

Romeo and Juliet: The two lovers share a passionate kiss.

Photo/Melanie Crawford

Modern Shakespeare

BY KATHRYN BUKER Staff Writer

omeo and Juliet" hit the stage this week at the Cal State East Bay theatre under the direction of Melissa Hillman, coming to life in modern day society with all actors dressed in 2009 fashions.

The actors took on the roles that Shakespeare developed so many years ago. The lines were not delivered in iambic pentameter, but in the speech cadences of today's society.

Romeo, played by UCLA student Jack Sale, wore a flannel shirt and jeans and gave a passionate rendition of the hopeless romantic, wanting nothing more than to find his love.

Juliet, played by Bay Area resident Luisa Frasconi, always wore light-hearted sundresses, giving the character a much more childlike feel.

Most unexpected was the part of Mercutio, which was played by CSUEB graduate and theater major Roberta Inscho. Mercutio, who is normally played by a male, was portrayed by a female in Hillman's production and with great success. Inscho stole the show with her crazy antics and enthusiastic line delivery, portraying the character of Mercutio with a new and compelling

fight scenes and interesting stage movement, never leaving the audience bored.

The fight scenes, instructed by fight director Dave Maier, not only contained intense combat but also gave the illusion of blood, making different charac-

The scenery, while simple, was not overlooked. Basic stairs

talent, not too overbearing but also keeping the audience in-

parts of this production was the on stage.

Shakespeare can be hard to understand, but with help from Hillman and the CSUEB cast, Shakespeare is enjoyable and

Additional performances will tickets are only \$5 for students.

Create Your Own

The show had intriguing

ters' deaths more believable.

led to Juliet's balcony and used a rotating wall to make different sets (including the background to Juliet's room) added an interesting element.

The cast exerted a laid back trigued.

One of the most exciting music between scenes-each song goes with what is taking place on stage at that time and keeps the audience glued to the show even when no one is

accessible.

be August 14, 15 and 16, and

A Journey Through Evolution

Staff Writer

ourney fans rocked out in Danville's upscale Blackhawk Plaza as the city continued its 2009 Summer Concert Series Aug. 7 with the San Franciscobased Journey tribute band, Evo-

As Danville residents poured into the plaza in huge numbers, they filled the aquatic-landscaped seating area and overflowed into walkways. They took seats on rocks and brush areas while others crowded staircases and storefronts as the band played in the only non-walkable area—on a stage above the pond.

Their unique blend of talent lived up to their predecessor with charismatic stage presence and a true understanding for entertaining the crowd. With mic-stand air-guitaring and flashy dance moves from the bassist and guitarist, Evolution emphasized the energy and professionalism that Journey has brought to their sold-out crowds for decades.

'Although they don't look like Journey, they sound dead-on," said Gregg Dearden, 53, as he remembered Journey concerts he had attended as a young adult.

Although the outdoor concert only lasted an hour, Evolution was still able to pound-out signature Journey ballads such as "Wheel in the Sky," "Faithfully," "Any Way You Want It," and "Lovin,' Touchin,' Squeezin'," as their encore.

However, to many people's surprise they did not play one classic—'Don't Stop Believing.'

"How do you not play 'Don't Stop Believing?'" said Jake Croghan, 25. "It is such an epic song and everyone knows and loves it. It is a must for a cover

The band, which derives their name from Journey's multi-platinum fifth studio album, was formed in late 2004 by lead guitarist Jerrol Reavis, alongside Myron Edwins on Bass, Greg Mc-Culley on keyboards, Don "the rocket" Stephenson on drums,



Evolution: Bassist Myron Edwins of Evolution, a Journey tribute band, performs in Danville.

Courtesy/Evolution

and vocalist John Siino, according to the band's website.

Voted back-to-back 2006 and 2007 Top Tribute Band in Northern California on 98.5 KFOX's Greg Kihn Show, it's no wonder why this cover band is a musthave for any summer festival or street fair across the Bay Area; however, some fans wondered why they had never heard of them before.

"These guys are really good," said Christina Nicora, 25. "But I have never heard of them or seen them perform before. You think

they would be a little more popu-

The Summer Concert Series, which takes place in Blackhawk Plaza, features free performances every Friday night from July to August and showcases diverse music from R&B, Motown and Retro Pop, according to their website.

Performances start at 7 p.m. with seating beginning promptly at 5 p.m. For more information and performance line-ups check out shopblackhawkplaza.com.

A Film With Joie De Vivre

BY BRIANNA HEADSTEN

Staff Writer

oodies and fans of Julia Child lined up Aug. 7 to see "Julie & Julia," a film based on Julie Powell's blog and book of the same name, and Julia Child's memoir, "My Life in France."

"Julie & Julia" follows Julie Powell (Amy Adams), a woman who sets out to complete every recipe from Julia Child's "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" in 365 days.

She blogs about both her successes and struggles as she tries to complete the 524 recipes in the classic cookbook.

Over the course of the movie sion for cooking and works toward turning it into a career. With the support of loving husbands—and with family and friends encouraging them along the way-they are able to experience success.

The movie seamlessly interweaves the two women's lives. Powell's story was set in Queens. New York in 2002 and Child's in 1950s Paris. Both lives ran parallel to each other. However, I did



Photo/Courtesy of Columbia Pictures

not think the story was explored as fully as it could have possibly been.

Meryl Streep, who completely captured Julia Child in every way, did an excellent job. Her voice perfectly mimicked Child's unique tone as well as her mannerisms and off-beat charm. Through special sets and camera angles, Streep also appeared to tower over her fellow actors in order to replicate Child's six foot two inch frame.

Personally. I would have been more interested in seeing Streep portray Child's life in a biopic, as the movie ended with Julia finally getting her book published. The years that Julia Child spent cooking on her own television show were just barely touched upon.

Child's relationship with her husband, Paul Child, played by Stanley Tucci, was a nice addition to the movie, though it could have been developed more fully. Their bond and continuous support was endearing.

Amy Adams did a nice job of portraying Powell as a sweet, slightly lost woman turning 30. The audience wasn't emotionally invested enough in her story to broke down out of frustration or had an argument with her husband, it was uncomfortable, but not so much so that we felt bad for the character.

I think the movie is worth seeing for Streep's portrayal of Julia Child alone. At the very least, it will inspire you to go home and cook a nice meal, or for those of us not inclined to Child's culinary abilities, go out and enjoy one. Bon Appétit!

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