



**Academy of Visual and Performing Arts  
At Culver City High School**

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**AVPA's *The Crucible* Opens December 3**

*For immediate release:*

**Culver City, CA –November 20, 2008:** The Culver City High School Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) Theatre Department presents their second production of a three-production calendar: *The Crucible*, by Arthur Miller, guest directed by Jeffrey Wiesen, resident artist of Theatricum Botanicum.

The show runs Wednesday, December 3 to Saturday, December 6 at 7 p.m. with a 1:00 p.m. matinee on Saturday and

Sunday, December 6 and 7 at the Sony Pictures Theatre (The Blackbox), behind the Robert Frost Auditorium, 4401 Elenda Street in Culver City. Tickets are \$15 general admission; \$10 ASB/Seniors/Children/ Faculty; free for holders of a Season Pass and can be purchased online at [www.tix.com](http://www.tix.com) or [www.avpa.org](http://www.avpa.org).



*The Crucible* is based upon the events in 1692, which led to the Salem Witch Trials, a series of hearings before local magistrates to prosecute over 150 people accused of witchcraft in colonial Massachusetts, between February 1692 and May 1693.

The play was written in the early 1950s by Miller during the time of McCarthyism, when the US government blacklisted accused communists. Miller himself was questioned by the House of Representatives' Committee on Un-American Activities in 1956. The play was first performed on Broadway on January 22, 1953.

With costumes by Ashley R. Rhodes of The Pasadena Playhouse, and set and light co-design by Ian Marsh, formerly with Aurora Theatre Company, student light designers Zak Malsich and Joseph Guthman, this production promises to be a powerhouse night of theatre with amazing professionals leading a hard working cast and crew in a fresh, intimate staging of an American classic.

Farhang Pernoon, AVPA Creative Director of Theatre, remarks, "*The Crucible* provides a nice balance to the AVPA productions for 2008-9. With *The Crucible*, contrasted against *A Flea In Her Ear*, our theatre students navigate two continents and two representative samples from different theatrical periods. This contrast exposes students to diverse performance methodologies, and highly divergent design approaches."

*The Crucible* is funded by Playa Vista Corporation, in conjunction with The AVPA Foundation. The presence of an onsite, directly AVPA-driven mainstage to create a three production calendar season marks an exciting time of change at the AVPA.

**About the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts**

The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) at Culver City High School has been inspiring and empowering students to build a compassionate, creative community through innovative and challenging arts education since 1996. AVPA enjoys tremendous support from Sony Pictures Entertainment and other area businesses as well as from the Culver City community. For more information about the Academy, go to <http://avpa.org> or contact Tony Spano at 310-842-4200 x6094 or Kristine Hatanaka at 310-842-4200 x6001.

Photo caption:

Jeffrey Wiesen, of Theatricum Botanicum, speaks of the night's work with the AVPA cast of *The Crucible*

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