



The Giver'

Youth theatre production of 'The Giver' opens Friday

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"The Giver," a production based on a Newbery Award-winning children's book that is required reading in many California middle schools, opens Friday on the California State University, East Bay stage.

Performances will be at 7 p.m. May 1 and 8, and at 3 and 7 p.m. May 2 and 9 in the University Theatre, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. School groups also may arrange for daytime shows the week of May 11-15.

This coming of age story, adapted by Eric Coble and directed by Assistant Professor A. Fajilan, is set in a futuristic society of sameness, where life thrives without the messiness of emotional memories, and The Giver is the only one privy to this truth.

"I chose this play to address a disconnect that I see in our world. There is a growing gap in our communication that cuts us off from love, compassion and empathy. In our rush to accumulate, we no longer nurture or even explore emotional life," Fajilan said.

Theatre and Dance Professor and Chair Thomas Hird adds, "For me it is the inspiring story of a boy who rejects a scary and impersonal world in hopes of finding something better and saving an innocent life. If we are in an era of change, people will appreciate that this play speaks to the exhilaration of searching for a better world."

Tickets to the CSUEB performance are \$8 general, \$6 youth (age 13-18), seniors (55+) and alumni, and \$4 for CSUEB students and children under 12. They may be reserved at <http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/>^[5], or by calling 510-885-3118.

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