

**T H E A T E R**  
**F I L M**  
**M U S I C**  
**A R T**  
**D A N C E**



*Culver City Academy of Visual & Performing Arts*

September 2006 [www.avpa.org](http://www.avpa.org) Volume 2 Number 1

**Welcome to a New Year at AVPA!**

Another summer has flown by and, ready or not, a new school year is starting. Our AVPA faculty has been busy planning opportunities within the different departments. This year, as always, there'll be plenty to keep students busy in addition to after-school classes.

The art students will participate in the MOCA exhibition again this year as well as the Wende museum opening and a special gallery exhibition in January.

This year we'll also have two of the ever popular dance concerts—one in the spring and one in the fall.

In addition to the Annual Frost Film Festival, which features shorts from schools throughout the area, the film students will have two film events—a short film showcase in the fall and the spring project, which will premier at the end of the year.

The music department will participate in CCHS' spring and fall concerts. Additionally, a Cabaret Night as well as a showcase for student talent will occur in the second half of the year.

This year the theater department will have two theater performances during fall semester: *Treehouse*, directed by Darryl Hovis and Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, directed by Choelseung Kim. The spring musical, *The Cradle Will Rock*, will be directed by Joseph Horn.

And, of course, the whole Academy will participate in Java Drama 13. See the full schedule on page 4.

**Orientation Meetings**

An information meeting for parents and their students who are interested in auditioning or interviewing for the Academy will take place on Wednesday, September 6 at 7pm in the Robert Frost Auditorium. An orientation meeting will be held on Thursday, September 14 at 7pm

for all new and returning students and their parents. This meeting will be followed by break-out sessions for the individual departments. Please plan to attend.

**Auditions and Interviews**

Academy departments require new students to audition or interview. Returning students must audition for specific classes or productions. This year, auditions and interviews will occur September 11-15 starting at 3pm.

**Chamber Singers:** Tuesday, September 12, in room 94. No need to prepare anything. You'll learn a song there.

**Dance:** (dance department auditions as well as placement for jazz, tap, ballet and modern dance classes) Wednesday, September 13, 3-5. Come dressed to move, but there's no need to prepare anything.

**Acting:** Each student must audition with two contrasting monologues. These monologues should be contemporary and about a minute long.

More up-to-the-minute schedules will be posted in the hallway by the Sony Pictures Theater (the Black Box). Please check there or with the creative director for your department for additional information.

**Fall Class Schedule**

The Academy is pleased to offer the following classes for the fall semester.

Dept.	Class	Schedule	Instructor
Art	Drawing* (Art 20A)	M/W 2:45-5:30	Jesse Benson
Dance	Beginning Modern Dance* (Dance 41)	M/W 3:15-4:40	Julie Carson
Dance	Beginning Ballet* (Dance	T/TH 3:15-5:00	Cari Ann Shim Sham

Dept.	Class	Schedule	Instructor
	31)		
Dance	Advanced Tap	T/TH 5:00-7:00	Cari Ann Shim Sham
Dance	Beginning/ Intermediate Tap	F 3:15-5:00	Steve Zee
Dance	Jazz	T 5:00-7:00	Lisa Kobashi
Music	Chamber Singers* (Music 59)	T/F 3:00-5:15	Lisa Michel
Theatre Design	Stagecraft* (TH Arts 20)	T/Th 2:45-5:30	Joseph Horn
Theatre	Acting* (TH Arts 42)	T/TH 3:00-5:00	Vanessa Mizzone

\* Santa Monica College dual enrollment classes

Santa Monica College dual enrollment classes begin Tuesday, September 19. Please see the instructors or check the bulletin board for other class start dates.

Registration for the Santa Monica dual enrollment courses will take place the high school's Tech Center as follows:

**Theater:** Wednesday 9/13 at 2:45

**Dance:** Thursday 9/15 at 2:45

**Art/Music:** Friday 9/15 at 2:45

## Blurred Vision at the Fringe

Our AVPA theater students participated in the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland during August. As part of the American High School Theater Festival, twenty-three Academy students spent time in both London and Edinburgh.

The students gave four performances of *Antigone* as part of the festival. Lennie Varvarides reviewed the play for the British Guide and had this to say about it:

"'Comprehensible', 'visual' and 'polished'; are the three words I would used to describe this production by the

Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, based at Culver High School in Culver City, California. Much of this is down to D.B Hovis, who adapted the classical text, created original scores, designed the lights, co-produced and directed this surreal interpretation of the Greek tragedy.

"Antigone, a universal story about the devastating effects of pride, was contextually comprehensible and visually aesthetic with the use of appropriate costumes (designed by Shannon A. Kennedy), hand-made masks, lighting, music, direction and appropriate adaptation of the text. All this was achieved economically and considering that the cast are High-Schoolers, the performance was impressive."

Performing on this international stage during the world's largest theater festival was exciting enough, but wasn't the whole of the students' experience. In addition to touring London and seeing several performances, including *Titus Andronicus* at the Globe Theater, the students were able to partake in the Edinburgh Festival scene. The students stayed in dorms at the University of Edinburgh and had plenty of time to experience a taste of this beautiful, historic city which dedicates itself to the arts every August.

## AVPA Art Students Accepted into Ryman Arts at USC

Enrique Serrano, Zoe Ahearn, Kenny Muhamedagic and Noel Ekker were accepted into USC's Ryman Arts program for the fall semester based on samples of work they submitted last spring.

The Ryman Art Program is a series of Saturday art classes, held in the USC Roski School of Fine Arts studios, for high school students exhibiting a talent in the visual arts. There are intensive classes in both painting and drawing. Guest artists, models and field trips round out the curriculum.

## AVPA Foundation News

The AVPA must raise a substantial portion of its operating budget, so please support AVPA programs by donating to the AVPA Foundation (a 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to supporting AVPA programs). Start by responding generously when you receive the fall fund-drive request for donations.

You can also donate any time on-line at <http://home.comcast.net/~avpafoundation/donate.html>, or by sending a check to AVPA Foundation, P.O. Box 3530, Culver City, CA 90230.

You can help Academy students when you shop by clicking through to amazon.com from this link: <http://home.comcast.net/~avpafoundation/>. When you



do, about 5% of your purchase is donated to the AVPA Foundation.

And register your credit cards with [escrip](http://www.escrip.com) to earn additional donations for the AVPA. (<http://www.escrip.com> –use group #500002114)

Also, the AVPA Foundation will be coordinating a fundraiser with Stussy, Inc. on November 4<sup>th</sup>—just in time for your holiday shopping.

The AVPA Foundation board meetings are open to the public and are on the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm. Meetings are held in Culver City, but the location varies. Please contact [avpafoundation@comcast.net](mailto:avpafoundation@comcast.net) for information.

## Dance Department Fundraiser

As a fund-raiser for the dance department, on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm in the Robert Frost Auditorium Travis Eliot will be leading a unique cross-cultural experience—a Kirtan. Kirtan, also known as sankirtan, is an ancient musical art form from India.

Our Kirtan will have guest musicians, including drummers, a harmonium player, guitarists and singers. A brief explanation of the art form will be followed by chanting and yoga. The event will end with an open improvisational jam circle for musicians, dancers and singers.

Got a guitar? A voice? Drums? Come share your talent at this event. It's a great way to start the year and help the dance department. \$15/\$10 ASB/teachers/faculty.



## The Real World Edition

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

**Becca Cousineau** (Theater, 2003) studied Shakespearian and modern acting at the British/American Dramatic Academy at Oxford University during a one-month intensive acting training this past summer. Now that she's back on this side of the pond, she's directing and choreographing *The Rocky Horror Show* at Boston College. Her show opens the last weekend of October.

**Krista Schoenbaum** (Theater, 2003) has been interning as an assistant stage manager at the Blank Theatre Company in Hollywood on the production of *Lobster Alice*. The five week run closes over the Labor Day weekend. <http://www.theblank.com/>

**Stefanie Vasseghi** (Theater, 2006) is excited about singing soprano in the University Singers at Humboldt State University.

**Julie Zhan** (Dance, 2006) will be minoring in dance at UCSD this fall. She wishes everyone in the AVPA good

luck with this new school year and adds "I truly miss and love my dancers."



## In the

AVPA is pleased to have a new faculty person in Julie Carson. She taught a workshop last spring in modern dance and will be returning this year with an SMC dual enrollment class this fall, also in modern dance.

Carson has performed throughout the United States in theater and

musical theater companies since receiving her BA in dance from California State University at Long Beach and her MFA in Choreography from UCLA. Carson has been honored with a Gloria Kaufman Scholarship, a Jeff Hanson Scholarship, and several fellowships.

Carson has taught dance classes at UCLA, as well as led graduate seminars to prepare students for careers in teaching. Her dance work has taken her from the streets of Disneyland to high sacred pageantry, from regional musical theater work to performances for the U.S. President.

Julie teaches technique and creative elements of modern dance in private studio, elementary school and university settings, most recently Cal State Los Angeles and Rio Hondo College. She has also worked professionally in stage managing and producing capacities. In her concert dance work, Carson is interested in revealing the moments in life that make us all human and vulnerable, moments which are often paradoxical and sometimes funny. For Carson, these moments often reflect her life history and eclectic dance background.

When not on mommy duty for her two children, Carson serves as the program director for The Irvine Dance in California Program, a statewide funding source for professional choreographers working in western and world dance forms.

## Department Wish Lists

Feel like donating something? Please see the faculty's wish list online at [www.avpa.org/cont\\_needs.htm](http://www.avpa.org/cont_needs.htm).



# AVPA 2006-2007 Season

## Photo Gallery

### Theater Production #1

October 25-28, November 1-4, Sony Pictures Theatre

### Stussy Sale Fundraiser

November 4

### Fall Dance Concert

November 16-18, Robert Frost Auditorium

### Theater Production #2

December 6-9, 13-16, Sony Pictures Theatre

### Fall Film Premier

December 12, Robert Frost Auditorium

CCHS/AVPA Winter Music Concert

December 20, Robert Frost Auditorium

### Cabaret Night

January 18-20, Robert Frost Auditorium

### Frost Film Festival

February 2-3, Robert Frost Auditorium

### Music Showcase

February 9-10, Robert Frost Auditorium

### Spring Musical

March 14-24, Sony Pictures Theatre

### Spring Dance Concert

April 26-28, Robert Frost Auditorium

### Java Drama

May 23-26, TBD

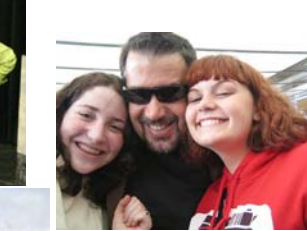
CCHS/AVPA Music Concert

May 30, Robert Frost Auditorium

### Spring Film Premier

June 8, Sony Pictures Entertainment

\*Always check [www.avpa.org](http://www.avpa.org) for schedule changes.



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