

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Cal State East Bay Dance, Theatre Students Present Senior Projects**

California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) dance and theatre majors will culminate their senior projects with the annual Performance Fusion Festival May 19-21 and June 2-4.

The performances will be in the Studio Theatre, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. The Friday and Saturday performances will be at 8 p.m., the Sunday performances at 2 p.m. Admission will be \$10 general, \$7 youth, seniors and Alumni Association Members, and \$5 for CSUEB students.

"CSUEB Dance Majors have been creating innovative and dynamic choreography all year in preparation for this year's Fusion Festival," said Nina Haft, co-director of the event with fellow CSUEB lecturer Melissa Hillman. "Their pieces grapple with communication – between people of different cultural backgrounds, between couples, and into the spaces between unspoken words and what the body knows," she said.

"The concept of fusion defines the amazing collection of talent and skills our students bring to their senior performances," said Thomas Hird, chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance. "Whether they are performing their own works or bringing to life the plays of others, it is always interesting to see the creative results," said Hird.

"Our two directing students have created extremely interesting pieces," said Hillman. "One is working with a traditional Japanese folktale and the other has written her own haunting, darkly humorous piece. Both short plays use movement, music, and text in innovative, complex ways. The fascinating results far exceed what one might expect from college students," said Hillman.

Dance pieces will include "Listen," choreography by Keiko Otaka and Kristin Peralta (Peralta is from Fremont, CA), "Red Flag" choreography by Denise Hampel and Matias Mattson; "Midway Match, Point!" choreography by Haft with dancing by Otaka and Peralta; "Slip," written and directed by Helen Nesteruk; "Mitazuki," choreographed by Otaka and performed by Tomoko Kabeya and Otaka.

Theatre pieces include "Twilight Crane," adapted and directed by Julie Brown and Tomoko Kabeya, and "Slip," written and directed by Helen Nesteruk.

"The culminating performances of our theatre and dance students are always very exciting and innovative," said Alden Reimonenq, dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences (CLASS).

For ticket information, go to [http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/Tickets\\_and\\_Box\\_Office\\_Information.php](http://class.csueastbay.edu/theatre/Tickets_and_Box_Office_Information.php) or call (510) 885-3261.

Photo attached: Kristin Peralta, lower, and Keiko Otaka perform "Listen" from Performance Fusion. Photo by Matias Mattsson.