

## Welcome to AVPA!

The Culver City Academy of Visual and Performing Arts' 2007-08 season promises to be one of its best. We are excited to announce some new faces who are joining our faculty this year. We introduced Farhang Pernoon as the new Creative Director of Theater in a special edition of the *Spotlight* in June.

We are also pleased to introduce our new Creative Director of Film, Stephen Kim. Many of you already know the creative work of Shannon Kennedy who has worked on several productions for us. She is now taking on the role as Creative Director of Theater Design.

We have planned a comprehensive season of classes, workshops, productions and exhibitions. We've reestablished ties with West LA College and will be offering several dual-enrollment college classes. Santa Monica College will also be offering classes this year.

In this new year we're pleased to inaugurate monthly convocations for all AVPA students. Because of Culver



Kristine Hatanaka and Tony Spano

City High School's new bell schedule, students are released at 1:03pm on Wednesdays. Once a month AVPA students will meet from 1:15 to 2pm in the Robert Frost Auditorium to share information, receive

materials, hear guest speakers and artists, as well as see performances and exhibitions by our own students. The first of these important gatherings is on September 17th.

We are looking forward to a creative, productive, artistic, and exciting year! With your help and support, we hope to bring the greatest opportunities to our students.

Thank you from your  
 AVPA Co-directors!

## Inside This Issue

- Fall Schedule of Classes.....2
- Dual Enrollment Registration Schedule .....3
- Stephen Kim, New Film Department Director.....3
- Shannon Kennedy Takes Over Theater Design .....3
- Rehearsals Start for Fall Play .....3
- Art Students at the Art Center .....3
- AVPA Foundation Begins Year with Donor Drive.....4
- AVPA at the Hollywood Bowl .....4
- AVPA Real World Edition..4
- In the Spotlight — New Database Volunteers.....5
- Announcements.....5
- Upcoming Events .....6
- Contact Us.....6
- Photo Gallery .....6

## Fall Audition/Interview Schedule

- Art interviews September 4-14 by appointment only with Kristine Hatanaka, Room 1.

### Monday, September 10

- Pink Elephant Music Company, Jazz and guitar class— 3:15pm, Room 94
- Blurred Vision Theater Company auditions — 3:15pm, Room 9 (SPoT theater)

### Tuesday, September 11

- Chamber Singers, 3:15pm, Room 94
- *Dancing at Lughnasa* theater callbacks, 4pm, Room 9

### Wednesday, September 12

- Film department interviews, 3:15pm, Room 7
- Shim Sham Dance Co. Auditions, 3-5pm, Frost
- WLAC Theater 233 callbacks 5-8pm, Frost (wear comfortable clothing and be prepared to stay the entire scheduled time)

### Thursday, September 13

- Theater Design interviews, 3:15pm, Room 9

## How AVPA Works

With the Academy starting its 13th year, we have a wealth of “tradition” to draw on as well as some new procedures we'd like to encourage everyone to follow. Here's a breakdown of how it works:

**Admissions:** Technically, new students can be admitted into the Academy at any point. Typically, though, students are admitted either after interviews/auditions at the beginning of fall semester or at the beginning of spring semester. All new students must audition or interview for a spot in their desired department. Both new and returning theater, theater design and dance students must audition/interview each year.

**Applications:** AVPA applications are available from the faculty or online at [http://avpa.org/images/student\\_application.pdf](http://avpa.org/images/student_application.pdf). All new students are required to fill out an application. Returning students in Theater and Film must also fill out applications to help our new faculty get to know you more quickly. Return completed applications to your department director.

**Costs:** AVPA provides a wealth of opportunities to students and part of what makes that possible is the required participation fee due each semester. For all departments except art, each student is required to pay \$100 per semester. For art students, the participation fee is \$30 per semester, but students must purchase the art supplies for their class. Pay participation fees to department directors with checks made out to CCHS/AVPA. Participation fees can also be paid through soliciting advertisements for the printed programs of AVPA productions. Discuss this option or scholarship

needs with your department director.

**The program:** The faculty have worked hard to provide students with both educational and performance/exhibition opportunities. Requirements for most programs can be completed in three years. Make sure you check the curriculum requirements for your department to ensure you're on track.

**Spotlight Newsletter:** With the latest information about AVPA events, The *Spotlight* newsletter is your best source for learning what's happening at the Academy. This monthly publication is delivered to your email address through a list serve service. To subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter, please visit [http://avpa.org/inf\\_new.htm](http://avpa.org/inf_new.htm) where you can also find archives of past issues. Send comments or suggestion to the volunteer *Spotlight* editor, Trudy Sonia, at [tsonia@ca.rr.com](mailto:tsonia@ca.rr.com).

Questions? Please ask any AVPA director for help.

## Fall Schedule of Classes

Classes begin the week of September 17 except Tap, which begins on September 25.

Department	Class/Workshop	Time	Location	Teacher(s)
Dance	<b>Beginning Modern Dance (Dance 41, SMC)</b>	3:15-5 pm, MW	Room TBA	Julie Carson
Dance	<b>Beginning Tap (Dance 17, SMC)</b>	5:30-7 pm, MF	Room TBA	Cari Ann Shim Sham*
Dance	Jazz Dance	5:30-7 pm, MF	Room 305	Saleemah Knight
Dance	Class TBA	3:15-5 pm, Tu, Th	Room TBA	Instructor TBA
Music	<b>Fundamentals of Music (Music 101, WLAC)</b>	3:30-5:20 pm, MW	Rm 94	Janise White
Music	<b>Chamber Singers (Music 59, SMC)</b>	3:15-5:15 pm, Tu, Th	Rm 94	Lisa Michel
Music	<b>Jazz Ensemble (Music 775, WLAC)</b>	6-7:25 pm, MW	Room 94	Tony Spano
Music	Advanced Guitar	2:00-3:15 pm, W	Room 94	Eric Klucksdahl
Music	Drumline	As scheduled		Tony Spano
Music/Film	Sound Recording	Time TBA	Rm 7	Jay Laura
Film	<b>Understanding Motion Pictures (Cinema 107, WLAC)</b>	3:30-5:20, Tu, Th	Rm 7	Lynn Casser
Film	Classes/Workshops TBA	Time TBA	Rm 7	Instructors TBA
Theater	<b>Intermediate Acting (Theater 271, WLAC)</b>	3:15-5:15 pm, MW	Rm 9	Farhang Pernoon
Theater	<b>Play Production (Theater 233, WLAC)</b>	3:30-5:30 pm, Tu, Th	WLAC	Cheolsung Kim
Theater Design	<b>Intro to Stagecraft (Theater 300, WLAC)</b>	3:35-5:25 pm, MW	Frost	Shannon A. Kennedy
Theater	The Actors' Gang workshop	3:30-5:30 pm, F	Ivy	Vanessa Mizzone
Theater	Workshop Session #1 (Shakespeare)	Tu, Th (9/18-10/25)	Rm 9	Jeffrey Wiesen
Theater	Workshop Session #2 (Movement)	Tu, Th (11/11-12/9)	Rm 9	Amy Harmon
Art	<b>Beginning 2-D Design (Art 501, WLAC)</b>	3:30-5:35 pm M, Th	Rm 1	Jesse Benson
Art	MOCA First Visit and Beyond Program	Begins Oct. 16	Rm 1/MOCA	
Art	LACMA Internship Program	4-6 pm, Th	LACMA	
Art	MOCA Internship Program	4-6 pm, Tu	MOCA	
Art	Ryman Arts	Saturdays	USC	
Art	TOCA @ MOCA	Sunday/each month	MOCA	

**NOTE:** All AVPA students will be required to attend a once-a-month convocation in the Robert Frost, 1:15-2:00 pm, on the following dates: Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 14, Dec 19, Jan 9, Jan 30, Feb 27, March 19, April 9, May 7, June 4.

\*\*Additional classes, workshops, field trips, and special events are announced throughout the year.

\*\*Classes and locations may change due to schedule changes and faculty availability.

## AVPA Gets New Film Department Director, Stephen Kim

Stephen Kim comes to AVPA with a wealth of experience in the visual arts. In addition to painting and drawing in a variety of media, he brings a strong background in animation and film.



Stephen Kim

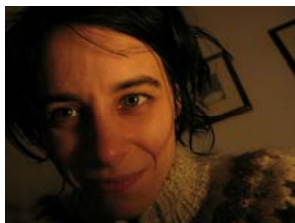
Mr. Kim, who is trilingual in English, Korean and Japanese, comes to the program with a teaching credential from Cal State Dominguez Hills and a BA from the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia. He has several years of teaching experience at both the high school and middle school levels.

While Mr. Kim will be plunging into his new role as director of AVPA's film department, the students will be in good hands. Already scheduled is a WLAC dual-enrollment class, "Understanding Motion Pictures," taught by Lynn Casser. Also, throughout the year Mr. Kim will be working with AVPA's administrative coordinator, Karol Mora, to bring in industry experts as guest speakers and workshop instructors.

Mr. Kim is pleased to be joining such a well-established program and is looking forward to helping our students achieve their film-making goals.

## Shannon Kennedy to Take Over Theater Design

Many of you may already know Shannon Kennedy. She's designed several sets for the Academy, including the 2005-6 production of *Woyzeck*, and the 2006-7 production of *Metamorphosis*. She also worked on set design for Java Drama 13, among other shows. Recently you might have seen her name on several Actors' Gang program notes where she's done a lot of costume design.



Shannon Kennedy

What you may not know is that Kennedy has now stepped into the position of Creative Director for Technical Design. And there's no one better qualified to help our students learn the back-stage magic of technical design. Kennedy has been an actor and designer with the Three Chairs Theater Company since 2004. She began her career as a dancer with the Hartford Ballet School in Hartford Connecticut and did her undergraduate work at the University of Connecticut where she became interested in puppetry and theater design. After working as a costumer in Boston, Kennedy completed the graduate program at UCLA in scenic design.

## Dual Enrollment Registration Schedule

West Los Angeles College class registration will be held in the Multipurpose Room in the CCHS Library.

- Art: Wednesday 9/12 at 1:15
- Music and Film: Thursday 9/13 at 3:15
- Theater: Friday 9/14 at 3:15

Santa Monica College class registration will be in the CCHS Tech Center. Students must have their social security number to register for SMC classes.

- Dance: Friday, 9/14 at 3:15
- Chamber Singers, please register with Lisa Michel.

Kennedy likes both acting and designing, especially in the same production. As an actor, she likes coming close to the minds of her characters and that closeness gives her insight into what environment they would inhabit and what they might wear. Kennedy looks forward to working more closely with AVPA's theater design students.

## Rehearsals Start for Fall Play

Rehearsals start on September 17 for the first Blurred Vision production of the season, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, by Brian Friel. Set in a fictional town in Ireland, *Dancing* is a memory play in which the narrator, Michael, recounts the summer in his aunts' cottage when he was seven.

The play originally opened in Dublin in 1990. It opened on Broadway in New York City in October of 1991 and closed a year later after 436 performances. The Broadway performance won a Tony award for best actress and was nominated for several others.

AVPA's Blurred Vision Theater Company will be performing *Dancing at Lughnasa*, directed by Farhang Pernoon, in late October and early November. See next month's *Spotlight* newsletter for more information.

## Art Students at the Art Center

By Alexa Giffen

On August 11, AVPA art students Hana Cohn and Alexa Giffen participated in a student fashion show put on by Art Center's Saturday High. The fashion show was the culmination of the fashion design class that both students participated in.

Set in a large show space, the walls were lined with life-sized sketches of models that participants in the classes had made. However, both Hana and Alexa not only posted their artwork, but participated in the show as well. Hana, an aspiring fashion designer,



Hana Cohn and Alexa Giffen

sent several of her pieces down the catwalk. Although the clothes she designed were not on the runway, Alexa was a last-minute model for another student. Hana's active participation in the show impressed her teacher, Yelen Aye, who later offered her a job as a teaching assistant for his future fashion design classes. When asked about how she felt about this, she replied that she was "very excited, and very happy" for what was to come.

## AVPA Foundation Begins Year with Donor Drive

By Dan Nannini, AVPA Foundation President

What is a jock doing presiding over an arts foundation? I have coached my kids and some of your kids in soccer and baseball, but when my daughter and son came to Culver High, they jumped into AVPA's theater program. And I, and others, saw how much work the teachers were doing, above and beyond their contract. So, we offered our help, and the AVPA foundation was born.

The AVPA Foundation raises money to help achieve the vision of the Academy teachers. Achieving their vision for our children requires more than the school budget, so the Foundation writes grants, asks for direct donations, and coordinates fundraisers.

In fact, soon many of you will be receiving a request for donations from the AVPA Foundation. Please give generously. The Foundation helps finance workshops and programs that directly benefit our kids and donations to the 501c3 organization are tax deductible. You can donate at any level, but if you donate \$250 or more, you qualify

for an AVPA Season Pass, which entitles you to free admission to all AVPA productions.

You can donate to the AVPA Foundation using your credit card at <http://avpafoundation.org> or you can send a check to AVPA Foundation, P.O. Box 3530, Culver City, CA 90230.



Dan Nannini

If your student is in the Academy, you are automatically a member of the AVPA Foundation. Business meetings are open to the public and are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm. For meeting locations, email [info@avpafoundation.org](mailto:info@avpafoundation.org).

Please give generously and help the AVPA faculty help our kids.

## AVPA at the Hollywood Bowl

On a steamy August night this summer, about twenty AVPA parents, students and supporters hopped on special

Culver City buses that took them directly to the Hollywood Bowl where they enjoyed an evening of jazz music by a lineup of jazz greats, Dave Brubeck, the Bruce Hornsby Trio and Madeleine Peyroux.

Dave Brubeck, at 87, had to be helped on and off the stage, but once he was at the piano, he was transformed.



Tony Spano and Georgia and James Malsich at the Hollywood Bowl

His fingers never faltered at the keyboard and Brubeck and the other "oldsters" in his group looked like they were having the time of their lives, which added to the enjoyment of the audience immeasurably.

This event was sponsored by the AVPA Foundation and served as a fundraiser for the Academy. Look to

the *Spotlight* for information about other fun fundraiser events sponsored by the Foundation.



## Real World Edition

We love

hearing what our

Alumni are doing and what our faculty and students are doing outside the Academy. Here's this month's news. If you have news you'd like to share with the AVPA community, please send it to [tsonia@ca.rr.com](mailto:tsonia@ca.rr.com) by September 25 for the October edition.

**Kathy Yamamoto** (Theater 2007) is currently playing Loonyus at the Actor's Gang production of "Titus the Clownicus" which is a pie filled family fun version of Shakespeare's goriest play, "Titus Andronicus." It plays on Saturdays and Sundays at 11 am in the Media Park in front of the Ivy Substation, but be quick! It ends September 9. Performances are free.



Kathy Yamamoto (R)

**Natalia Garduno** (Theater 2005) will begin attending UCLA as a third year with an English Major and Theater Minor and is excited to be taking acting under the instruction of director and playwright Mel Shapiro. This month she'll audition for the first production of the year.

**Krista Schoenbaum** (Theater 2003) is working as a crew member at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium. She is also stage managing for the Andak Stage Company's production of "The Misanthrope". The production opens Sept 7th and closes October 14th at the New Place Theater in North Hollywood. Schoenbaum also was just hired to work on the ABC show "Eli Stone" as an assistant to the construction coordinator.

**Ashley Guerrero** (Dance/theater 2007) just had her midterms for FSSP (Freshman Summer Start Program) and is enjoying life at UCSB!

**Sigal Walder** (Theater 2000) just wrapped up working as production assistant on set on NBC's 'Last Comic Standing' (Season Five), and will be working on FOX's PARADISE HOTEL (in production), shooting in Manzanillo, Mexico for several months.



Rez in Hawaii

**Rez Kabir** (Theater, 2007) returned safely from Hawaii and is said to be happy to be going to UC Irvine this fall where he'll be studying anything and everything.

Three Chairs Theater Company performed their production "Easily Said" in the Frost this summer. The show had performances by Brooke Lykins, Cristina Bercovitz, **Shannon Kennedy**, and AVPA students **Clare Snodgrass** (Theater, 2008), **Molly Sabet** (Theater, 2009), and **Michelle Cahn** (Theater, 2009).

The stage was transformed into a psychological landscape where the audience played voyeur to the wreckage of a plane crash. The play featured three women whose lives wove in and out of each other figuratively and literally until the stage was covered in a maze of yarn.

Three Chairs Theater Company will be staging their original production "Believe You Me," based on fairy tales and using puppetry in February 2008 at West LA College's Black Box. Director **Cheolseung Kim** is hoping to involve several AVPA students in the "Believe You Me" production as well. Contact him for more information at [Xjfr@yahoo.com](mailto:Xjfr@yahoo.com).

## In the spotlight

Over the summer, Sue Bickford and Allison Ocegüera got a taste of what's in store for them in their new volunteer positions doing database maintenance for the Academy. They spent many hours converting the records of the 2007 graduating class from active student status to AVPA alumni. This fall these two dedicated parents will be entering and updating contact information for every student involved in the program into a database developed specifically for the Academy by another AVPA parent, Frank Giffen.

Allison Ocegüera is an architectural project manager who works primarily on single and multi family residences. She decided to volunteer doing database maintenance because it seemed a good way to get to know people involved in the Academy. She says, "There's always



Allison Ocegüera

a ton of work to do with these kinds of organizations and much of it falls to the parents. This was something I could do to help out."

Sue Bickford is involved in AVPA because her kids, Rachael and Conner Nannini, have been involved in the theater program, although Bickford herself is no stranger to theater. She worked the light board in her own high school productions back when, she says, "it consisted of huge levers and funky filters."

Currently, Bickford teaches Math at El Camino College and felt the database was a place she could help out that played to her strengths.

The Academy is fortunate to have Ocegüera and Bickford among the team of parent volunteers that help AVPA function smoothly. If you didn't fill out a contact form at orientation or would like to receive postcards for our productions and exhibitions, please send either Bickford ([slbick@aol.com](mailto:slbick@aol.com)) or Ocegüera ([ao@dbbarchitects.com](mailto:ao@dbbarchitects.com)) your contact information.

## Announcements

### Please Volunteer!

Volunteers are the life-blood of an organization like AVPA. Here are just some general areas you might consider when you're ready to offer your time and talents: volunteer coordination, administration, grant writing, publicity for upcoming events, writing press releases, writing for the Spotlight, helping mount artwork for exhibitions, collecting or selling concessions, fundraising, community outreach. The more people we have involved in the organization, the easier the jobs are for everyone. And the more people working on a task, the more fun you can have together. So don't delay. Talk to your department director today about how you can help.

### AVPA's Wish List

Maybe you don't have time to volunteer but would like to help the Academy out in some other way. There are always things that the program needs. A suggestion that came in this week was to ask someone to sponsor water coolers for the music room and the Frost with monthly water bottles. Not only would this ensure our students had decent water, but it would help the environment by reducing the number of water bottles the students would consume. Can you help with that? Or perhaps there's something else that appeals to you on our list at [http://avpa.org/cont\\_needs.htm](http://avpa.org/cont_needs.htm).



Sue Bickford

## Upcoming Events

**Big Bear International Film Festival**  
September 15, Big Bear

**Dancing at Lughnasa** by Brian Friel  
October 24-27, November 1-3, 7pm, SPoT

**AVPA Fundraiser—Stussy Sale**  
November 3, 10am-2pm, El Rincon Elementary Parking Lot

**Fall Dance Concert**  
December 6-8, 7pm, Frost

**Theater 233 Performance**  
December 6-8, 7pm, West LA College, HLRC 115

**CCHS/AVPA Winter Music Concert**  
December 19, 7pm, Frost

**Blurred Vision One Acts Festival**  
January 9-10, 16-19, 7pm, SPoT

**Cabaret Night—"Give My Regards to Broadway"**  
January 31, February 1-2; 7pm, February 2, 2pm, Frost

**Frost Film Festival**  
February 8-9, 7pm, SPoT

**Spring Musical—"Chicago"**  
March 12-15, 7pm, March 15, 2pm, Frost

**AVPA Fundraiser—Stussy Sale**  
April 12, 10am-2pm, El Rincon Elementary Parking Lot

**Spring Dance Concert**  
April 24-26, 7pm, Frost

**CCUSD/AVPA Music Day**  
April 30

**Pink Elephant Music Showcase**  
May 2-3, 7pm, Frost

**Music in the Parks Festival**  
May 10, Disneyland

**Java Drama**  
May 21-25, 7pm, Ivy Substation

**CCHS/AVPA Spring Music Concert**  
May 28, 7pm, Frost

**Spring Film Project Premier**  
June 6, 6-9pm, Sony Pictures Entertainment Lot

**AVPA Academy Awards**  
June 14, Time and Location TBD

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

You are receiving this newsletter because of your association with the AVPA. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please visit [http://avpa.org/inf\\_new.htm](http://avpa.org/inf_new.htm)

## Summer 2007 Photo Gallery



## Contact Us

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