
Academy of Visual & Performing Arts Culver City High School

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For Immediate Release

AVPA Theatre Company Selected for World's Largest Arts Festival in Scotland

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Summer 2006 will be a once-in-a-lifetime performance opportunity for a select group of Culver City High School students. The Blurred Vision Theatre Company, the theater arm of the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA), is one of the theatre companies selected to represent the United States at the 2006 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The festival takes place each August in Edinburgh, Scotland. With over a thousand performing companies from all over the world, the Fringe is the largest arts festival in the world, drawing more than a half-million people each year.



When Dr. Laura McGaughey, Superintendent of the Culver City Unified School District, learned about Blurred Vision's selection for the festival, she said, "I am so proud of our fabulous staff and students. This recognition is well deserved and an experience they will always remember."

The American High School Theatre Festival (AHSTF) is responsible for selecting the AVPA troupe to participate in the Fringe Festival. The AHSTF relied on state, regional, and national theater organizations and university professors to nominate the nation's top high school theatre programs. Nominated schools completed an application which was reviewed by the AHSTF Board of Advisors. This board selected the top high school programs based on their most recent bodies of work, awards, community involvement, philosophies and

recommendations. According to an AHSTF representative, AHSTF received more nominations and more applications this year than they've ever had before.

The Blurred Vision Theatre Company was selected, in part, because of its success in bringing experimental works to the stage, like this year's production of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" and last year's "Ophelia Project," a script written specifically for AVPA that was loosely based on Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

According to Darryl Hovis, the Executive Director of AVPA and the Artistic Director of the Blurred Vision Theatre Company, "This opportunity came to us out of the blue. But it certainly validates our philosophy and the work we do with these talented young people."

In the coming year, the students will need to earn money for each of them to attend the festival, so they're preparing many fundraising activities. They'll also prepare an as-yet undecided play for the festival which they will perform four times in Edinburgh. In addition to the Festival, the students will spend two days touring London and seeing a West End Theatre Performance. Then they'll be in Scotland for ten days participating in the festival, with a few breaks for sight seeing.

The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) at Culver City High School offers a comprehensive arts curriculum after regular school hours for students who are committed to excellence in Art, Film, Theatre, Dance, and Music. Established in 1996, AVPA enjoys tremendous community support from SONY and other design, recording, and theatre companies in the area. For more information, go to www.avpa.org or contact Darryl Hovis at 310-842-4200 x6009.



Photo captions:

Fight scene: Fight scene from "Romeo & Juliet," one of the performances that caught the judges' attention.

Wedding scene: Wedding scene from "Romeo & Juliet," one of the performances that caught the judges' attention.

Cast shot: Cast of "Romeo & Juliet," one of the performances that caught the judges attention