

NEWS RELEASE

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Cal State East Bay 'Dance for All Bodies and Abilities' Welcomes Visitors

Two special programs by the California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) Department of Theatre and Dance will prove that dance is for everyone, even those in wheelchairs, who use canes, who are blind or hearing impaired.

"Dance for All Bodies and Abilities" was introduced on the Hayward campus last winter and has escalated in popularity to the point where it is being offered three academic quarters a year, two classes most quarters.

"The classes serve as laboratories in which I guide the students (and they guide me) to develop techniques of modern dance, improvisation and partnering that are applicable to people of all abilities, sizes, ages and mobility ranges," said Eric Kupers, Theatre and Dance Department professor and program founder.

Everyone is invited to experience the class on Wednesday, Nov. 15 from 1-2:50 p.m. in PE140 on the Hayward campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., and/or to view a showing by the fall quarter students on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 2 p.m. at the University Theatre of the Hayward campus. Admission to both is free.

"We've had wonderful successes," said Kupers, referring to the way dance improvisation relates to performance technique, communication skills and psychological healing.

"Kupers provides an example of a special kind of artist who not only thinks creatively about his art, but thinks creatively about who can and should be dancing - what creativity in movement can mean to someone with limited mobility," said Thomas Hird, Theatre and Dance Department chair. "Where have you heard about this before? Have you seen a deaf or blind person dance? What about "big" people and the wheelchair bound expressing themselves through dance? We are about to see art that most of us never imagined and Kupers is leading the way," said Hird.

"This outstanding program demonstrates the inclusiveness that is becoming our university's trademark," said Alden Reimonenq, dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences (CLASS).

As an example, the fall class has included eight participants from the Clausen House, an Oakland non-profit organization that works with developmentally disabled adults from throughout the East Bay, and the program has attracted support from the Student Disability Resource Center, Project Impact and a host of other community organizations.

For information on "Dance for All Bodies and Abilities," contact Kupers at 510-885-3185 or erickupers@hotmail.com. Registration for winter classes has started and community members are invited to register through Continuing Education. Contact Kupers for information. The winter quarter class will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7:50 p.m. on the Hayward Campus starting Jan. 9.