



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Western Stage Heats Up for Annual Pre-Season SpringFEST**  
***Quest for Our Humanity: Different Stories, One Community***

SALINAS, Calif. – The Western Stage is excited to showcase leading, local artists whose many voices engage us in conversation, honor historical events while viewing them with a contemporary eye, and reflect the evolution of who we are. Our Theme this year is “*Quest for Humanity: Different Stories, One Community.*” These are powerful experiences, unique in form and the signature of Live Theatre.

This year SpringFEST is proud to present Monterey County playwrights Mark Shilstone-Laurent (“*Celebration ‘69*”), Luis Xago Juarez in partnership with Artists Ink. (“*ReAlisal: Stories from East Salinas*”), and Harvey Landa (“*Breakfast at Nudleman’s*”). Please see their attached biographies.

In addition to our local playwrights, we will also feature “*South: A Nautical Musical*” by TWS Alumnus and Emmy-nominated singer/song-writer, sound mixer and designer, Carmen Borgia.

In April, the Mainstage Theater will host a special, one-night only performance of “*Red Altar*,” presented by San Francisco’s Eth-Noh-Tec, performed by co-creators/directors Nancy Wang and Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo, followed by a six-performance run of “*Quilters*,” a musical written by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek, music & lyrics by Barbara Damashek, based on “*The Quilters: Women and Domestic Art*” by Patricia Cooper and Norma Bradley Allen. This production is directed, designed and performed by a multicultural, multi-generational group of artists from around Monterey County.

The annual SpringFEST is a festival of performances at Hartnell College that opens the door to an artistic and transformative experience for anyone in the community, no matter their age, experience, or culture. The Open Studio Program invites small theatre companies to share their work and broaden their audience by utilizing the intimate Studio Theater and TWS’ technical support, and provides TWS audiences a chance to see new works. Open Studio also provides local students the opportunity to get hands-on experience in technical theatre by being part of the Open Studio or SpringFEST production team. 2019 Open Studio presentations are “*Celebration ‘69*”, “*Re-Alisal: Stories from East Salinas*”, and “*Ubu Roi.*”

## **DETAILS**

**WHAT:** The Western Stage announces SpringFEST 2019, production and performance projects for students and the community.

WHEN: Weekends in February – April, 2019

WHERE: Hartnell College Performing Arts Center, Building K, 411 Central Ave., Salinas, CA 93901.

TICKETS AND INFO: Most SpringFEST performances are FREE with donations appreciated. Admission for “Red Altar:” \$20 adults, \$15 military/senior/student. Admission for “Quilters:” \$10 general seating, (\$2 for local school groups attending matinee. Reserve in advance: 831-755-6929).

## **SpringFEST 2019 Line-up**

### **CELEBRATION '69** Conceived and presented by Mark Shilstone-Laurent

2019 marks the Golden Anniversary of 1969, the single most amazing year of the 20th Century. “Celebration '69” is a multimedia presentation that tries to capture the essence of that crazy year through a combination of images from the times, a live band playing music released in 1969, and colorful narration. “Celebration '69” focuses on six iconic events from 1969: Nixon becomes president, man walks on the moon, Charles Manson masterminds a series of gruesome murders, The Woodstock Music Festival plays to half a million blissful hipsters, The Beatles record Abbey Road, their final album, and the peace and love sixties die a miserable death at a Rolling Stones concert outside the Altamont Speedway in northern California.

PERFORMS: February 8th and 9th (7:30pm in the Studio Theater). FREE

### **Ubu Roi** Written by Alfred Jarry

Hartnell Theatre & Cinema students will be presenting spotlight performances of scenes from their fall, all-student production of “Ubu Roi,” Alfred Jarry’s 1869 absurdist adaptation of Shakespeare’s “Macbeth.” Hartnell’s “Ubu” was submitted to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF). KCACTF is a network of more than 600 academic institutions throughout the U.S., where theatre departments and student artists showcase their work and receive outside assessment by KCACTF respondents.

The evening will also feature spotlight performances from students who participated in the KCACTF Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Contest, and presentations by Directing and Stage Management Fellowships. Come support our student theatre scholars. PERFORMS: February 23rd (7:30pm) and 24th (2:00pm) in the Studio Theater.

FREE - donations collected at the door will go to the Hartnell Theatre and Cinema Team.

### **TWS' LegacyPlayers**

“Ya either got it, or ya ain't. And boys they got it!” The LegacyPlayers are twelve of TWS' most experienced actors who gather once a week to work on new works by local playwrights or scripted plays that tickle their fancy, proving that acting is a lifelong pursuit. The material they present changes, but their performances do not. Always full of laughs and sometimes tears, their staged readings are not to be missed.

PERFORMS: March 2nd and 3rd (2:00pm) in the Studio Theater. FREE

### **ReAlisal: Stories from East Salinas** Written by Luis Xago Juarez

Full of history and stories of the Alisal Community, Baktun12 and Artists Ink. have come

together to produce "ReAlisal: Stories from East Salinas," a production that tells about the unsung heroes of our community that have made and continue to make an everlasting impact, while breaking down the history and stigmas commonly placed on the Eastside. PERFORMS: March 9th (7:30pm) and 10th (2:00pm) in the Studio Theater. \$5 Donation supports Artists Ink. & Baktun 12.

**SOUTH: A Nautical Musical** Written by Carmen Borgia

A wandering sailor named Ed Wheeler searches for his long-lost mother who vanished, leaving him only a locket as a tantalizing clue to her identity and possible whereabouts. "South" is a theatrical musical commissioned by Dixon Place in New York City and written by TWS alumnus and Emmy-nominated Carmen Borgia, who is now a singer/songwriter, sound mixer, and film sound designer residing in NYC. Carmen will travel to TWS to be in residence for some of the rehearsal period and performances, and will offer a ukulele workshop while he's here...Stay tuned!

PERFORMS: April 6th (7:30pm) and 7th (2:00pm) in the Studio Theater. FREE

**Breakfast at Nudleman's** Written by Harvey Landa

TWS's resident playwright, Harvey Landa, presents "Breakfast at Nudleman's," a kooky story of a young woman and older man whose paths are tied with one another in more than one way. PERFORMS: April 13th (7:30pm) and 14th (2:00pm) in the Studio Theater. FREE

**Red Altar** - a special, one-night only presentation by San Francisco's Eth-Noh-Tec performed by co-directors Nancy Wang and Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo

"The Red Altar" is a multimedia performance about six teenagers who crossed the ocean from China, crashed in the Monterey Bay of California, and began the fishing industry in 1850. In the face of anti-Chinese legislation, media propaganda with racist caricatures, and outright violence, they persevered with courage and ingenuity in an effort to lay down roots in their volatile new home. Seven generations later, their story is finally being told. A day-of-workshop, "ImmiGratitude®", of personal and historic reflection, journaling and art making will celebrate the roots of our people's immigration will be offered. PERFORMS: April 20th (7:30pm) on the Mainstage. \$20 adults, \$15 military/senior/student. Discount for groups of 20 or more - call TWS box office.

<http://www.ethnohtec.org/>

**Quilters** written by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek, Music and Lyrics by Barbara Damashek, based on "The Quilters: Women and Domestic Art" by Patricia Cooper and Norma Bradley Allen.

A musical about the lives of women who settled America. Presented in a series of short tales and tableaux matched with musical numbers, "Quilters" is a celebration of women told through their quilts.

PERFORMS: April 26th (7:30pm) and April 27th, 28th (2:00pm & 6:00pm) on the Mainstage. \$10 general seating.

Special Matinee performances for local school groups (\$2), March 21st -22nd (10:30AM). Call TWS Outreach Coordinator: 831-755-6929. Presented with special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY OF Woodstock, Illinois. Sponsored by the Sally Hughes Church Foundation.

**Artist Bios**

**Mark Shilstone-Laurent** ("Celebration '69") has been acting, directing, and producing on the Central Coast since 1981. But he is also a musician, playing various venues on the Monterey

Peninsula. He has opened for artists such as John Sebastian of The Lovin' Spoonful and Roger McGuinn of The Byrds. The heart of his musical sets feature the songs of the "Celebration '69" era - Beatles, Joni Mitchell, Paul Simon, Moody Blues and the like. "Celebration '69" affords Mark the opportunity to combine both of his loves - acting and singing. The performance also includes the talents of Dustin Carroll (lead guitar), Justin Noseworthy (rhythm guitar and vocals), Jeff Covell (bass guitar and vocals), and Rod Wilson (percussion).

**Members of TWS' LegacyPlayers** include Harvey Landa, Philip Pearce, Michael Robbins, Susan Keenan, Pat Horsley, Linda Hancock, Mary Clever deSilva, Lynn Pearlman, Fred Herro, Kit Armstrong, Terry Kingsley-Smith, and Rita Carratello.

**Luis Xago Juárez** ("ReAlisal: Stories from East Salinas") is the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of East Salinas cultural production company Baktun12, writer and producer of the *ReAlisal* series, *Mi Abuelito Fue Bracero*, *IYA The Esselen Remember*, *A XMAS Carol ¡Y Qué!* as well as a collection of agitprop spoken word *actos*. Committed to serving stories by way of *teatro* with performances that reflect the experiences of working class communities from the past and present, laced with lessons to paint with tomorrow!

**Carmen Borgia** ("South: A Nautical Musical") is a singer, songwriter, sound mixer, and film sound designer residing in New York City. Recent recordings are "North" and "The Red Circle Line" released by Arctos Records. In 2009 his theatrical musical, "South", was commissioned by Dixon Place in New York City. Recent film scores include "The Bentfootes," directed by Kriota Willberg and "Louise Bourgeois: The Spider, the Mistress, and the Tangerine". He has composed music for numerous theatrical productions at The Western Stage in Salinas, California, including the 1989 production of "East of Eden." In 1999 he was employed as a film sound designer and mixer at DuArt Film and Video in New York. In 2001 he became the Head of Audio Services there and in 2009 was named Vice President of Audio Production. He currently supervises audio production for the North American English Language dubbing of Pokémon. In 2005 he mixed U-Carmen eKhayelitsha, which won the Golden Bear award at the Berlin International Film Festival. He is a contributing editor to The Digital Filmmaker Website where he has written articles relating to the craft of film sound.

**Harvey Landa** ("Breakfast at Nudleman's") is a playwright, director, and instructor at The Western Stage and a member of the Central Coast Writers Club, and The Fifth Age Playwrights, a senior writer's group. He has directed plays at the Court Theatre in Chicago, Illinois; The Front Street Theater in Memphis, Tennessee; and the California Actor's Theatre in Los Gatos, California. Harvey's plays have been presented at Theatre Forty in Los Angeles, the Carl Cherry Theater in Carmel, and The Western Stage in Salinas, California.

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#### **ABOUT THE WESTERN STAGE**

Founded in 1974, The Western Stage (TWS) has evolved over the last 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 provide educational opportunities that allow students of all skill levels to explore and develop their unique talents. [www.westernstage.com](http://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](http://www.hartnell.edu).

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