

Mise en Scène

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"In The Heights" rocks CSUEB

Rev up the congas, rock the timbales and get ready to hear the free flow spin in the Tony and Grammy award winning Broadway musical IN THE HEIGHTS. This milestone musical by composer Lin-Manuel Miranda and playwright Quiara Alegria Hudes broke new ground by creating a fusion of music and dance from across Latin America made fresh with an urban New York hip-hop vibe. IN THE HEIGHTS tells the universal story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood – a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. It's a community on the brink of change, full of hopes and dreams where the biggest struggles can be deciding which traditions you take with you, and which ones you leave behind. The CSUEB production features students from CSUEB, Foothill College and SJSU. The show also features vibrant dance numbers that incorporate salsa, merengue, hip-hop and break dancing choreographed by Laura Elaine Ellis and Associate Choreographer Cat Delos Santos. Laura proudly admits to having seen the show several times on Broadway and in Los Angeles and she is drawing inspiration from the original choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler. Director, Darryl V. Jones, weaves the story through energetic staging and the musical direction of the exciting Latin rhythm driven score is provided by Sierra Dee.

Upcoming Productions

Dance Concert

Choreographer: Nina Haft

Dates: May 1, 2, 8 & 9 @ 8pm | May 10 @ 2pm

Location: University Theatre

A House Divided

...a dance theatre journey of love, loss and desperation

Based upon Garcia Lorca's famous play, La Casa de Bernarda Alba, our concert explores what happens when youth is squandered, and love turns to tragedy in a rural village. Set to poetry by Lorca and traditional Spanish guitar music. Choreographed by Nina Haft (faculty) with assistant choreographer Katrena Cohea (Senior, Dance Major).

Pilipino Cultural Night

Produced in cooperation with PASA

Dates: May 22 @ 7:30pm | May 23 @ 6:30pm

Location: University Theatre

An original, student - generated script blended with traditional folk dance and contemporary pop culture.

Performance Fusion

Dates: Program 1: May 29 & 30 @ 8pm

Program 2: June 5 & 6 @ 8pm

June 7 @ 2pm

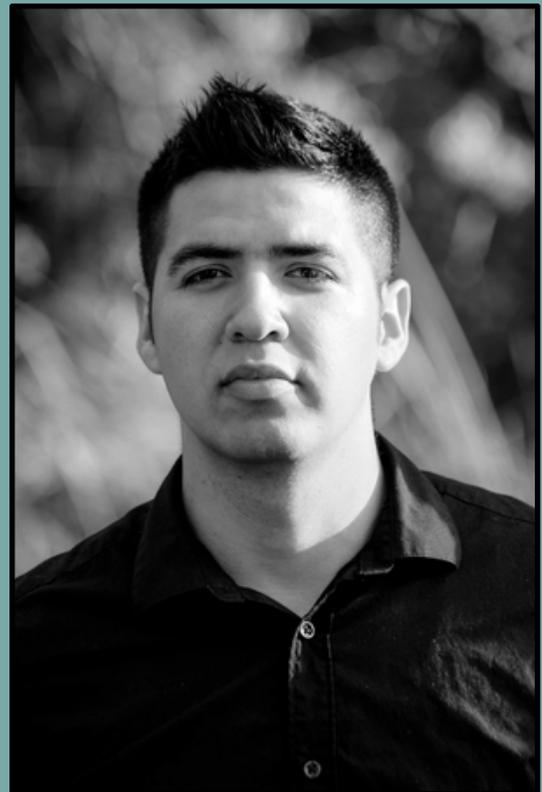
This annual production fuses theatre and dance performances directed and choreographed by advanced students. Each year these students light up their imaginations to create a special collection of short plays, performance art, dance and dancetheatre.

Our Students



Mariah Kuhn is a first year at CSU East Bay majoring in Theatre with an option of Musical Theatre. This is her third show with us. Past shows include “It’s a Wonderful Life: a Live Radio Play” and “Tartuffe”. She has also been seen in “Hairspray” as Velma VonTussle, “Harvey” as Veta and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” as Helena at the Marysville Charter Academy for the Arts. She is thrilled to be working with so many multi-talented performers this quarter!

Jerardo Larios will be playing Kevin Rosario in our 2015 production of “In the Heights”. He is looking forward to performing in his first musical production and would like to thank everyone involved for being so kind and making this experience as amazing as it is. Jerardo is ready to play and explore the deep Latin roots and flavors of the musical along with the rest of the team of cast members and directors.



Checking In

Brontez Purnell continues to stay busy with his band, “The Younger Lovers”, writing and choreographing since graduating in the spring of 2013. He was recently featured on SFGATE and in the San Francisco Chronicle for his participation in the Fresh Festival. His book release and innovative approach to art were mentioned. Purnell will be taking part in the Black Choreographers Festival this year alongside other great dancers like CSUEB faculty member Laura Elaine Ellis, a veteran to the festival. Further information about the event can be found on brownpapertickets.com.



Craig Marker ('02) continues to act regularly in the Bay Area. This past year he performed in Cal Shakes' 40th Season as well as at Aurora Theatre, SF Playhouse and San Jose Rep. Marker has been nominated for a Critics Circle award in the category of "principle actor in a play" for his performance in "Game on" at the San Jose Repertory Theatre.

A Letter from the Chair

If I ask “yes” or “no,” what if you want to answer “maybe?”

If I asked whether your family supported your decision to major in theatre or dance, at East Bay/Hayward, what would you answer? Yes? No? Sorta? Some parents are wonderfully supportive. But others have money and a variety of other “practical” concerns. They want to be convinced. Even if we don’t convince them right off, as students near graduation, many parents become persuaded. They learn to value the progress being made, especially accomplishments in production. And, getting a job really makes parents happy.

Nowadays parents are not the only ones who need to be convinced. At CSUEB, depending on the statistics you use, governments (I mean, the people) pay 40-100% of a student’s college expenses. So, believe me, now we are trying to convince governments, too! Take a look at one way this issue is being framed:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/01/09/associations-weigh-how-gauge-post-college-outcomes>

As I was mulling this article, I had Vera (Jacobson, ‘yy) Lundeberg, Ed.D. in my office yesterday. If you were here with her, you’d remember her smile and enthusiasm. Well, she kept standing up to demonstrate how acting changed her life and continues to influence every aspect of her career. She does it pretty well, too. Not one to sit still, she’s been invited to speak in Malaysia and is developing a new program at Carlmont High School in Belmont. Her CSUEB Ed.D. program wants her to do a promotional video. But Vera’s is just one story. The “people” want to know the rest of the story. So, I’m encouraged to get more of your stories on record, too. So, I’m asking again, please fill out our Alumni Survey.

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

~Thomas Hird

Featured Faculty



Richard Olmsted got his start building scenery for his third grade class production of Johnny Appleseed. He rediscovered backstage as a senior at Berkeley High School, on the lighting crew for Gogol's *The Inspector General*. Later as a Theatre/Literature major at Reed College, Olmsted studied modern dance, played the title character in Buchner's *Woyzeck* and directed Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. After working for the stage lighting and production company Holzmueller, Richard returned to school at Carnegie Mellon University, where he received an MFA in Scenic and Lighting Design. Since returning to the Bay Area, Olmsted has designed for over 150 theatre and dance productions, for companies including California Shakespeare Festival, Marin Theatre Co, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, San Jose Rep, ODC/SF, Joe Goode

Performance Group, Traveling Jewish Theatre, Thick Description and Shotgun Players. He has collaborated with many well known directors, writers and choreographers: Tom Ross, Octavio Solis, Joy Carlin, Michael Butler, Corey Fisher, Aaron Davidman, Michael Addison, Amy Mueller, Lee Sankowich, John O'Keefe and Tazewell Thompson. He cherishes his work with two late Bay Area theatre legends: a too-brief time with Albert Takazaukas, who passed away during rehearsals on *As Thousands Cheer*; and a long association with Barbara Oliver. Olmsted has designed over 30 productions (in 19 seasons) for Berkeley's Aurora Theatre Company, beginning with "The Gin Game" (featuring Barbara and Bill Olivier) during their inaugural season, through a celebrated revival of Edward Albee's "A Delicate Balance", which earned him a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle nomination for Best Scenic Design. Prior to his appointment at CSUEB, he taught scenic design at the University of California, Berkeley; at Mills College; and technical theatre production at both Las Positas College and Holy Names University. Richard is a member of United Scenic Artists, local 829. On the faculty of CSUEB since 2005, Olmsted has designed scenery, lighting and/or projections for more than 20 productions on the University Theatre stage including *The Wiz*, *Bat Boy*, *Cloud Nine*, *Good Person of Szechuan*, *Xtigone*, and *Tongues* (including its triumphant tour to the Kennedy Center). He has mentored many student designers on dozens of productions, and made sure that each and every Theatre and Dance major can build a flat, and Upcoming work includes the scenic design for the Aurora production of Lanford Wilson's *Fifth of July*, directed by Tom Ross, beginning April 17, 2015. The show will feature Hayward/East Bay alumni Craig Marker and John Girot.

Department Information

Special Thanks to these creative organizations and artists who collaborate with our department in multiple, invaluable ways!

African and African American Performing Arts Coalition

AXIS Dance Company

Dandelion Dancetheater

Friends of the Arts

Impact Theatre

Nina Haft and Company

Shawl-Anderson Dance Center

The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre

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We are always seeking volunteer ushers for shows. If you are interested please call the Theatre and Dance office at 510-885-3118.

Attention Alumni
Please fill out our catch up survey on our Theatre and Dance Alumni Page

BOX OFFICE INFO

Phone : 510.885.3118

Online Ticket Purchase : www.csueastbaytickets.com

On Campus Ticket Purchase : Hayward Campus Pioneer Bookstore