



Mise en Scène

Volume 4, Issue 1

Summer 2013

FYI

- VOLUNTEER**
 We are always seeking volunteers. If you are interested please call the Theatre and Dance office at 510-885-3118.
- ATTENTION ALUMNI**
 Please fill out the catch up survey at <http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/Alumni.php>

Greetings

Welcome to the CSUEB Department of Theatre and Dance's e-newsletter, "Mise en Scène." We will be publishing a newsletter a few times a year to keep you in the loop on all the exciting things happening within and around our dynamic department.



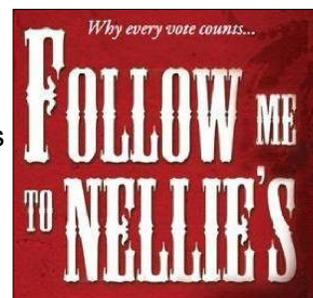
Please keep in touch with us and let us know if you're doing something that should be included here.

IN THIS ISSUE

FALL PREMIERE	1-2
ALUMNI NEWS	3
STUDENT NEWS	3
FOA SCHOLARSHIPS	4-5
FACULTY NEWS	5
GENERAL NEWS	6

Follow Me to Nellie's premiere!

The new drama with music won the annual Premiere Stages Play Festival Competition in New Jersey and was produced by the festival to outstanding reviews. *Follow Me to Nellie's* will receive its West Coast premiere in November at Cal State East Bay under the direction of Darryl V. Jones.



"I'm from Detroit," says Morisseau, "so my family would often drive to Natchez to visit my great-grandmother and my aunt. Great-grandma lived in a small house, while my aunt lived next door in a big house." The extra space was needed to accommodate the employees and customers who came to Nellie Jackson's from the '30s to the '80s. Morisseau learned the truth about the house when she was around 11. "Aunt Ainee, as we called her, was about to take a boat trip, and I was surprised how many people came down to see her off," says Morisseau. "When I asked my cousin about it — my older cousin who always loved to take any opportunity to teach me about life — she said, 'Ainee's a madam.' Somehow — I don't know how — I knew what that meant." It gave new meaning to the T-shirt that Ainee had given young Morisseau: *Follow Me to Nellie's*. Not only did the law look the other way, but Natchez residents didn't spurn Nellie. "This was especially remarkable for a black woman who owned her own business in the segregated South," says Morisseau.

Fall 2013**FOLLOW ME TO NELLIE'S***A play by Dominique Morriseau***November 15 & 16, 22 & 23 @ 8 PM****November 24 @ 2 PM****ICE/ICE—X***Student dance pieces***December 6 @ 8PM****December 7 @ 4 PM & 8PM****ALICE IN WONDERLAND***An adaptation by theatre genius Andre Gregory***December 13 @ 8 PM, December 14 & 15 @ 2 PM****BOX OFFICE
INFO**

Phone line:

510-885-3261

Email :

tickets@csueastbay.edu**PURCHASE IN ADVANCE:**On the Hayward campus at
the Book Store.**Follow Me to Nellie's Con't**

"The reason people loved her is because she took care of so many of them. Nellie paid hospital bills for those who couldn't pay them. She put some of her working girls through college. During the civil rights movement, she supported activists and posted bail when she had to — and that's the issue I've focused on."

The play begins in 1955, when Rollo, Nellie's right-hand man, brings Ossie, an activist, to the house to hide him. He becomes infatuated with the blues singing beauty Na Rose, who, of the four women who live in the house, is the only one who isn't a prostitute. "Nellie got her when she was a baby and brought her up as her own daughter," Morriseau says. "That she isn't asked to work rankles the other women, especially one named Marla. Still, there are bigger issues in store for all of them."

This is not the first time director Jones and playwright Morriseau have worked together. "Dominique was my student in the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Theatre Department. She was an outstanding young actress at the time and I cast her in several productions. But I remember her love for poetry and spoken word was already calling her to be a playwright," says Jones. "As I recall she was already entering playwriting competitions and winning." Since that time, Dominique went on to become a Public Theatre Emerging Writer's Group Fellow and a member of the Women's Project Playwright Lab. She is a Jane Chambers Playwriting Award honoree and a two-time NAACP Image Award recipient. In March of this year her play *Detroit '67* opened at The Public theatre in New York in collaboration with the Classical Theatre of Harlem and The National Black Theatre.

"Dominique has already shown great interest in the Cal State East Bay theatre students. She has mentored several via phone interviews and has permitted them to do scenes from her plays at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. The students are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with the playwright and be the first to bring the play to life here in the Bay Area," Jones proudly boasts. "The cast will also include at least one local professional guest artists still to be announced." This is a must see event at Cal State East Bay!

Where: California State University East Bay University Theatre

When: November 15, 16, 22, 23 at 8:00PM – November 24 at 2:00PM

How much: \$15 General/ \$10 Youth (age 3-18), Seniors (60+), and Alumni/\$5 CSUEB Students

Alumni News!

News from Caitlin O'Leary, '10

Since graduating 3 years ago, I have been actively, and consistently, performing in shows around the Bay Area. From Walnut Creek to San Francisco and down to San Jose, I have had the opportunity to work with some amazing actors and directors, and wonderful companies. Last year, I starred in the West Coast Premier of "9 to 5: THE MUSICAL" in the roll of Violet Newstead. Most recently, I performed at the historic Eureka theatre in San Francisco with Ray of Light's production of "INTO THE WOODS" where I played the "beautiful of face, but vile and black of heart" step-sister, Lucinda. Up next, I will be playing the role of Heidi in "[title of show]" with OMG! I Love That Show! Productions. I'm really excited about this project because it's such an intimate cast (4 people) and a refreshing take on the modern musical. The show runs for two weekends (August 23-September 1) at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek.



Vera Jacobson, '92

Congrats to Vera Jacobson for passing her oral defense and graduating June 14, 2013 with a Doctorate in Educational leadership for Social Justice!

Summertime for Students

Marie Alexander Ibarra

I am currently working at a five-week elementary and junior high summer school program and teaching an after-school sports camp. I'm also taking summer classes and officially began my term as CSUEB ASI's Vice President of External Affairs on July 1st. Although I am not involved in any shows in the summer, I am reading plays to brainstorm scene and monologue ideas for the Irene Ryan's next February, and am brainstorming ideas for my senior project.



Marena McGregor



This summer I am working for several different companies. First, I am directing various theater and dance camps for Bay Area Children's Theater. I am also working for a company called Village Center for the Arts where I teach a pre-school aged musical theater class where the emphasis is on "princess songs." At Clayton Valley Dance Academy, I am teaching musical theatre camps and classes with an emphasis in dance. In addition to working for various East Bay companies I also teach private voice, piano and guitar to beginning level children. Finally I am directing a Summer long Religious Arts Camp at my super liberal church. The theme is exploring the arts. On top of that, I am attending classes at school 4 nights a week.

Theatre & Dance Scholarships

LEN LIBRESCO FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

Len Libresco was a great supporter of the Theatre and Dance department. As an adult learner, he took a number of courses, performed in plays, and travelled as a crew member with the department's international touring company, Aces Wild. His generous family has provided a gift both to recognize student scholarship and to promote social awareness in theatre production.



In the last year at CSUEB, Sean Hobbs has performed in three shows and found personal inspiration in classes from costuming to literature. When the show was a dance concert, Sean learned to express meaning in non-verbal movement and images. When there was text to analyze, he proved himself capable of clearly reasoned commentary. He demonstrated a keen understanding of the complex human issues revealed in dramatic literature. Based on his fruitful research and clear writing, both instructors and students recognized that his leadership role in seminar classes. In meeting the needs of both performance and the classroom, we recognize that Sean has learned that theatre practitioners make choices to physicalize

characters and the visual setting they inhabit. We appreciate Sean for having a perspective that includes both sides of the curtain.

FRIENDS OF THE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

Friends of the Arts is an organization that works diligently both to create support for student exhibitions and to raise funds for scholarships. This year the Friends awarded scholarships to continuing students in the programs of Art, Creative Writing, Music, and Theatre Arts.

At CSUEB, Jasmine Williams settled on a Theatre Arts major after performing in the Theatre and Dance production of "Xtigone," directed by Professor Jones, and performing her first solo work, "My Damn Self," under the direction of Professor Fajilan. Her other performance credits include "Yerma/Savage Love," "The Laramie Project," "Vagina Monologues," and "The Good Person of Setzuan." What she appreciates about East Bay is the opportunity to experience and explore every aspect of theatre. She has been an active member of the student club, Performing as Females. She now works regularly in the Costume Shop, but aspires to an acting career. Professor Jones' Career Management class helped her to understand the decisions and options ahead. She expects to graduate in spring, 2014.



DANCE

At CSUEB, Caitlyn Greene has learned that there is more to dance than dancing. While progressing in technique as a member of the Dance Touring Company, she finds herself captivated by the classes that teach technology of the stage and costuming. Her critical skills have been exercised by attending more professional dance performances as part of classes. Touring to other campuses, including two in Hilo, Hawaii, has helped her recognize her talents for sharing and teaching.

Friends of the Arts Scholarships Con't

TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN



Coming from a supportive program at Chabot College, Daniel Banatao finds CSUEB inviting and encouraging. He continues to fulfill his desire to participate in every aspect of theatre, from acting to design. What's more, he succeeds both on stage and off. His reputation for creating effective sound and lighting has gained him the respect of students and faculty alike. As an actor, his characters are clear and appealing. The opportunity to perform and to design, sometimes even in the same show, has provided him with a "dual perspective" that now influences his artistic choices. He participates actively, even making contributions to the Philippine Culture Night that is produced by the department with the Philippine American Student Association. The community of the department and of production continues to appeal to Daniel as a valuable component of his life.

ACTING

CSUEB has helped Teresita Brown confirm the value of her education both for supporting herself and for succeeding as an actress. As she puts it, "It is important how you walk into a room...as well as how you walk out." Preparing herself to walk into auditions and interviews confidently, she works diligently in her classes and performance assignments. She has found inspiration in shows from "Secrets Exposed," "The Laramie Project," "Death of a Player" (performed at the Bindelstiff Studio in San Francisco, directed by Professor Ann Fajilan), and "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" (directed by Professor Darryl V. Jones).



Upcoming Faculty Projects

Darryl V. Jones

I've had a busy summer and a very busy year ahead. On June 17th I joined Carl Lumbly, Steven A. Jones and Aldo Billingslea in the Juneteenth National Black Theatre reading of *A Soldier's Play* for the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre Company.

Coming up in the new year I will be directing a new play staged reading for the Aurora Theatre Company's GAP project in February followed by directing *Dark River the Fannie Lou Hamer Story* in the spring of 2014 at Mt. Holyoke College in Northampton, Massachusetts. This fall I will be a featured soloist and orator with the Asian American Orchestra and Vocal Ensemble when they present, "Our Eyes on the Prize: King's Dream Fifty Years On." This original work composed by Dr. Anthony Brown will premiere at the Yerba Buena Garden Festival, Sunday, September 1st @ 1:00PM. It will also be performed at Yoshi's Oakland Tuesday, October 15th @ 8:00PM.

Marc Jacobs

I am currently running the Music Theatre Conservatory at Notre Dame de Namur University and it is now in its 17th year. We have a full house of students – 25 – currently in the program and we perform in early August. This is a professional training program that covers all aspects of musical theatre performance; including master classes and seminars taught by top Broadway talent.

Farewell to President Norma Rees

Former president, Norma Rees, passed away in early June. She was the president for 16 years and the first woman to hold such position in the CSU system. We would like to take the time to remember her by sharing photos and memories of her.



CSUH President Norma Rees preps with help from Micheal Singer for her onstage cameo debut as the Apple Lady

One of Dr. Rees' early community engagement activities was an event organized by the Friends of the Arts. The Friends attended the departments production of *Guys and Dolls*. The faculty and students will remember that we cooked up a cute gag for the event. Dr. Rees made a cameo appearance, in costume and character, on stage. I think the cast and director came up with the idea for her to play Apple Annie and the crew took it from there. Someone even came up with a basket and apples. I'm not sure if Sky or Nathan or someone else bought one of her apples. In any case the audience was captivated and the performance event a great success. After retiring, Dr. Rees returned to serve on the Friends board, making several generous donations to support arts scholarships and helping to rewrite the organization's by-laws.

By Tom Hird, Theatre & Dance Department Chair

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, HAYWARD

Friends of the Arts

President crashes Al Fresco



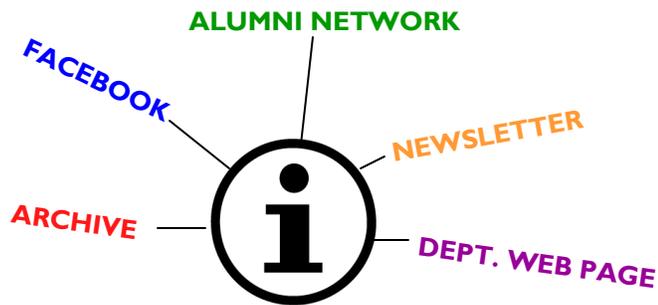
Photo By Adrianna Aranda

CSUH president Norma Rees joins The Stoppettes at the annual Al Fresco. The light-hearted routine was part of the president's announcement that the stop signs on West Loop Road are being removed.

"I am not just a supporter of the arts, I am a fan . . ."

Norma S. Rees
President, CSUH

Happy trails



My story starts back in 2003 when I came to this department as a transfer student. Right away I was assigned to a production and would henceforth spend my undergraduate years behind the board mixing. After graduation I traveled and worked on numerous projects. To get a better idea of my doings please refer to the alumni network page. Now, once again I'm departing from the department.

I've spent the last four years as the force behind these newsletters, the alumni network, the archive project and Facebook. I am most passionate and proud of the archive project. Up until I started my work, on the archive project, the department had no catalog of its productions and essentially no account of its history. The production material was evidence of our past and this history defined what our department stood for. Without a proper record of our history how can a legacy or heritage be passed down? This is what I contemplated as I looked deep into what seemed like an impossible task. Yet, with the help of other departments, alumni, one cool master librarian and a patient boss I was able to process and organize the production material. There is much more work that still needs to be done but our department's collection is in good shape.

Who knew that this experience would open my eyes to a new skill set and with it unanticipated possibilities? This is why at the end of July I will be leaving the department in order to pursue my masters in Library Information Sciences with an emphasis on archiving. Many people I've talked to wonder how the live sound engineer field relates to the library sciences field? I don't have one simple answer for that but I know that in the performing arts world we learn numerous skills that can be transferred to other fields. I feel a connection to what I do and I look forward to being responsible for managing information for preservation and accessibility.

It is my deepest wish for the alumni, students, staff and faculty to continue to step it up. Because the newsletter won't write itself, nor will the alumni network expand on its own or the archive project finish itself and our Facebook page won't create its own posts. There are no true one-man productions; a team of dedicated people are still needed to make the show happen.





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EXTERNAL LINKS

These creative organizations and artists collaborate with our department in multiple, invaluable ways!

AXIS Dance Company
<http://axisdance.org>

Dandelion Dancetheater
<http://dandeliondancetheater.org/>

Friends of the Arts
www20.csueastbay.edu/about/foa/

Impact Theatre
<http://impacttheatre.com>

Nina Haft and Company
<http://ninahaftandcompany.com>

Shawl-Anderson Dance Center
<http://shawl-anderson.org>

FACEBOOK FAN PAGE

Fan Page: Cal State East Bay Theatre & Dance

Announcing the Fourth Annual Vallejo Shakespeare in the Park presenting the tragedy King Lear

Vallejo, CA – Vallejo Shakespeare in the Park, in partnership with the Greater Vallejo Recreation District, presents *King Lear*, directed by Clinton Vidal. Performances will be held at the Hanns Park Amphitheater in Vallejo at 1 PM on July 27 and 28, 2013. Vallejo Shakespeare in the Park will also partner with the city of Martinez for a second year, presenting our production at the John Muir Amphitheater in Martinez, at 1 PM on August 3 and 4, 2013, and will be expanding again, by invitation, to the Peralta Hacienda Historical Park in Oakland on August 10 and 11, 2013.

This is a free community event, open to the public, with picnic style seating. Patrons are encouraged to bring a blanket to sit on during the performances in Vallejo and Oakland, there will be no chairs provided. Bring a picnic lunch or purchase one from our food vendors, Earl's Texas BBQ in Vallejo and Clark's Carving Board in Martinez and Oakland. We ask that audience members respect their fellow patrons and not block their view of the stage.

Vallejo Shakespeare in the Park is proud to bring professional live theater to the residents of Vallejo and beyond. Our aim is to provide an inspiring and educational experience for our audience through intensive preparation and high quality performance. Find us on Facebook at Vallejo Shakespeare.

Vallejo Shakespeareans can support the festival through Friend of Vallejo Shakespeare. Friends of Vallejo Shakespeare in the Park receive fantastic incentives such as an invitation to a pre-show wine and cheese reception and a reserved seating area. Support will enrich lives and provide a free community event available to all residents regardless of age or economic background. Friends of Vallejo Shakespeare in the Park members truly sustain Vallejo Shakespeare in the Park with their support by helping underwrite the cost of our quality productions.

Vallejo Shakespeare in the Park is looking for donations and sponsors. Because this is a free event, all money to pay actors and crew must be raised through donations and other fund raising sources. Please make checks payable to our fiscal sponsor, GVRD and send to the Greater Vallejo Recreation District, c/o Shakespeare, 395 Amador St., 94590. All tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated. Vallejo Shakespeare in the Park is fiscally sponsored by GVRD. To learn more about the GVRD roster of special events and services visit their website at GVRD.org.

For more information contact Dalia Vidor, 510-872-8539 or by email at VallejoShakespeare@gmail.com.

Dalia Vidor, '97, alumni of CSUH

INHALE. EXHALE. REPEAT.

A 24 hour Performance-a-thon!
July 26 @ 7:30pm to July 27 @ 8:30pm
Temescal Arts Center
511 48th St., Oakland 94609
Admission: \$12 - 24 sliding scale

by:

The CSUEB Inclusive Interdisciplinary Ensemble (IIE),
Bandelion, David Ryther, members of the Thingamajigs
Performance Group, special guests
and YOU!

Join us for a participatory performance exploring breath, slowness,
Shabbat, cyclical time, sleep, and dreams.

You can: watch, listen, participate in movement or sound
improvisations, sleep, meditate, dream, snuggle and/or more...
Come any time. Stay as long as you'd like.

All proceeds go towards the IIE/Bandelion remount of TONGUES,
and to create GATHER, a new collaboration with Ysaye M. Barnwell.

ale. Exhale. Repeat.

