

Right Here in Culver City

AVPA is proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Meredith Willson's classic American musical, *The Music Man*, with its own production opening on March 12th at 7pm in the Robert Frost Auditorium, 4401 Elenda Street, on the campus of Culver City High School. Tickets are available online at www.avpa.org or can be purchased at the door. General admission is \$15. For seniors, children, faculty/staff and students with ASB, admission is \$10. Performances are Wednesday through Saturday, March 12-15 at 7pm, with a matinee on Saturday at 2pm.

The Music Man premiered on Broadway on December 19, 1957. During its initial run, half a century ago, Broadway was filled with magical shows such as *Carousel*, *West Side Story*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and *Oklahoma!* Willson's musical tells the tale of a crooked salesman who comes to 1912 River City, Iowa, hoping to con the local piano-teaching librarian but who instead falls hopelessly in love. This charming story has captured the hearts of millions through its countless stage productions and the classic 1962 film version with Robert Preston and Shirley Jones.



Clare Snodgrass and Max Wilcox rehearse as Marion Paroo and Harold Hill

designer; and Jay Laura, sound designer. The creative team is under the direction of Tony Spano, Jr., with

The dynamite AVPA creative team bringing *The Music Man* to the Robert Frost Auditorium stage is: Lisa Michel, vocal director; Julie Carson, choreographer; Will Pellegrini, set designer; Shannon Kennedy, costume designer; Ian Marsh, lighting



Farhang Pernoon and Karol Mora serving as producers of this huge undertaking.

The cast is made up of many talented AVPA theatre, music, and dance students with a number of younger students rounding out the population of River City.



Brandon Blum, Conor Murphy, Kyle Murphy and Ben Klemes rehearse as River City's Barbara Shop Quartet

10 year old 4th grader Samuel Petersen (Farragut Elementary School) and 11 year old 6th grader Kacey Mayeda (The Willows Community School) are starring in the roles of Winthrop Paroo and Amaryllis. Both Samuel and Kacey have been involved with local children's theatre company, dee-Lightful Productions, where many AVPA students have had training. Kacey has experience performing with the AVPA — she played the young Ti Moon in AVPA's 2005 production of *Once On This Island*. Kira and Dereck Schaefer, the children of Julie Carson, will also play children of River City, with additional middle school and elementary students cast as members of Harold Hill's Band.

Dr. Spano will conduct a pit orchestra that includes several AVPA music students. Christopher Luthi, who has played piano accompaniment for several AVPA shows, including *Company*, *Chess*, and *Cabaret Night*, is the accompanist for this production.

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AVPA Film Receives Major Donation

Anonymous Content, a film production company with offices here in Culver City, has made a substantial donation in the amount of \$10,000 to the AVPA Film program. Steve Golin, owner of Anonymous Content, was on hand at the February 8th screening of the Frost Film Festival so AVPA leaders and film students were able to publicly thank him for his donation.

The Film program will use the funds to help produce the annual 16mm film project that students are already



Steve Golin of Anonymous Content (2nd from left) accepts the applause and thanks of (l to r) Stephen Kim, AVPA Film Director, Dan Nannini, AVPA Foundation President, Pam Magee, CCHS Principal, and Tony Spano, AVPA Co-Executive Director at the 10th annual Frost Film Festival

working on with a premiere planned for June 6th. It will also go toward much-needed upgrades of computers, equipment, and software.

Pam Magee, principal of

Culver City High School, was instrumental in bringing this donation to the AVPA. "We appreciate Steve Golin's donation on behalf of his company, Anonymous Content, and everyone was thrilled that he came to our screening." Magee continued, "In addition to the funding, our students and faculty are enthused by Mr. Golin's suggestion to create a deeper relationship with Anonymous whereby we would host their filmmakers as speakers and in workshop scenarios here at CCHS and there would be internship possibilities for our students at their offices in the Hayden Tract."

Because of Anonymous Content's generosity, the Culver City Education Foundation has named them Culver City High School's Business Partner of the Year with recognition at the annual Tribute to the Stars in May.

"We can't thank Anonymous Content enough for their generous support!" said AVPA Co-Executive Director Dr. Tony Spano. Spano adds, "It's support like this from community businesses that allow our students to develop their skills and go on to become successful professionals."

Important Updates

Spring Dance Concert — Coming earlier in April than originally scheduled, Spring Dance Concert performances will be April 17 & 18 at 7pm, April 19 at 3pm.

Spring 2008 Workshops & Classes — Please see the updated schedule included in this issue of the Spotlight.

Thank You Tanner's

Each night of the Frost Film Festival (February 8th and 9th) attendees were able to enjoy delicious, fresh coffee provided for the concession by Tanner's Coffee Co. Tanner's is a popular local coffee house at the corner of Sepulveda and Lindblade. Thank you, Tanner's!

AVPA Artists Exhibit on AP Info Night

So much artwork to share! AVPA Art students Rosu Manandhar and Alexa Giffen discussed their artwork, insight, and experience with all those interested in Advanced Placement Studio Art. Each student brought their portfolio of drawings, paintings, and mixed media to AP & Honors Information Night at the Frost Auditorium on February 9th. Exhibited alongside these two students was the work of all current and past AP Studio Art students. Rosu was enthusiastic: "I love to share what I do with interested parents and students. It gives me an opportunity to show them my art and the art of the other students, too."



Seated AP Art students Alexa Giffen and Rosu Manandhar share their work

AVPA Goes to BCAM

AVPA Art teacher and Co-Executive Director, Kristine Hatanaka, received a special invitation for a free tour of the new Broad Contemporary Art Museum (BCAM) at The Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Alongside AVPA Co-Executive Director, Dr. Tony Spano; Theatre Director, Farhang Pernoon; and AVID teacher, Denise Greenberg, over 100 AVPA students from various departments were able to share in a unique "preview" of Eli Broad's collection of contemporary art. Designed by architect Renzo Piano, the immaculate travertine walls of this 3-story museum have galleries filled with natural



AVPA students at BCAM

light, showcasing Eli Broad's collection of 178 artworks by 28 contemporary artists. Brandon Storm, AVPA Dance and Music student, explains, "It was amazing to get to see such an extraordinary museum before it even opened.

BCAM was extremely fascinating... from the architecture to the elevator to the artwork. There was a great stylistic diversity in the work from the Pop Art of Andy Warhol to the epic walk-in sculpture that took up the entire ground floor of the museum. It was also highly inspirational to me as a dancer with many pieces inspiring ideas for site-specific choreography."



Real World Edition

No news from our alumni this month. If you have news to share for the April issue of the Spotlight, please get it to the Editor (kamcconkey@pacbell.net) by March 24. We want to hear from you!

Announcements

The Music Man Needs You

Music, theatre, and dance parents: There are still a few slots open for people to bring dinner or snack items to keep our *Music Man* cast and crew healthy and hydrated in the week before opening night. If you can help, please contact Leslie Kestin (lkestin@aol.com). Water is very much needed! If you can donate a case of water, please drop it off in Room 9 (black box theatre).

There are also slots for parents to help with concessions. Contact Janine Hattem (janinehattem@hotmail.com) or Susan Bronstein (bronstein@earthlink.net).

Spring 2008 Classes & Workshops

AVPA Dept	Class/Workshop	Time	Location	Teacher(s)
Dance	Modern Dance (Dance 462, WLAC)	3:15-4:45 M, 1:15-2:45 W	Frost	Julie Carson
Dance	Dance Rehearsal and Performance (Dance 822, WLAC)	3-4 W, 3:30-4:30 F	Frost/WF, 305/F	Julie Carson
Dance	Contemporary Indian Folk Dance Workshop	TBA	TBA	TBA
Dance	Company Meeting	12:24-12:59 pm, Tu	Frost	
Music	Harmony (Music 201, WLAC) (film music emphasis)	3:30-5:20 pm, MW	Rm 94	Chris Thomas
Music	Chamber Singers (Music 59, SMC)	3:15-5:15 pm, Tu, Th	Rm 94	Lisa Michel
Music	Jazz Ensemble (Music 775, WLAC)	6-7:30 W, 3:15-4:40 F	Room 94	Tony Spano
Music	Percussion Ensemble	1:15-2:15 W	Room 94	George Mikhail
Music	Jazz Combo	5:30-6:30 M, 1:15-2 W	Room 94	TBA
Music/ Film	Sound Recording	5:30-7:30 pm, Tu, Th	Rm 7	Jay Laura
Film	Film Production Workshop (Cinema 125, WLAC)	TBA	Rm 7	Matt Harrison
Film	Classes/Workshops TBA	Time TBA	Rm 7	Instructors TBA
Theatre	Advanced Scene Study (Theatre 275, WLAC)	3:15-5:05 pm, MW	Rm 9	Farhang Pernoon
Theatre	Movement for the Actor (Theatre 15A, SMC)	3:15-5:05 pm, T/Th	Rm 9	Vanessa Mizzone
Theatre	History of World Theatre (Theatre 110, WLAC)	3:15-5:05 pm, MW	Rm 23	Shannon A. Kennedy
Theatre	History of World Theatre (Theatre 110, WLAC)	3:15-5:05 pm, T/Th	WLAC TBA	Cheolseung Kim
Theatre	The Actors' Gang workshop	3:30-5:30 pm, F	Ivy	Vanessa Mizzone
Theatre	Directed Studies	3:15-5:30 pm, F	WLAC TBA	Cheolseung Kim
Art	Drawing 1 (Art 201, WLAC)	3:15-5:25 pm MF	Rm 1	Jesse Benson
Art	Acrylic Painting 1 (Art 304, WLAC)	3:15-5:15 T/Th	Rm 1	Jesse Benson
Art	Pop Art Sculpture	3-5 pm, W	Rm 1	Karol Mora
Art	LACMA Internship Program	4-6 pm, Th	LACMA	
Art	MOCA Internship Program	4-6 pm, Th	MOCA	
Art	Ryman Arts	TBA	USC	
Art	TOCA @ MOCA	Sunday/each month	MOCA	

NOTE: Convocation in Frost, 1:15-2:00 pm, on the following dates: **Feb 27, March 19, April 9, May 7, June 4**

Art Student College Plans

We are starting to get news from our seniors about where they will be heading next year. Art student **Shawn Bolanos** will be heading to Northeastern University and for **Cooper Gegan**, its Princeton University.

AVPA Art Student Goes To OTIS

AVPA Art student, Ana Swarup, has been selected for the Young Artist Studio Program (YAS) at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles. Only one student is chosen from each high school across Southern California to participate in this program. YAS offers young talent the opportunity to enroll for one semester in a figure drawing class at OTIS. Each student receives a scholarship to take a class on the college campus at no cost. Speaking about the experience, Ana says, "I was so surprised to find out I was accepted. This is an amazing opportunity and I am so thankful. The classes at OTIS are great and I am having so much fun."



Ana Swarup with some of her work

AVPA Art Students Give LACMA Tours

By Alexa Giffen



Alexa Giffen and Kristen Cantu are LACMA interns

With spring quickly approaching, Kristen Cantu and I find ourselves preparing for this year's LACMA tours. Kristen and I are interns at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) where we have been learning about how the museum works, learning more about art and, most recently, preparing our own tours inspired by the newly

remodeled modern collection at LACMA. Upon finishing our research and preparing our tours, Academy students will be invited to LACMA to receive an official tour from Academy tour guides and interns from other schools as well. Stay tuned for dates and times.

Stussy Fundraiser Coming Soon

By Susan Bronstein, Music parent and AVPA Foundation board member

Lots of funds are needed to run the AVPA program and as part of the AVPA Foundation's efforts to ensure that those funds are available, we are working with Stussy, Inc. to host a huge parking lot



Jean Ballantine, AVPA Film parent and AVPA Foundation board member, at the November Stussy sale

sale on Saturday, April 12, at the El Rincon Elementary School parking lot (corner of Overland and Sawtelle). We'll raise funds while also giving shoppers a chance to get quality clothing at 50% or more off retail prices.

Stussy, Inc. is an Irvine based clothing manufacturer that shows its support for students in the community by putting on these fundraisers with school-based organizations. The Stussy fundraiser is Academy-wide so every department will benefit. Last November we earned over \$1400 for the Academy.

We need lots of volunteers--both students and parents--to make this event a success. Students, this is your chance to earn needed Service Learning Hours. Parents, if you weren't able to volunteer for the November fundraiser, this is your second chance. Which slot can you fill?

7:30am – 10am	30+ students and parents to set up tables and sort clothing
10am-12pm; 12pm-2pm	2 teams of 3 parents to work security
2pm—4:30pm	30+ students and parents to break down and clean up

Other needs for the day of the sale include long tables, ice chests with wheels and water and soda for concession sales. Volunteer by contacting the parent rep for your department. You can also contact me, Susan Bronstein, at bronstein@earthlink.net to volunteer or just ask questions. Mark your calendars for some serious shopping on April 12 from 10am to 2pm. See you there.

Cabaret Night a Huge Success!

The stars of Culver City High School's AVPA shone bright during its annual *Cabaret Night*. This year's theme, "Give My Regards to Broadway," allowed



students to perform some of the Great White Way's most memorable songs. A series of "Mini-Musicals" gave audience members a nostalgic review of hit shows such

as *West Side Story*, *The Sound of Music*, *My Fair Lady*, *Oklahoma!*, and *A Little Night Music*. The evening closed with rousing showstoppers, featuring songs such as "Tomorrow" from *Annie*, "Memory" from *Cats*, "Everything's Coming Up Roses" from *Gypsy*, and "If I Were A Rich Man" from *Fiddler On The Roof*.



The AVPA Jazz Ensemble and Chamber Singers were featured in a medley of hits from the recent stage and movie sensation, *Hairspray*.



One of the more memorable performances in the *Hairspray* medley came from Tony Spano and Lisa Michel when they donned character apparel to perform "Timeless To Me," taking on the roles of Edna and Wilbur Turnblad.

Dr. Spano cheers, "Thanks to great support from our biggest audiences ever and parents who helped make the event run smoothly.... We can't wait for next year!"

Contact Us

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February Photo Gallery



Upcoming Events

Spring Musical: "The Music Man"

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 17-18, 7pm, April 19, 3pm, 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 XIV

May 21-24, 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.