



Shaedah Deal, left of Berkeley, and  
Hannefah Hassan-Evans, Oakland.  
(Photo: Ben Ailes)

## 'Fusion' showcases theatre-dance student works

- May 13, 2009. Diane Daniel, CLASS Publicist, 510-885-3183

"Performance Fusion," California State University, East Bay's annual culminating projects performance by theatre and dance majors, continues June 5-6 with cutting-edge artistry and ideas in stage scenes, one-act plays (some written by the students themselves) and original dance pieces, blending comedy, farce, dance and music. Performances will be at 8 p.m. both days at the University Theatre, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward.

"The students this year represent an extremely talented group of actors, writers, directors and choreographers. In fact, several directors are donning other hats and acting in their fellow directors' projects," said Assistant Professor Marc Jacobs, who is producing the programs with fellow theatre-dance faculty Nina Haft and Thomas Hird.

Haft said, "This year the Fusion class is working like a repertory company – acting, dancing and directing each other in a suite of diverse, powerful pieces about love, relationships, family and spiritual challenges. These pieces will make you laugh, cry, move and wonder."

The performance will feature original dance pieces choreographed by Shaedah Deal, Corinne Leon and Kate Pinedo. Deal's "Every Moment" combines dance and the spoken word to portray a mother's journey as she raises her four African American sons. Leon's energetic and fast-paced "From Above a Rain of Ashes" looks at a woman's struggle with depression, and her journey to wholeness. Pinedo's "Forbidden Trust," in the style of musical theatre, concerns Azita, a princess whose royal parents tragically misunderstand her love for the slave Ito. The program also includes the original play "Vetro Wireless," a farce about two phone salespeople who will do anything to make a sale, written and directed by Phuong Hoang; and "Faces," directed by Ericka Wells, about a young woman finding her destiny.

Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 youth/senior/alum, or \$5 for CSUEB students. They may be reserved at [http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/Ticket\\_Reservations.php](http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/Ticket_Reservations.php)<sup>[5]</sup> or 510-885-3118.

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