **MEDIA CONTACT: Diane Daniel; Publicist; College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences; (510) 885-3183**

"Anna Bella Eema" and "Godspell" are diverse theatrical productions to be presented by the Department of Theatre and Dance at California State University, East Bay this summer through its Highlands Summer Theatre, which casts its own students and others from throughout the community.

"Anna Bella Eema," a ghost story for three bodies with three voices, will be performed at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 25-26, in the Studio Theatre on Cal State East Bay's Hayward Campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd. Tickets will be priced at \$10 for general admission; \$7 for youth ages 3 to 18, seniors 55 and older, and alumni (with alumni I.D. card); and \$5 for CSUEB students. Following those two performances the show and its cast moves to Scotland, where it will perform in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

"It is a haunting and beautiful glimpse of the fierce mother and daughter bond shared between ten-year-old Anna Bella and her reclusive mother Irene," according to Dawn Monique Williams, the show's director. "Living in a ratty trailer slated for demolition, Anna must force her mother to deal with the world outside. In this moment of crisis, Anna Bella creates a new girl out of mud. This mud-girl helps Anna Bella and Irene channel the supernatural and face the life they now must live.

"This is a richly imagined tale of a fierce mother-daughter bond, spoken and sung by three women," Williams said.

A new take on "Godspell" will be staged in the University Theatre, located in the same building as the Studio Theatre. It will be performed on consecutive Friday and Saturday evenings, Aug. 8-9 and 15-16, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, Aug. 17 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$14 for general admission; \$12 for youth 3 to 18, seniors 55 and older, and alumni (with alumni I.D. card); and \$8 for CSUEB students.

Darryl V. Jones, "Godspell" director said: "This version of Stephen Schwartz's "Godspell" will not be your grandmother's. Updated, bold and gritty, this production journeys into the real world of the disenfranchised - the lost children of the streets."

Tickets may be reserved online at http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/Ticket_Reservations.php^[1] Further details on any theatre or dance event at Cal State East Bay is available at <http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/>^[2] or by telephone at (510) 885-3118.

Campus parking is free from 5 p.m. on Fridays until 8 a.m. on Mondays.

Cal State East Bay welcomes persons with disabilities and provides reasonable accommodation upon request. Individuals requiring these special accommodations should call (510) 885-3118 at least two weeks in advance to make such arrangements.