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The Western Stage Warms Up with Pre-Season SpringFEST Performances & Workshops

Building on the 2020 theme, 'Home,' SpringFEST has a place for everyone

[SALINAS, Calif. Feb. 4] – It may be late in winter, but The Western Stage is anything but dormant as it prepares for its 20th annual festival of performance projects and theatre workshops that entices the community to come play!

From its inception, SpringFEST has been about providing people of all skill levels the empowering experience of performance and giving developing artists the chance to grow and improve. We invite you to become a member of our theatre community – to find out “there’s no place like home.”

“Home is where your story begins, where your memories lie, and where your heart returns,” said Melissa Chin-Parker, TWS artistic program director

The majority of SpringFEST performances are free to attend, except for two musical presentations that have a nominal ticket price of \$5 and \$15 (Hartnell students FREE). SpringFEST’s Open Studio, which provides small groups and theatre students the opportunity to showcase their work in the intimate Studio Theater, will host Artists Ink, Alisal High School and Hartnell Theatre Arts & Cinema students in 2020. A requested donation at the door will support these local emerging theatre groups.

Participation in SpringFEST serves as a great introduction to the rigors and commitment of time required in TWS’ subscription plays and musicals, but at a less accelerated pace. In addition, donations to TWS mean enrollment fees for SpringFEST have been sponsored, making high-quality arts instruction available to everyone.

“I was fortunate to have grown up when music, dance and theatre were provided as a consistent part of my public schooling,” Chin-Parker said “It gave me not only confidence to express myself through many mediums, but helped me find my individuality while at the same time, a commonality with others.

“Because the arts have all but disappeared from most schools, I believe we have a responsibility to work towards making arts access easier and the cost of high-quality experiences non-prohibitive. SpringFEST is one such means.”

So, if you’ve always wanted to try singing, dancing and acting, come play!

For questions about this year’s lineup or how to get involved, contact Artistic Program Director, Melissa Chin-Parker: (831)770-7088 or email mchin@hartnell.edu. Or visit www.westernstage.com/season/SpringFEST

SPRINGFEST 2020 PERFORMANCE PROJECTS

“LegacyPlayers in Performance”

Feb. 29 and March 1, 2020 (*Sat./Sun. at 2 p.m.)

STUDIO THEATER

The LegacyPlayers are The Western Stage’s resident group of veteran actors.

Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues”

March 7-8, 2020

STUDIO THEATER

Presented by Hartnell College Theatre Arts & Cinema & Monterey County YWCA

Donations at the door benefit Monterey Co. YWCA’s Human Trafficking case management and advocacy work.

“The Three R’s,” three short plays written by Western Stage resident playwright Harvey Landa

March 14-15, 2020

STUDIO THEATER

“14” by Jose Casas

March 28-29, 2020

STUDIO THEATER

Presented by Alisal High School, “14” was inspired by the true-life event in May 2001 in which a smuggler abandoned 30 Mexicans crossing the desert near Yuma, Ariz., resulting in 14 deaths. It is an ethnographic exploration of immigration in the United States from the perspectives of people living on the Arizona-Mexico border.

Donations at the door benefit Alisal High Drama

“Other” (working title)

April 4-5, 2020

MAINSTAGE THEATER

An original co-production of Western Stage & Artists Ink concerning the experience of being defined as different and how that shapes the perception of Self. Presented by Youth actors from both companies.

Donations at the door benefit Artists Ink programs

“Miss You Like Hell” by Quiara Alegría Hudes & Erin McKeown

April 18-19, 23-26, 2020

STUDIO THEATER

The story of undocumented immigrant Beatriz, who is on a cross-country road trip of a lifetime with her estranged daughter, Olivia. It’s about the “borders we build to protect ourselves, in relationships and on land, and how we can rise above them.” Expressed in folk, blues, jazz and rock music written by Pulitzer Prize winner Quiara Alegría Hudes (“In the Heights,” “Water by the Spoonful”) and singer-songwriter-activist Erin McKeown.

\$15 general admission

“LIVE! A Musical Showcase”

May 2 and 3, 2020

MAINSTAGE THEATER

A popular SpringFEST project returns as a cabaret-style show composed of solos and duets from the best of Broadway musicals.

\$5 general admission seating

****Unless otherwise specified, Thursday/Friday/Saturday performances are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday performances are at 2 p.m. All performances are FREE for Hartnell students.**

SPRINGFEST 2020 WORKSHOP

Dance Series

An introduction to the fundamentals of ballet, modern dance and jazz with a focus on movement quality, expression and moving safely to avoid injury. For the beginning/beginning-intermediate adult student.

Class meets Thursdays (6-7:30 p.m.) and Saturdays (12-1:30 p.m.)*

Eight weeks beginning March 5

**Thursdays will be required of all students and will be dance technique sessions. Saturdays are for students who wish to apply technique to choreography to be performed in the Musical Showcase.*

DETAILS

WHAT: The Western Stage's SpringFEST 2020

WHEN: Enrollment is ongoing. Performances February-May, 2020

WHERE: The Western Stage at Hartnell College, 411 Central Ave. Salinas, CA 93901. Center for Performing Arts, Building K.

TICKETS AND INFO: Most SpringFEST performances are free general admission. Requested donations support local theatre groups.

“Miss You Like Hell” – \$15 general admission.

“LIVE! A Musical Showcase” – \$5 general admission.

Tickets sold at the door and www.westernstage.com/tickets

PRESS: Contact Customer Relations Manager Berniz House by phone: (831) 759-6012 or email: bhouse@hartnell.edu.

ABOUT THE WESTERN STAGE

Founded in 1974, The Western Stage (TWS) has evolved over the past four decades into one of the most respected community-based theaters on California's Central Coast. TWS is committed to enriching the culture of its community by bringing together professional artists, theatre students and community members to produce a dynamic season of plays that enhances the lives of both the artist and audience, developing new works that speak to the history and culture of the Salinas Valley and providing educational opportunities that allow students of all skill levels to explore and develop their unique talents. www.westernstage.com

HARTNELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT – ESTABLISHED IN 1920

The Hartnell CCD serves over 17,000 students annually through its main campus in Salinas, the Alisal Campus in East Salinas, the King City Education Center, and various outreach learning centers throughout the Salinas Valley. Hartnell College, a Hispanic Serving Institution, provides associate degree and certificate programs, workforce-training, courses in basic skills, and prepares students for transfer to four-year colleges and

universities. Hartnell College is recognized for its innovative public and private partnerships that support world-class education for STEM, career technical education, fine and performing arts, humanities/social sciences, nursing/healthcare, and athletics. We are proud to be the winners of the 2015 Innovation Award for CSin3 – a Computer Science bachelor's degree in three years. **We are growing leaders through opportunity, engagement, and achievement.** For more about Hartnell CCD, visit www.hartnell.edu.

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