



Mise en Scène

Volume 3, Issue 3

Winter 2013

Welcome to the CSUEB Department of Theatre and Dance's e-newsletter, "Mise en Scène." We will be publishing a newsletter every quarter to keep you in the loop on all the exciting things happening within and around our dynamic department. If you have anything to add to the next newsletter please contact thomas.hird@csueastbay.edu



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Bat Boy

THE MUSICAL~PLAYING MARCH 8-17
IN THE UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Book by Keythe Farley and Brian Flemming
Music and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe
Directed by Marc Jacobs
Musical Direction by Sierra Dee
Choreography by Laura E. Ellis

Based on a story in The Weekly World News, a half boy/ half bat creature discovered in a cave is taught to act like a "normal" boy by the local veterinarian's wife.

Ticket prices

\$20 General, \$15 Discount, \$5 CSUEB Student

Box Office Information

510-885-3118 weekdays (8-4pm)
510-885-3261 (voice mail box only)

Or reserve your tickets by email to: tickets@csueastbay.edu

Remember that parking rates are now enforced 24/7

Hilo Dance Tour

By Nina Haft & Eric Kupers

The CSUEB Dance Ensemble and Inclusive Interdisciplinary Ensemble are participating in a dance exchange with faculty and students at the University of Hawaii in Hilo on the island of Hawai'i. This came about when Professor Eric Kupers and myself were discussing a national tour for our students. Eric performed in Hilo, and knows faculty there, and we agreed that it could provide an interesting alternative to participating in the American College Dance Festival this year.

Eleven students were selected to participate by application for the tour. They were selected based on their commitment to the dance program, their reasons for wishing to participate, their ideas for how to make the tour a positive experience, and their readiness to participate in fundraising for their expenses. Each student is responsible for contributing funds for airfare and ground transport. Students are organizing fundraising projects to help offset their costs.

The trip will be 6 days long, including two travel days. On the remaining four days, students will take a technique class, a choreography/improvisation workshop, have open time (for sight seeing or additional artistic collaborations), and then an evening rehearsal period. Students from Hilo and East Bay will have the opportunity to perform with each other, learning choreography from faculty from each institution. On Saturday night, students will perform their choreography at the Hilo Community Center, which will be open to the public.

This is a great opportunity for our students to get an in-depth experience of a vibrant and culturally diverse dance community that rarely participates in our regional or national college dance festivals. It is also an opportunity to get feedback on their work from new audiences, to learn from artists in Hilo, to perform with other college students, and to premiere their works on a new national stage. Finally, it is a unique opportunity to see what touring is really like as a professional dancer. Many people think it is a glamorous vacation, but in fact, dancers must balance tight schedules and demanding performances with navigating in a new environment. While we will certainly spend some time seeing the sights, this will truly be a working tour!

Students will get the most out of this experience by arriving with an open mind, a readiness to work hard and long, to make new friends, and to soak in what it feels like to dance on literally one of the most dynamic pieces of land on our planet. By learning some traditional Hawaiian dance alongside new styles of contemporary dance, our students will gain new insight into their own dance experiences and goals back home.

The pieces that CSUEB students show in Hawai'i will include some senior projects in dance (to premiere at Performance Fusion), and some pieces that may be developed and shown in our March Madness and Spring Fever Salons at the end of Winter and Spring quarters.

We are actively fundraising right now! We are performing outdoors in downtown Oakland on First Friday (February 1st) and accepting donations from passersby. We also accept individual contributions of any size (checks payable to CSUEB attn: Hilo Dance Tour). We are also organizing a Valentine's Day fundraiser where students will deliver roses and/or chocolate to someone you admire on February 12, 13 and 14. For more info, and to place an order, contact nina.haft@csueastbay.edu. Also, all concessions sales for the Theatre and Dance department productions this year (Bat Boy, Dance Faculty Show and Performance Fusion) will benefit the Hilo Tour reimbursement fund.

Performance Season 2013

Dance Ensemble & Inclusive Interdisciplinary Ensemble
Directed by Nina Haft & Eric Kupers
May 3-4, 10-12

Performance Fusion
Directed by Students
May 31 & June 1, 7-9

ALUMNI NEWS

Dawn Monique Williams, '03

I recently returned from Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Week of Welcome for their 2013 season. In February, I will return to the festival to begin rehearsals and I will remain there through opening night of CYMBELINE in mid-June. This year I am the Phil Killian Directing Fellow at OSF. What that means is I'll be the assistant director on two season productions. The first, THE UNFORTUNATES, is a world premiere musical, and the second, CYMBELINE is directed by artistic director Bill Rauch and will perform on the outdoor Elizabethan stage that has made the festival a popular attraction since 1935. I will also direct a staged reading of a classic play during my tenure at the festival.

The Killian Fellowship is application based and required that I submit a personal statement, letters of recommendation, and a resume indicating that I have directed professionally (in this case meaning shows with Actors' Equity Association contracts). A national selection committee vetted the application and I had two separate phone interviews with both the FAIR program manager and the artistic director respectively.

It sounds so cliché, but this opportunity is truly a dream come true. Everyone who knows me knows I am a huge Shakespeare nerd; I live and breathe those plays. At the same time, I am mission driven to see the works of women and writers of color promoted and produced. I am obsessed with language plays that tell a diverse range of human stories. OSF, as an institution, demonstrates core values that are absolutely in line with my own. They run 4-5 Shakespeare plays in rep with modern classics and world premieres. They routinely hire an equitable number of male and female directors; the actors on their stages reflect ethnic, age, size, gender, and ability diversity. This season alone they will offer 2 world premiere's by female playwrights. This opportunity is tremendous for me; I will be work at our nation's largest regional repertory theatre, but more than that, for a theatre that I think models "best practices" for our field. It is an honor and I am beyond excited to be a part of the company's fabric, if only for a season.

After I return I, of course, hope to get right back to directing. The list of Shakespeare plays is long, and I'd like to direct *most of them in this lifetime. I also have my heart set on directing some plays by my peers, colleagues, and friends. I'm discussing a few new play collaborations with some playwright friends, and maintain a notebook full of Shakespeare pitches. I have also recently developed a crush on John Flether (a contemporary of Shakespeare's), so the work never ends.

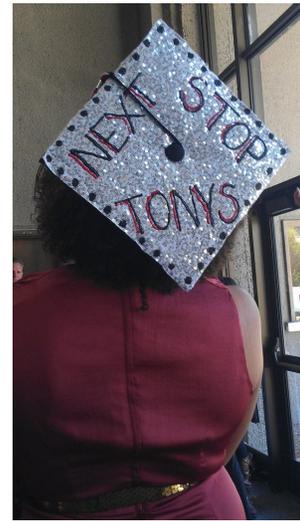
I heard a quote once that "a director is someone who directs no matter the circumstances," and I think this is so true. I would advise students, especially those interested in directing, to just keep at it. Participate at CSUEB in the fusion festival, ask to assist on main-stage shows, apply for internships and apprenticeships, write to directors' whose work they admire and ask to assist. There isn't a single path for directors to follow, so keep reading plays, keep seeing plays, get together with friends and put on plays in living rooms, garages, kitchens, basements...just do the work.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

ALUMNI NEWS

Chalia La Tour, '12

Currently with Actors Theatre of Louisville Acting Apprenticeship



- Chalia has performed in 2 of the season's main stage productions, *Romeo & Juliet* directed by Tony Special and *Christmas Story* directed by Drew Fracher.
- While in the apprenticeship she has participated in several workshops. First, a workshop led by The Mad Ones on devised theatre. Second, a solo performance workshop by solo artist and activist Annie Lanzilotto. Also, a physical theatre/ choreography workshop led by Randy Rand on the devising principles he has used as a member of Elevator Repair Service.
- Her performances within the Apprentice Company season include a 45 minute new play that she and a small ensemble of apprentices created titled *Run Like Children* about the so called Apathy Generation, her transformative, hip-hop solo performance on the violence and economics that plague her hometown Stockton, CA titled *Remember Where You...*, then this month she will perform in the company's evening of ten minute plays in the comedy *Unpleasantries*. Next, she will perform in the Humana Festival in the 3 part play *Sleep Rock Thy Brain*. 3 stories revolving around the science of sleep and dreams. The plays are written by Lucas Hnath, Anne Washburn and Rinne Groff. For this show she has received theatrical flying training from the company ZFX Flying Effects (credits include *Wicked*, *Peter Pan* and many others). The show is heavily based on storytelling through use of fly effects and choreography which is highlighted in each of the 3 shows. Her outside work includes her performance in the new coming of age play *Boo's Curiosity* written by LeShawn Holcomb, an ATL education intern and playwright, revolving around how children create their identity while sorting through the images given to them by adults concerning violence, sexuality, race, religion and self worth. Also, she has been involved with the program Voices Inside where fellow apprentice Noelia Antweiler gives the opportunity to fellow apprentices and artists to meet with inmates at the local prison. There they write and develop plays or scenes of various lengths and styles to later be read at Actors Theatre with a full cast and director.

50th Anniversary Celebration



PaF

Performing as Females



By Megumi Tembata, club founder

When was the club PaF established?

In the spring of 2010, a group of women of the CSUEB Theater and Dance Department performed a benefit production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" to raise funds and awareness about the violence against women. A diverse group of over 30 female students and faculty members performed in the show. The participants had different levels of performing experience, not all of the members were actresses and some performed on stage for the first time. The production was a great success and raised over 1,300 dollars from donations collected at the show. The performance was very inspiring, not only for the audiences but also for the performers. Performing those extraordinary stories of women fostered a strong sense of community for the performers and they felt empowered by being the voice of the unheard and the silenced.

Subsequently that following summer, the group established Performing as Females and performed the original collective works of the autobiographical and fictional biographical script "My Damn Self," to explore and reveal the life of real women.

What is the mission of the PaF club?

Performing as Females (PaF) is a group of female theater and dance students at CSUEB who have organized and performed VDAY benefit productions since 2010. Performing the extraordinary stories of women and girls, we were inspired to expand the project—to tell our stories. We encourage women to reach out to others in need, to unite women, to create a safe and supportive community. PaF believes that performing more stories of and for women will create positive change not only for women, but for the world.

How can people join PaF?

The group is open to all --- actors and non-actors, female or male, who are interested in social justice/change and female empowerment and who wants to tell the stories of women. There are no auditions --- actors of all levels are welcome. Also there are many more ways to get involved with the VDAY benefit --- we can always use people with technical skills, stage directing, stage managing, public relations and community outreach.

How did the club get involved with hosting the "Vagina Monologues?"

I was introduced to the VDAY benefit show event by Prof. Fajilan when I told her about my interest in social justice activism and community education in 2009. That following winter, I organized the VDAY benefit event and gathered a group of female theatre students to perform.

More about VDAY <http://www.vday.org/organize-event>

story continues on next page

PaF

Performing as Females



How does this benefit show benefit the community or raise awareness?

PaF donates 10% of net profits to V-Day Spotlight Campaign and the rest of the 90% to local organizations working to end violence against women and girls. We have worked with Building Futures for Women and Children in San Leandro, S.A.V.E. (Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments) in Fremont and other organizations. Aside from the funds raised we also spread awareness through storytelling by actively getting involved the local and campus community to either perform or see our performances.

Next VDAY show info: It will be in the spring time, most likely in March and April.

Contact Information: You can follow us on Facebook [VDAY Cal State East Bay 2013] or [CSUEB "Performing as Female"] for up-coming meeting info or contact Prof. Ann Fajilan at 510-885-2385.

FREE PRESS

GUIDE LINES FOR SUBMITTING YOUR NEWS

DEADLINE: Send your information by the second week of each quarter. Next deadline for the spring issue is April 15th.

CONTACT INFO: Send your news in by email or phone. Call 510-885-3118 (M-F, 8am-4pm) or to april.rodriguez@csueastbay.edu or thomas.hird@csueastbay.edu

CONTENT: Please send us a short blurb with the important/basic information. Please keep the blurb under 200 words and one to two photos per blurb. Examples of topics: production news, grants, awards, special announcements (birthdays, deaths, anniversary, etc), company news, graduate school and workshops.

SUBSCRIBERS: Our quarterly departmental e-newsletter is sent out to a community of well over 500 readers. The make up of our readers range from alumni, students, faculty, friends of the arts, CSUEB administrators, professional organizations, professional theatre or dance companies, prospective students, local high school and community colleges. Anyone can receive the e-newsletter by simply calling the office or emailing. Call 510-885-3118 (M-F, 8am-4pm) or to april.rodriguez@csueastbay.edu.

PAST EDITIONS: Locate our past editions by following the link below

<http://www20.csueastbay.edu/class/departments/theatre/alumni/newsletter.html>



Did you get a message from Tom about answering a few questions? Tom would like for you to complete the alumni survey and catch us up with your dynamic life. For several years Tom has wanted a webpage dedicated to featuring the work and lives of our alumni. Your careers represent a vast wealth of experience in numerous fields and your experience could be of immeasurable use to our students. Once you've completed the survey your response will be posted on our webpage in a timely manner, please refer to the link below for a sample. Thank you and best wishes.

link to a sample page: <http://www20.csueastbay.edu/class/departments/theatre/alumni/network.html>

- 1) Name, year you graduated and area of focus.
- 2) Describe your career, especially what you are doing now. OK to mention companies/industries, productions, grants, awards, locations, and such.
- 3) How has your Cal State experience helped your career? OK to mention getting started in careers, switching careers, and/or your current career.
- 4) If friends or family are important to your life's story, say so here. OK to talk about spouses, significant others, children, and friends.
- 5) If you have more time, tell us your best advice for students.
- 6) Please include or send a photo. OK to send a headshot, yourself in a professional environment or a family snapshot.
- 8) Please feel free to send or attach your resume and/or personal website links.

Is your contact information current?

Address

Phone

E-mail

Join Friends of the Arts

[FOA](#) webpage

Become a FOA Member and help preserve the Arts within the College of CLASS.

Who are the Friends of the Arts?

The Friends of the Arts, a group founded in 1991 by then President Norma Rees, is dedicated to increasing patronage, awareness, and support of the university's performing and cultural arts. As such, we are collaborating with neighborhood arts programs to extend the reach of the arts to the public.

How do the Friends of the Arts make a difference?

Their support of the arts includes student scholarships, hosting special events, receptions, department grants, and travel grants.

What benefits do Friends of the Arts volunteers enjoy?

- Advance Notification of Cultural Activities
- Invitations to Special Previews, Art Lectures and Slide Presentations
- An Opportunity to Meet Visiting Artists, Painters, Musicians, CSUEB Faculty, and Opinion Makers
- Satisfaction of Helping Sustain and Advance Artistic Endeavors
- Interaction with Others who also Appreciate Art, Theater, Dance, and Music

How do I become a member of the Friends of the Arts at CSUEB?

Please email us at foa.csueastbay@gmail.com

As an organization, we are strengthened by your generous support and individual commitment to our mission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACTF BOUND: Irene Ryan Nominee

Marie Alexandra R. Ibarra - (CSUEB Junior)

Musical Theatre and English Major, Philosophy Minor

Marie will be participating in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival at American River College in Sacramento, CA as an Irene Ryan nominee this February 2013. She was nominated for her performance as Wang, the Water-seller in CSUEB Theatre & Dance Department's Fall Production of "The Good Person of Setzuan" (November 2012). Marie will be performing in "Bat Boy: The Musical" as Mayor Maggie in March 2013. She will also be involved in both "The Vagina Monologues" and "Performance Fusion".



A Nancy & Tom Hird collaboration

During the summer, Tom Hird learned enough about Adobe InDesign, interior book design, and Wix.com to help Nancy finish her newly published book, "I Get a Clue." A mystery for girls 10-13, the book is now available from Nancy's www.desertfirespress.com website and Amazon.

Facebook

[California State University East Bay Theatre and Dance](#)