



Fall arts events present fresh takes on classics

- September 3, 2009. Diane Daniel, CLASS Publicist, (510) 885-3183

Contemporary twists on long-standing traditions will dominate leading arts offerings at California State University, East Bay during fall quarter. From an original play informed by Shakespearean influences to modern teaware vessels inspired by 500-year-old Chinese pottery production methods, expect a fresh take on classic approaches from the university's students and faculty members.

In August 2002, four soldiers returned to Fort Bragg, N.C., from active duty in Afghanistan. Within five weeks, each had murdered his wife. Cal State East Bay will open the fall 2009 theatre and dance season Nov. 13 with "The Iago Syndrome," an original drama by Assistant Professor Marc Jacobs exploring how stress and jealousy can turn deadly, a contemporary parallel to the behavior of Iago in Shakespeare's "Othello."

"We offered a classical production last summer with 'Romeo and Juliet,' now we take a contemporary look at a Shakespearean theme," said Thomas Hird, chair of theatre and dance.

CSUEB theater production choices are based on student needs and customarily rotate between contemporary, experimental and classical approaches, Hird explained.

Later in the season, "Ice," an annual preview of senior project pieces for the first time will include contributions by music-theatre students, as well as those in dance and drama. "Ring the Bells for Change," another original work, will wrap up the fall season with whimsical stories of kindness, compassion and forgiveness in the annual pre-holiday youth theatre show that opens Dec. 11 and is available for day-time, group bookings between Dec. 14 and 18.

- The world premiere of *The Iago Syndrome*, a play written and directed by Marc Jacobs, with choreography by Nina Haft and original music by Rafael Hernandez, will perform at 8 p.m. Nov. 13-14 and 20-21 and at 2 p.m. Nov. 21 in the University Theatre. Admission will be \$15 general; \$10 youth (3-18), seniors (55+), and alumni; and \$5 for CSUEB students.
- *Ice*, a dance and song extravaganza produced by Nina Haft, Eric Kupers, and the CSUEB dance faculty with the Show Choir produced and directed by Darryl V. Jones, will perform three times: Program A: 7 p.m. Dec. 4, Program B: 4 p.m. Dec. 5, and Program C: 8 p.m. Dec. 5, all in the Dance Studio (PE 140). Admission will be \$5 general, or \$3 to CSUEB students.
- *Ring the Bells for Peace*, original works by local and student playwrights, directed by A. Fajilan and Eric Kupers, performs at 8 p.m. Dec. 11 and 3 and 7 p.m. Dec. 12 in the University Theatre. Admission will be \$10 general; \$6 children (12 and under), seniors (55+), alumni; and \$5 for CSUEB students. Call for special family rate.