

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CSU East Bay Department of Theatre and Dance
in association with Dandelion Dancetheater and Nina Haft & Company**

present

GO!

New dance/theater works by Nina Haft, Eric Kupers and the CSUEB Dance Faculty

HAYWARD – Nina Haft, Eric Kupers and the CSUEB Theatre and Dance department collaborate on the first annual CSUEB Dance Faculty Concert, *GO!* in the spacious University Theatre on the CSUEB Hayward Campus. Haft and Kupers have each created original works performed by a dynamically diverse cast of CSUEB students. Infusing the evening with an energetic blend of disciplines and cultures will be works by Dandelion Dancetheater, Nina Haft & Company, Breakdancing instructor Sergio Suarez and alumna/faculty Angela Demmel.

CSUEB's Dance Program embraces experimentation between the arts of dance, theatre, music and spoken word. We are committed to dance training and performance that incorporates diverse cultures, styles, body sizes/shapes and abilities/disabilities. Our students enjoy countless opportunities to choreograph, perform, collaborate with other disciplines and integrate dance into their communities. Students interested in professional dance performance, choreography, teaching, dance for all bodies and abilities, musical theatre, cultural forms and dance for social change are encouraged to join our growing department.

GO! showcases the work of CSUEB's dance faculty, dance majors, cross-campus collaborators and affiliated professional companies. This dynamic evening of diverse approaches to contemporary dance and dance/theater features:

- *Tongues* by Sam Shepard and directed by Eric Kupers. Kupers harnesses the explosive, multidisciplinary talents of students in the Theatre and Dance, Music and other CSUEB departments to create a wholly original adaptation of Shepard's eloquent play. Originally performed by Joe Chaiken and Shepard himself, this performance incorporates original dance, music and physical theatre to offer a haunting, lyrical look at voices seeping through the skin of a man on the edge of death.
- *Things We Lost in the Wars* is a new work created by Nina Haft in collaboration with the CSUEB Dance Ensemble. The piece is a conversation about our experiences of war, as the sisters, brothers, children, parents and neighbors of those who fight it. The Dance Ensemble is a pre-professional dance company, under Nina Haft's direction, that tours and presents the works of faculty, students and guest artists from the Bay Area dance community.
- Dandelion Dancetheater will perform excerpts-in-progress from *Spinal Fluid*, an upcoming work to be set in dual versions on Dandelion Dancetheater and AXIS Dance Company. Supported by a choreography fellowship from the Princess Grace Foundation and grants from the Zellerbach Family

Fund and CSUEB Faculty Grants, *Spinal Fluid* will be an unconventional dance work, aimed at sustaining long-term runs in the repertoires of physically integrated dance companies (those made up of dancers with and without physical disabilities.) *Spinal Fluid* will have a complex structure that can survive multiple cast replacements of dancers with strikingly different disabilities/abilities.

- Nina Haft & Company will present excerpts from *Skin*, a work-in-progress exploring how we inhabit the boundaries of body and land. *Skin* is inspired by Nina Haft's recent travels in Israel and the West Bank.
- CSUEB Breakdancing teacher Sergio Suarez and alumna Grace Alvarez collaborated on *Writer's Block*, a Breakdancing/hip-hop/modern fusion work performed by the CSUEB Dance Ensemble.

Performances are scheduled:

February 1 - 3

Fri./Sat. nights, 8pm

Sunday night at 7pm, plus a Sunday 2pm matinee

At CSUEB's University Theatre

25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward, 94542

Tickets:

GO! is produced by the CSUEB Department of Theatre and Dance, in association with Dandelion Dancetheater and Nina Haft and Company.

For More Information : http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/Future_Performances.php

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS GO!

WHAT: CSU East Bay's first annual Dance Faculty Concert, featuring a dance/theater/music experimental presentation of *Tongues* by Sam Shepard, (directed by Eric Kupers,) *Things We Lost in the War* by Nina Haft, plus Breakdancing, guest companies Dandelion Dancetheater and Nina Haft and Company and more.

WHO: CSUEB Dance Program, with Dandelion Dancetheater and Nina Haft & Company

Direction and choreography by Nina Haft, Eric Kupers and guests.

Original Music by CSUEB Students and Music Professor Rafael Hernandez.

Lighting Design by Richard Olmsted **Costume Design** by Ulises Alcala

WHEN: February 1 – 3, 2008. Friday/Saturday nights, 8pm, Sunday at 2pm and 7pm

WHERE: CSUEB University Theatre, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward, CA 94542

TICKETS: (510) 885-3261

PRESS CONTACT: Diane Daniel, diane.daniel@csueastbay.edu

MORE INFO: http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/Future_Performances.php

About GO!

The Dance Program at CSUEB has just undergone a major expansion. After many years of surviving through the collective leadership of a dedicated group of adjunct faculty, the program now has two full-time, tenure track dance professors to guide a passionate and diverse group of students.

As part of this expansion, Haft and Kupers have reinstated an annual dance concert at the University, featuring work by the dance faculty and professional dance artists, and performed by the CSUEB Dance Ensemble, gifted students from multiple CSUEB departments and professional artists.

GO! captures the infectious, passionate spirit of the CSUEB dance students and the Theatre and Dance Department's vision of the arts as a vital component of community life.

About Dance at CSUEB

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About Program Coordinators and GO! Directors, Nina Haft and Eric Kupers

Nina Haft's choreography has been profiled in Dance Magazine and supported by the Djerassi Resident Artist Program and Margaret Jenkins Dance Lab (San Francisco), where she developed *Mit a Bing, Mit a Boom! A Klezmer Dance*. Nina Haft & Company is also known for the Dance in Unexpected Places Series, presenting site-specific performances in dockyards, synagogues, libraries, bars, government buildings and the historic Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland.

Recent Press about Nina Haft:

"...articulate vision and eloquent collaborators..."

-Rita Felciano, SF Bay Guardian, Year in Dance Wrap-up

"...shapes space with a sculptor's savvy..."

-Ann Murphy, East Bay Express

"Haft's work is intelligent, physical and engaging, as well as historically informed, and she herself is a pleasure to watch."

-Kitty Luce, SFGATE.com

Eric Kupers co-directs Dandelion Dancetheater, creating unconventional works that have been presented throughout California, nationally and internationally. He is deeply influenced by his work as a performer in the companies of Della Davidson and Margaret Jenkins and is an artist in residence at ODC Theater and CELLspace. He has received grants and awards from the Gerbode Foundation, Rockefeller MAP Fund, Princess Grace Foundation, San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, Zellerbach Family Fund, Theatre Bay Area CASH Program and Irvine Foundation/Dance USA's "Dance: Creation to Performance" Program. www.dandeliondancetheater.org

Recent Press about Eric Kupers:

"...achieves eloquence with its 'naked' honesty."

-Gus Solomons Jr. The Dance Insider, NYC

"Art that revels and reveals through intimacy and lack of pretense."

-Michael Wade Simpson, SF Chronicle

"A lively blend of the political and the personal, a fluid journey to the emotional through the physical and back again. Their dance works evoke and penetrate the multifarious strands of the human condition."

-Sima Belmar, SF Bay Guardian