



Performing in 'Tongues' are, from left, Justin Sharlman, Kate Pinedo and Mickey Kay. (Photo: Ben Ailes)

'Tongues' on University Theatre Stage Feb. 8

January 31, 2009

Before Cal State East Bay's theatre company production of "Tongues" heads to Southern California to perform in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival at California State University, Fullerton, CSUEB audiences will have an opportunity to preview it at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8. That preview will take place on CSUEB's Hayward campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., in the University Theatre.

"Tongues" is a dance/theatre/music show written by Sam Shephard and Joseph Chaikin and directed by Eric Kupers, a member of the Cal State East Bay faculty. It will be performed at Cal State Fullerton Feb. 13 and 14.

"Tongues" is performed with a multi-racial, intergenerational, physically integrated cast of dancers, actors and musicians - with and without disabilities - and investigates a flood of memories, emotions and insights during one man's last moments of life.

"I'm thrilled to be remounting 'Tongues' in both the Bay Area and Southern California," said Kupers. "There are so many different influences, artistic forms and groups of people converging in the work that we weren't aware of how powerful it would be until it all came together at show time. Now we get to delve deeper and more expansively this second run into the profound subject matter of mortality, facing the unknown and acknowledging the diverse voices that make up who we are."

Thomas Hird, professor of theatre and dance and the department chair, said: "One inspirational aspect of this dance theatre interpretation of 'Tongues' is Professor Kuper's wheelchair choreography. You have to see it to know what I mean. Kupers has been teaching mixed ability dance for several years and wants to expand to a full degree or option in inclusive dance. See 'Tongues' and you will discover more evidence that disability is no barrier to artistic performance."

Tickets to the preview are \$10 for general admission; \$7 for youth (ages 3-18), senior citizens (55 and older) and alumni; and \$5 for CSUEB students. Tickets can be reserved online at <http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/>^[5], or by calling 510-885- 3118. Parking is \$5 per vehicle per day.

CSUEB welcomes persons with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodation upon request. Persons needing special accommodation should notify the event sponsor by calling (510) 885-3118 in advance. A campus parking fee of \$5 per vehicle per day is enforced at all times. Machines in lots take dollars and quarters.

Tickets to the Feb. 13-14 performances at Fullerton are available by registering for a festival day pass at <http://www.kcactf-8.org/Registration2.html>^[6].