

THEATER

FILM

MUSIC

ART

DANCE

SPOTLIGHT

Culver City Academy of Visual & Performing Arts

December 2005

www.avpa.org

Volume 1 Number 5

Blurred Vision's *Fuddy Meers*

Fuddy Meers, the hilarious Off-Broadway smash-hit comedy, has started its run at the SPoT. You still have time to see it, December 1-3 and December 7-10 at 7pm and December 3 at 2pm.

Claire (Andrea Santos) suffers from a strange form of amnesia. She wakes up every morning with no memory of the past, or even the day before. But for Claire, this day is unlike any other. To start with, a furtive, limping, lisp, half-deaf man in a ski mask (Norman Lankford) kidnaps her and takes her to her mother's house. And it goes on from there.

Through the course of the play,

Claire learns about her life and the mystery of how she got amnesia through the "fuddy meers" into her existence provided by the other characters.

Actor and director **Jonathan Fahn** is no stranger to AVPA. In addition to directing *Fuddy Meers*, he's directed *Dracula*, *Footloose*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Noises Off*. Jonathan enjoys working with the AVPA students, who he feels are at a different level than most actors their age because of the Academy's exceptional program. He says, "It's no secret that I feel I get far more inspiration out of these students than they get from me. That's why I come back every year to direct."

Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$12 ASB, Seniors, Children and Faculty. Seating is limited, so purchase your tickets now at www.avpa.org. Also, please note that due to mature content, children under 13 won't be admitted without an accompanying parent or guardian.

Woyzeck Auditions

Woyzeck, the unfinished play by Georg Büchner, concerns the dehumanizing effects of doctors, the military, and women on a young man's life.

Students interested in auditioning for Blurred Vision's production of *Woyzeck*, directed by **Choelseung Kim**, should come to the Robert Frost Auditorium on Monday, December 12 at 5pm with a 3 minute contemporary monologue prepared. Dress for movement and plan to stay until 9pm for this group audition.

Callbacks will be Tuesday, December 13, from 5pm-9pm and rehearsals start on Wednesday, December 14.

Winter Music Concert

What better way to start the holidays than listening to your holiday favorites performed live? The Winter Music Concert is an annual tradition at CCHS and provides an opportunity for students to showcase their talents. As always, the CCHS Concert Band and Concert Choir, both directed by **Tony Spano**, will perform. They'll be joined this year by AVPA's Chamber Singers, directed by **Lisa Michel** and the Jazz Combo, directed by **Tony Spano**. Also, the Culver City Middle School Choir, directed by **Paul Witt** will perform.

You'll hear festive music, including "A Joyful Madrigal," "Carol of the Bells," "Joshua," "Holiday Cheer," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "Shalom Chaverim," "Gaelic Dances," "Little Drummer Boy," "Satin Doll," and "On a Cold Winter's Morn."



Fuddy Meers cast: Back Row (L-R): Sam Shiflett, Brenda de la Cerda, James Woodman. Middle Row (L-R): Halimah Najieb-Locke, Jonathan Fahn, Melissa Kestin, Ashley Carey. Front row (L-R): Chris Narrie, Phaedra Neitzel, Andrea Santos and Norman Lankford.

The concert will be on Wednesday, December 21, at 7pm in the Robert Frost Auditorium. Admission is free.

A Little Friendly Competition

How do you get 40 film students ready to shoot the real thing – a professional quality 16mm film? According to **James Bentley**, the creative director for the Film Department, you set up a little friendly competition. The film students have been divided into two teams and given a copy of the same script, "Ramblin' Man" (original story by Casey Ender and screenplay by Frank Clark). The students' task is to make a 10 minute film based on the script. This project will let the students work in teams to assess and implement the range of ideas their group will contribute during the film-making process. And if the results are as good as we expect, they'll be selected for the Frost Film Festival in March. Then you'll see just how differently two groups of people approach the same task.

TIP Awards Help AVPA

The Culver City Education Foundation has awarded three Teacher Innovative Program (TIP) grants to AVPA faculty.

James Bentley and **Stephen Day**, received \$1,997 to purchase studio equipment for a state-of-the-art recording studio at the Academy. The facility will be used to create music for film and to record music as well as live performances both for AVPA and CCHS. The money will purchase a midi keyboard, ProTools workstation add-ons, and instructional learning aids.

Kristine Hatanaka received a \$2000 TIP award toward instructional materials for the "Collaborative Art Lessons and the Humanities" program. She will be developing interdisciplinary lessons with other subject area teachers at CCHS to integrate visual art into the classroom, allowing students to learn core subjects in a more creative way. The program will help support a new art teacher who will offer classes at the Academy as well as at CCHS.

Tony Spano and **Lisa Michel** also received a \$2000 TIP award. Their money will go toward taking the Concert Band, the Concert Choir, and the Chamber Singers to the Festival in the Park competition in May. Performances are adjudicated by music education professionals and ranked against other participating school ensembles. The awards ceremony is at Universal Studios in Hollywood.

Dance Concert Really Hopping

So how did combining live music with dance work? Wonderfully, according to the audience feedback for the recent Shim Sham Pink Elephant Extravaganza. The

production was doubly successful, since the ticket sales and concessions for the concert raised enough money to pay for nutrition, jazz and samba workshops next semester!



Did you miss the concert? Don't worry. The Dance Department will be selling DVDs.

Company DVD's Available

The film students have been editing the video they shot during performances of *Company* in October for a DVD. Now those DVDs are available for \$20. A demo of the DVD will be shown at *Fuddy Meers* so you can place your order. All profits from the sale of these DVDs will help the Film Department.

Stussy Sale a Great Success

People started lining up at the fence at least 20 minutes waiting for the Stussy sale to begin. And the crowds didn't let up the whole day.



Thanks to all the parents and students who made this fundraiser a success. APVA's Blurred Vision Theatre Company earned \$1,250 plus \$300 in merchandise to sell later. All the money will be used to help defray the cost of sending the Company to the Fringe Festival in Scotland in August, 2006.

Fundraisers

Blurred Vision Car Wash

Bring those dirty cars over to the Elks Lodge, 11160 Washington Place, on Sunday, December 18 between 10am and 2pm. Members of the Blurred Vision Theatre Company will scrub them clean as part of their fund raising for the August 2006 Fringe Festival.

Starving Young Artists' Arts/Crafts Sale

The art students will be selling arts and crafts items they've made, including scarves, hats, felt bracelets, origami strands, jewelry, paintings, drawings and more! In December these items will be available in the CCHS teachers' lounge during lunch, but stay tuned. Some local stores are considering hosting the items and selling them on consignment.

Used DVD and CD Sale

One person's trash might be another's treasure. The Blurred Vision students are selling used DVDs and CDs before *Fuddy Meers* and at intermission. Donate disks you no longer want and look for something you might. For \$5 you could end up with a gem!

The AVPA Foundation and Amazon.com

Are you planning to do your shopping on-line through Amazon.com? Don't forget that if you click through to Amazon from the AVPA Foundation website, AVPA gets around 5% of your purchase. And if you want to remind friends and family to use the click through, there's now a sample email on the website you can modify and send. <http://home.comcast.net/~avpafoundation/email.html>.



Faculty Favorites

Kristine Hatanaka, AVPA's creative director for Art, says she has too many favorite artists for this type of column. And she tends to love absolutely everything they do. But we persisted and got these picks:

Wolfgang Laib's artwork is very minimal and zen. Pure. The visual aspects of his pollen "paintings" and the movement created within them is amazing... They float!

Tim Hawkinson is a genius, witty and intelligent. No two pieces are alike. He's probably the most inventive artist around today.

Michelangelo. The one and only. Hard to believe he was only 26 when he made The Statue of David. Breath-taking, timeless perfection.

The quality of light and color in **Claude Monet's** work is always stunning, no matter what time of day he painted. Viewed from one foot or 50, the light comes through brilliantly.

Vincent Van Gogh's landscapes, flowers and self portraits have wonderful expressive and obsessive qualities. The tragedy of his life is fascinating, as is his ability to create so much beauty from such pain.

Go to <http://home.comcast.net/~AVPAFoundation/amazon.html>

In the SPOTLIGHT

There's a new face this fall at the Academy, but it's a face you'll probably recognize.

Karol Mora has been hired as AVPA's administrative coordinator. It's her job to make sure personnel are processed through the district and get paid. She also pays bills, tracks income, keeps student files, and anything else that comes up.

But Karol's been helping out for years, starting when her kids, **Eon** and **Thea** (Film, 2005), joined the Academy in 9th grade. Karol was amazed by what was happening not only in film, but in all the departments. And she couldn't help wanting to be involved.

Karol is no stranger to arts education. She's always been an artist (fine and graphic) and has taught a modern art class after school at the middle school for the last seven years. And her day job? She currently works at MGM publishing film and TV related properties.

According to Karol, stepping into her position at AVPA was easy because **Stacey Wilson**, who held the position before her, was so organized and left so many good processes in place. For her own pet project she'd like to revitalize the "Inside the Academy" speaker series. "It gives the students a whole different perspective because we bring in these people who work in the field. And they talk to them and learn, first hand, what it's all about."



The Real World Edition

Here's what's happening with students, alums and faculty outside the Academy.

Jessica Erskine (Theatre) and **Brian Sonia-Wallace** (Theatre) will appear in *Faceless Dream*, one of two one-act plays that form **Cheolseung Kim's** Dream Project. **Dan Felixson** (Theatre, 2004) will perform in the second one, *Dream of a Butterfly*. 12/1-12/3 @ 8pm, free at West LA College, HLRC 115.

Ben Sieke (Music, 2004) has upcoming performances with SCU Long Beach ensembles including the Percussion Ensemble on 12/6 @ 8pm and a Caribbean Christmas (world percussion and steel pan orchestra) on 12/10 @ 2pm and 7pm.
www.csulb.edu/~music/home_pg/home.html

Allegra Williams (Dance), **Kenji Igus** (Dance) **Norman Lankford** (Theatre), **Chris Narrie** (Theatre) and **Brandon Blum** (Trainwreck) form part of the cast for deeLightful Productions *Guys and Dolls*, 1/28 and 1/29 @ 3pm & 7pm in the Frost. www.dee-lightful.org



It's a Wrap on Those Panels

The panels the art students have been working on are complete and have been sent to the Wende Museum for the Berlin Wall exhibit that opens in June, 2006. They made an impressive display outside Kristine Hatanaka's classroom just before the Thanksgiving holiday.



Contacting the Academy

Dr. Tony Spano (executive director and creative director, music): tonyspano@avpa.org

Darryl B. Hovis (artistic director and creative director, theater): dbhovis@avpa.org

James Bentley (creative director, film):
jbentley@avpa.org

Kristine Hatanaka (creative director, art):
kristinehatanaka@ccusd.org

Cari Ann Henderson (creative director, dance):
cariann@avpa.org

Joseph Horn (creative director, theater design):
joseph@avpa.org

Karol Mora (administrative coordinator):
karol.mora@sbcglobal.net

Trudy Sonia (parent volunteer, Spotlight editor)
tsonia@comcast.net

You are receiving this newsletter because you've expressed an interest in the AVPA. Please feel free to pass it on to others. If you no longer want to receive this newsletter, please contact tsonia@comcast.net.

AVPA 2005-2006 Season

FUDDY MEERS

Nov. 30-Dec.10, Sony Pictures Theatre

MUSIC CONCERT

Dec. 21, Robert Frost Auditorium

CABARET NIGHT

Jan. 19-21, Robert Frost Auditorium

WOYZECK

Feb. 1-11, Sony Pictures Theatre

TRAINWRECK IMPROV THEATRE

Feb, 17-18, Sony Pictures Theatre

FROST FILM FESTIVAL

March 3-4, Sony Pictures Theatre

TRAINWRECK IMPROV THEATRE

March 10-11, Sony Pictures Theatre

CHESS

March 22-25, Robert Frost Auditorium

TRAINWRECK IMPROV THEATRE

April 21-22, Sony Pictures Theatre

SPRING MUSIC SHOWCASE

TBD, Robert Frost Auditorium

DANCE-OFF!

April 27-29, Robert Frost Auditorium

ANTIGONE

May 11-20, Sony Pictures Theatre

TRAINWRECK IMPROV THEATRE

May 26-27, Sony Pictures Theatre

JAVA DRAMA DOZEN

June 5-6, 12-13, Ivy Substation

YOUNG FILMMAKERS FILM PREMIER

June 9, Sony Pictures Entertainment Lot

*Always check www.avpa.org for schedule changes.