

Frost Film Festival and "Club Evil"

Feeling nostalgic for a drive-in movie? Come to the Friday night screening for this year's Frost Film Festival.

In addition to having an all-American drive-in movie experience, you'll see some of the finest films created by young film-makers in the Los Angeles area. You'll also be treated to the premier of "Club Evil" – the film students' fall project where two teams of film-makers made films from the same "Club Evil" script.



Club Evil team A (L-R) Madi Conroy, Timmie Clemmons, Diego Diaz, Evan Pierre, Christian Rojas, Chris McGovern, Nick Yates, Caroline Plaza, Kenny Sule, & Marcos Avila

The film festival is at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, February 2 and Saturday, February 3 at Culver City High School.

If the weather cooperates for Friday night's show, drive through the Huron Street gate, just off of Braddock. Then turn on your car radio for audio, thanks to Hollywood Mobile Movie (<http://hollywoodmobmov.com>) who have generously donated their technology and



Club Evil team B (L-R) Amanda Mehl, Erin Perez, Josh Blake, Nick Haley, George Mikhail, Marcelo Algarate, Harry Dashell-Silagyi, Lucas Avila; front We'land Bourne

talents to give you a special Guerilla Drive-in experience. If it's a nice night, you can throw down a blanket or pull out your lawn furniture and

enjoy the show California style.

For the second night of the festival the movies will be screened in the SPoT theater (behind the Robert Frost).

For the last nine years, the film department has solicited films from other high schools for the Frost Film Festival. The students work with AVPA's film department director James Bentley to select the most interesting shorts of those submitted by area high schools. This year's festival will showcase shorts from Santa Monica High, Harvard-Westlake and Culver City High.



Daniel Beallo

The Session

Join the music students for an informal jam session on Friday, February 9 at 7pm in the Music room (CCHS 94). Admission is \$5 general, \$3 with ASB.

MOCA Exhibition: "Morphology"

This year 29 AVPA art students have participated in a program called First Visit and Beyond with the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA). MOCA Art Educators Fabrizio Flores and Ismael deAnda III have been conducting classes with the students which will culminate in the student exhibition, "Morphology" at the Museum of Design Art and Architecture (MODAA) Gallery. The Opening Reception is Sunday, February 11th from 4:30 to 6:30.



Elhaam Mesghali and Kristen Cantu

Second Semester Schedule of Classes
on Page 5!

The event, at 8609 East Washington Blvd., in Culver City, is free.

The students based their artwork on the MOCA exhibition, "Skin & Bones: Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture," which explores the visual and intellectual principles that underlie both fashion and architecture. Both disciplines start with the human body and expand on ideas of space and movement, serving as outward expressions of personal, political, and cultural identity.

Sony Pictures Entertainment has made it possible for AVPA students to exhibit with this major metropolitan museum since 1997. AVPA's co-director Kristine Hatanaka said, "We couldn't do this program without the support of Janice Pober and Sony Pictures Entertainment. It's a once-in-a lifetime gift not only to these students but also to our Culver City community."

Go to <http://www.spfgallery.com/modaa.html> for more information.

Theater Students at La Verne

On February 23, several AVPA theater students will travel to the University of La Verne Theatre Festival to present a short play based on their own life experiences.

In early January, twelve students in Darryl Hovis' Acting Techniques and Directing course began exploring and developing an original dramatic presentation for the festival. They'll use a variety of forms from monologues to movement. Actor Kathy Yamamoto explains, "It's a deep and intense insight into our typical, yet very unique high school experiences and mindsets, which we hope will send the audience on a journey they won't forget."

Hovis adds, "We have exposed our students to so many great playwrights. I felt it was time for them to tell their own stories."

The group, along with other competing high schools from Southern California, will have twenty minutes to perform their piece for a panel of judges who will evaluate and critique their work. The theater students



Theater students L-R back: Marlon Farley, Weland Bourne, Scott Cocio, Randell Davis, middle: Deepika Singamsetty, Blake Alexander, Molly Sabet, front: Sable Sampen, Max Wilcox, Mari Anna Hashimoto, Holly Leveque, Kathy Yamamoto

have competed in this festival for several years and have often won awards including Best Production ("The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds"), Best Ensemble ("Identity Crisis"), best performance (Kahlil Nelson for "The Breakfast Club" and Clare Snodgrass for "For Whom the Southern Bell Tolls") and Best Student Director (Will Brode for "For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls").

LACMA's "ArtScene"

Over the next few months, starting February 14, AVPA art students will be working with Los Angeles based artist, Kim Abeles, on a program called, "Redwave." Artist/educators will focus their program on researching women artists who are 50-80 years old and who have made a significant contribution to the art world within the past 25 years.

The students will create an all visual internet simulcast component to a radio recording for a final performance celebrating "ArtScene" magazine's 25th Anniversary on Wed. April 18th at The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). "Redwave" is a highlight of the evening.

Ryman Arts Scholars

USC's Ryman Arts has selected two AVPA art students to participate in their art classes starting spring semester.

These intensive beginning, intermediate and advanced classes in both painting and drawing are held on Saturdays in the USC Roski School of Fine Arts studios and are designed specifically for high school students exhibiting a talent in the visual arts.

CCHS juniors Shawn Bolanos and Rosu Manandhar have been selected to receive full scholarships to participate in Ryman Arts. Congratulations!



Shawn Bolanos and Rosu Manandhar

David Checél Visits Film Department

When he walked into the film room at CCHS, David Checél said, "I know this room. I took drama here when I was in high school." Checél, who is fresh from the opening of his most recent hit, "Stomp the Yard," edits film for movies, commercials and music video. His recent videos include Hey Yeah by Outcast and other videos for recording artists Christina Aguilera and Jay Yet.



David Checel

Those drama days weren't that long ago--1992. After CCHS Checel went to USC to get a degree in film. Degree in hand, he started in advertising as the "dub guy" and from there started cutting film.

Checel's enthusiasm for his occupation was clear as he answered AVPA film student questions and discussed aspects of the

business he enjoyed the most. He also showed the students his six minute reel and critiqued films they had produced.

A Chilly Cabaret Night

Despite the frosty temperatures at the Frost, about 40 Academy musicians didn't show a single goose-bump as they performed at Cabaret Night last month. The show was designed to honor Frank Sinatra and Judy Garland and included songs from the Great American Songbook that they had made famous. It was a cabaret style mix of solo and ensemble singers, accompanied by Cabaret Night co-director Lisa Michel and AVPA's jazz band. Co-director Tony Spano provided film clips that gave a context for these two American icons.



More than one audience member was heard to say, "Of all the shows the Academy puts on, this is my favorite." Kudos to everyone involved in the show!

AVPA and UCLA Connect with ArtsBridge

A sneak preview of what graduate school's all about when you're only a high school junior? That's exactly what AVPA student Shawn Bolanos will get when he shadows UCLA ArtsBridge scholar Yereem Park—a graduate student in Arts and Architecture. Not only will Bolanos get to see galleries and studios at UCLA, he'll also get to participate in a six-student studio pin-up session and lecture. Also Bolanos will accompany Park

in a series of visits she'll make to CCHS and AVPA art classes as part of the ArtsBridge program.

UCLA ArtsBridge is a member of ArtsBridge America, a broad network of 22 universities in the United States and Northern Ireland, who are committed to providing high quality arts education experiences for youth and teachers.

AVPA Works to Define its Future

AVPA has been providing students with opportunities for arts education for more than ten years now and has seen significant growth over those years, culminating in this year's enrollment of nearly 200 students.

The faculty and staff wanted to reassess the opportunities the Academy provides its students so during the last weekend in January they got together with strategic planning facilitators Inez Bush, the CCUSD Arts Consultant and Susan Cambigue-Tracey, Director of Curriculum and Teaching Artist Training for the Education Division of the Los Angeles Music Center. They were joined by CCHS Principal Pam McGee and Janice Pober of Sony Pictures Entertainment.

During two very intensive days, participants developed a new mission statement for the Academy as well as identifying seven areas to focus on over the next five years to ensure that AVPA remains a vibrant program providing exceptional arts education to our students.

Over the next few months, look for more details about our progress in the strategic planning process in *The Spotlight*. Meanwhile, here's our new mission statement:

Culver City High School's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts: *Inspiring and empowering students to build a compassionate, creative community through innovative and challenging arts education.*

An Interview with Film's James Bentley

Spot: Why do you work for the AVPA?

JB: Sometimes I ask myself that same question when I'm stuck in stop n' go traffic! But really, it's the opportunity to work with these kids and the projects that the film department does and other departments that keep me going. I see real potential from all the AVPA kids. They get it, and I'm going to help them get to wherever they gotta go.

Spot: What about the films?

JB: I've tried to get the students to focus on the visual storytelling aspects of film and keep the films moving quickly while still maintaining the technical quality. In short filmmaking you only have a few minutes to say what you're saying. I stress keeping extraneous material

out and making cuts that keep the pace flowing. The camera work, lighting, and story are what movies are about and these young filmmakers understand these fundamentals.

Spot: What made you think of the Drive-In for this year's Frost Film Festival?

JB: Well, I am happy to say that the innovations keep on happening. The "old school" feel of the drive-in is an experience that's no longer available in Los Angeles. Hollywood Mobile Movie, who is helping us put on this event, is providing an opportunity for the community to take back a part of its heritage and take part in a uniquely American phenomenon. Some Culver students may have gone to the dive-in on Sepulveda when they were young, but for the most part few have ever had this outdoor experience. For the adults, this can be a night of quality student films in car that has cup holders!

Spot: If you were tree, what kind of tree would you be?

JB: I wouldn't be a tree. I'd be a cactus. It has thorns for protection, does not need much maintenance, and grows steadily. And the fruit of the cactus is very sweet and can be a lifesaver in a desperate situation.

Spot: What is your favorite food?

JB: I love to eat anything! I enjoy the burst of flavors of ethnic foods and indulge myself with a peanut butter and jelly sandwich on occasion. I think cooking is a good thing and I can turn out a quality anything when I put my mind to it. Food feeds the soul as much as the belly.



James Bentley

USC with musical theatre composer Jason Robert Brown. The ten person class meets for three hours a week, and students work one-on-one with Brown to improve their vocal acting and audition skills.

Julie Zahn (Dance 2006) is taking contemporary dance (for the first time!) and is a member of the UCSD Wushu (kung fu) Club, which performs regularly. She also got the lead in a play for UCSD's March Culture Show.

Jessica Erskine (Theater 2006) took a break from auditioning her first semester at USC, but recently was asked to play the female lead in a film for a film major and spent a few days shooting which she said was fun. She's started auditioning again and hopes to participate in some theater projects soon.

If you have news to share in the next *Spotlight*, send it to tsonia@ca.rr.com by February 23.

Announcements

Environmentally Friendly Fundraiser: Printer Cartridges

For several years now, AVPA's dance department has been collecting used printer cartridges as a fundraiser. The fundraiser is environmentally friendly because recycling empty printer cartridges prevents them from ending up in our landfills.

If the printer cartridges pass inspection at the recycling center, they earn anywhere from 15 cents to \$12 for the dance department, depending on the type of cartridge.

The dance department stores the cartridges in a closet at the back of the Frost so you can bring your cartridges there or give them to anyone in the dance department.

From the AVPA Foundation

Thanks to everyone who used Amazon.com by clicking on the link at <http://avpafoundation.org/> during the holiday season. The AVPA Foundation earned \$446 through the link. That almost pays for a workshop! Please don't forget to use the link all year. AVPA receives 4-6% of every purchase you make and it costs you nothing.

Cradle Will Rock Flyer Distribution

Volunteers will be distributing "The Cradle Will Rock" posters and postcards to Culver City businesses on Saturday, February 24 between 11am and 1pm.

With 28 routes to cover, many parents will be needed to help publicize the spring musical. Contact Antoinette Jaccard (aj.la@ca.rr.com) for more information.



The Real World Edition

Sigal Walder (Theater) is working as assistant location manager for Vh1's "Acceptable TV," (previously titled "The Department of Acceptable Media") produced by Jack Black. Read more about it at http://www.vh1.com/press/series/departofacceptablemedia_11152006.jhtml

Elisa Richter (Theater 2004) is in the "Anus Monologues," a parody of the "Vagina Monologues," on February 9th and 10th at CSULB. Also on March 16th she has her directorial debut with Monty Python's "The Jape." She's also in a showcase on February 17th called "Anything for You." Feel free to email Elisa (itsafactact@yahoo.com) for more information.

Penelope Yates (Theater 2006) auditioned for and was accepted into a semester-long "Acting the Song" class at

Got Books? Or an Amazon.com Account?

Several departments within AVPA are requesting books that are relevant to their department this month. For instance, the art department would love art books and magazines, as would dance. And the theater department can always use monologue books.

For more specifics on this and other items that would be useful to AVPA, please check out our current needs at http://avpa.org/cont_needs.htm.

Signing up for Spring Classes

Several classes for Spring Semester require auditions. Please check with the instructor if you haven't already auditioned. Also, if you plan to take an SMC dual-

enrollment class and you haven't taken one before, you need to register online at the CCHS Tech Center. Registration takes about 30 minutes and you will need to know your social security number. If you've already taken SMC classes, you don't need to register, but you will need to fill out the appropriate dual-enrollment forms.

Tech Center Schedule:

Feb. 7th, Wed. at 2:45: Dance/Theater Design

Feb. 8th, Thurs at 2:45: Art./Music

Dance Auditions

Feb 6th, Tues at 3:15: Intermediate modern

Feb 8th, Thurs at 3:30 Jazz

Feb 8th, Thurs at 4:30 Ballet

Second Semester Schedule of Classes

Department	Class	Schedule	Location	Instructor
Art	Watercolor (Art 30A*)	T/TH 2:45-5:10	CCHS 1	Jesse Benson
	LACMA "Redwave"	W 2:45-4:00 beginning Feb 14	CCHS 1	LACMA
	OTIS	TBD after 2/15	CCHS 1	OTIS interns
	Paper Mache workshop	TBD 2:45-5	CCHS 1	Karol Mora
Dance	Contemporary Modern Dance 2 (Dance 42*)	M/W 3-5	TBD	Julie Carson
	Ballet 2 (Dance 32*)	TBD	TBD	Deborah Cohen
	Tap	T/TH 5-7	TBD	TBD
	West African	F 3:15-5, Feb 16-April 20	TBD	Nzingha Camara
	Hip Hop	F 3:15-5, May 11-June 15	TBD	Sabella Grimes
	Jazz	M/W 5-7	TBD	Lisa Kobashi
Film	Spring project - Killing Jackie**	As needed, but mostly spring break	On location and CCHS film room	Paul Caulderon
	Motion Graphics	M/W 6-8 beginning February 5 [^]	CCHS film room	Kyle Ruddick
	Directing for the Camera	T/TH 3-5, April 17-May 10	CCHS film room	Vanessa Mizzone
Music	Chamber Singers (Music 59*)	T/TH 3-5:05	CCHS 94	Lisa Michel
	Jazz Ensemble (Music 78*)	M/F 3-5:05	CCHS 94	Dr. Tony Spano
	Pink Elephant Music Co. Seminar	M 3-5	CCHS 94	Dr. Tony Spano
	Recording Workshop	M 4-6	CCHS sound lab	Jay Laura
	Advanced Guitar	W 3-4	CCHS 94	Eric Klucksdahl
Theater	Stagecraft (THArts 20*)	M/W 3-5:10	CCHS scene shop	Joseph Horn
	Movement (Butoh)	M/W 3-5	CCHS black box	Cheolseung Kim
	Puppetry	T/TH 3-5 beginning February 13 [^]	CCHS scene shop and costume shop	Shannon Kennedy
	Acting for the Camera	T/TH 3-5 beginning February 5 ^{^^}	CCHS black box	Venessa Mizzone
	Audition Techniques	T/TH 3-5 beginning February 5 [^]	TBD	Cheolseung Kim
	Actors Gang	F 3-5	TBD	TBD

* SMC dual enrollment class (beginning the week of 2/12)

**WLAC dual enrollment class

[^]4 week Session 3 class

^{^^}8 week Session 3 class

AVPA 2006-2007 Season

Frost Film Festival
February 2-3; Frost

The Session
February 9, CCHS Room 94

The Museum of Contemporary Art
"Skin & Bones" Exhibition
February 11; Museum of Design & Architecture
Culver City

Scholastic Art Reception and Award Ceremony
February 11; OTIS College

"The Cradle Will Rock" by Marc Blitzstein
March 14-17, 21-24, 7pm; SPoT

Spring Dance Concert
April 26-28; Frost

Pink Elephant Music Showcase: MY Generation
May 4; Frost

The California African American Museum
May; Ryman Program

Artworks
May; Hayden Tract

Music in the Parks Festival
Chamber Singers, Concert Band and Concert Choir
May 12; Disneyland

Java Drama Thirteen
May 23-26; Ivy Substation

Spring Music Concert
May 30, 7pm; Frost

Spring Film Premiere (16 mm)
June; Sony Pictures Entertainment

Academy Awards
June 9; Location TBD

*Always check <http://avpa.org> for schedule changes.

January Photo Gallery



Contacting the Academy

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