
Academy of Visual & Performing Arts Culver City High School

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For Immediate Release

An Experimental *Woyzeck* at AVPA

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Culver City High School's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) is showing its willingness to take risks with the Blurred Vision Theatre Company's production of Georg Buchner's *Woyzeck*, the first German expressionist play. The material itself was pieced together from manuscripts that were unfinished when the young author died of typhus in 1837. That would be enough of a challenge, but add the distinct experimental inclinations of director, Choelseung Kim, and audiences can't help but experience a decidedly thought-provoking evening. Performances are Wednesday through Saturday, February 1-11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sony Pictures Theatre at the back of high school's Robert Frost Auditorium, 4401 Elenda Avenue in Culver City. Tickets are \$15 general and \$13 ASB/seniors/children. Seating is limited so reserve now at www.avpa.org.



"Using the talents of director Choelseung Kim on a play like *Woyzeck* with these students is what distinguishes the Academy from most high school drama programs," says Darryl Hovis, AVPA's artistic director and the head of the theatre program. "These students will be profoundly changed by working on this production. They'll see themselves and our society differently. And their future choices will reflect that experience. Isn't that what education is all about?"

The play, *Woyzeck*, is based on a highly publicized sensational jealousy-murder case of Johann Christian Woyzeck who was beheaded in Leipzig in 1824 for slaying his mistress. The case itself sparked debate about the treatment of the insane. The story behind



Woyzeck has been popular and flexible enough that it was made into an opera in 1914 and in the 1970s became a movie. This particular production focuses on how a society projects its faults onto the individual.

In rehearsals, director Kim has been having his students to do pushups and other muscle-intensive activities for weeks. According to Kim, "For this production, I demand extreme physicality from all my actors. Each actor needs to convey the weight of a topic like this without resorting to cliché. Also, because multiple people play most roles, the cast needs to learn to move alike. Collectively they represent interchangeable faces in a society that sacrifices people like Woyzeck." Kim adds, "Even though Woyzeck can't escape, he has to run. He has no choice. His wife, Marie, knows it and lets him. This is their love story."

For more information about this and other Blurred Vision Theatre Company performances, contact blurredvision@avpa.org.

The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) at Culver City High School offers a comprehensive arts curriculum after regular school hours for students who are committed to excellence in Art, Film, Theatre, Dance, and Music. Established in 1996, AVPA enjoys tremendous support from the community as well as from Sony Pictures Entertainment and other design, recording, and theatre companies in the area. For more information, go to www.avpa.org or contact Darryl Hovis at 310-842-4200 x6009.

Photo Caption:

IMG_3206: Jessica Erskine interacts with Sam Shiflett's Woyzeck

IMG_3222: *Woyzeck* cast in action