

Highschoolers to grace the Ohlone stage

By **ANIKA DOKES**
Staff writer

Approximately 800 high school drama students from around Northern California will descend on Ohlone College on Friday for a weekend of drama competition and camaraderie.

Ohlone's Department of Theatre and Dance will sponsor the 16th Annual High School Theatre Festival.

The festival will bring together the top drama students from Northern California high schools for two days of competition, inspiration and instruction.

There will be more than 29

schools competing from all across the Bay Area, from the Grass Valley area, Alameda County, Marin County, Contra Costa County and Hollister County.

This year there will be top college students and 200 judges from professional and educational theatre who will work to evaluate, encourage and support 800 high school students who will be attending the festival at Ohlone.

The festival is designed to encourage young theatre majors, who want to explore more of acting, dance and technical theatre, which includes video, design and tech theatre to broaden their arisen.

In addition, the festival is a place

for high school students to showcase their talents, and introduce them to new and exciting material through energetic competition, interaction with other students who have the same interests as them, observing their peers, and watching all of the events throughout the competition.

Michele Hartmangruber, who is the festival coordinator, said, "the festival introduces students to the Ohlone College Campus, but it lets them know we have a top Theatre and Dance Program at a community college level."

Hartmangruber also said, "It is a lot cheaper and they get a lot of good information and a lot of good educational opportunities in our

performing arts department."

Each student actor competes on Friday afternoon, March 26 and Saturday, March 27 in hopes of being qualified for the finals on Saturday. The Technical Olympics category will also be held Saturday.

Throughout, the two-day festival, Hartmangruber said, "there were will several scholarships that will be handed out to the students.

"Scholarships are provided by outside vendors. The Young Actor Theatre Camps gets the scholarships as well, but because of budget cuts there is no room for scholarships."

The awards that the festival will be awarding to the first, second,

third and fourth place winners in the categories of acting, dance, technical, design and video and the sweepstakes awards.

Each of the awards are going to the best and outstanding high school student who demonstrated and performed the best performance at the festival.

Come out and support the upcoming and inspiring theatre students who want to be the next Denzel Washington, Will Smith, Martin Lawrence, Halle Berry and Brad Pitt.

For more information about upcoming shows and performances contact the Jackson Theatre, Smith Center at (510) 659-6031 or visit www.boxoffice@ohlone.edu

Production books come to life on stage

By **SARAH HASHEMI**
Staff writer

At some point in time, it is likely that nearly every child dreams about walking down the red carpet, seeing themselves on a movie poster next to some famous actor, or even being on Broadway.

What few realize is how much work it really takes to get up to that level. One not only has to already have the talent, but he or she has to work hard in order to develop the skills to become successful—even then, it is no guarantee.

It is also true that children often overlook what really makes a movie

or play successful: the director.

The Student Repertory Company, better known as the Student Rep, allows students to explore their potential in the world of theater.

The Student Repertory Company began in 1994, the same year the Theater Department began to flourish by creating a dance program, starting outreach programs to high school students, and expanding their space by 11 times their current size.

The Company defines themselves as "A collective of student directors, actors, designers and technicians working together on all aspects of a season of plays."

The company puts on two shows a year, called the Student Rep Bill, one show being in spring and the other in May.

Tom Blank, professor of Theater and Dance at Ohlone, is in charge of the Student Repertory Company and helped formed it back when he started teaching at Ohlone.

Blank said that Student Rep "Gives students the chance to explore leadership. In class they work on techniques and this is a chance for them to be themselves."

The process of producing the Student Rep Bill is fairly simple, it's the details that require all of the work. Students from the directing class in

the fall are given the opportunity to participate in the Bill.

In the fall, student directors are given the assignment to direct a scene from a play and then put together a production book, which contains the great detail.

Within the production book there are general things such as the costume sketches, the scene itself and a list of the cast members.

The book also has things described in detail, like where the actor stands on stage for example. Come spring, the student director actually gets to produce the play for an audience.

To do this, they have to work with

the actors, stage managers, and the costume, lighting, set and sound designers. "Other students work with them [directors] in a supportive capacity," said Blank.

This year, the Student Rep First Bill, titled "One Acts in a Box", will take place March 17-19.

Blank described this year's performance focused around comedy.

The list of plays include: Medieval Help Desk, Clubs, Breast Men, The Spot, Funeral Parlor, Interruptions and Scripted.

For ticket information, contact the Jackson Theatre, Smith Center at (510) 659-6031 or visit www.boxoffice@ohlone.edu

Tao Lin is crisp and exhilarating

By **TINA KARIMI**
Staff writer

Classical pianist Tao-Lin will perform at Ohlone College on the evening of March 20 at the Smith Center for the Fine and Performing Arts.

The performance will be held in honor of classical master pianist and virtuoso Chopin's 200th birthday.

As a tribute to the great composer, Tao Lin's performance will include the Ballade in G minor and the B minor sonata.

Chopin invented the musical form of the ballade, a large-scale piano piece. Works by other classical giants such as Scarlatti and Mozart will also be included in Lin's recital.

Tao Lin began his journey of musical achievement at a young age. He began receiving piano lessons at the age of 4 from his parents, who

were also musicians.

A Chinese-American artist, Lin was admitted into the Shanghai Conservatory of Music at the age of 8.

He went on to perform internationally as a soloist with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, the Winnipeg Symphony, and the Harid Philharmonia, among other companies. Lin has toured in many different cities throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

Lin's technique is critically acclaimed, and was called, "crisp, crystalline, and exhilarating" by the *Miami Herald*.

He is a regular participant in music festivals and competitions, including the National Society of Arts and Letters. In 2008, he performed at the Kennedy Center and the National Gallery in Washington, DC.

Lin is also a collaborative artist, and is currently professor of piano and head of collaborative piano at Lynn University's Conservatory of Music.

During the summer months, Lin also serves as a collaborative pianist for the Bowdoin International Music Festival. He is also a founding member of the Berlin Piano Quartet, along with the Jacques Thibaud String Trio.

Lin is the last of a series of performers hosted by the Smith Center in its series, The Smith Center Presents!

The 8 p.m. event is being co-sponsored by the Fremont Marriott, the Mission San Jose Rotary Club, and Irvington High School.

Tickets cost \$15 to \$25 and may be purchased online through the Smith Center's website, or by calling the box office at 510-659-6031.

Growing up black and intellectual

By **DAVE SHEFFER**
Staffwriter

Ohlone's strong tradition of Brown Bag Seminars continued with last week's speaker, Bryant Keith Alexander. The Brown Bag Seminar is sponsored by the ASOC and is a free lecture available to all interested.

Alexander is the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and is a professor working in the department of Communication Studies at CSU Los Angeles.

Alexander read from his book *Performing Black Masculinity:*

Race, Culture and Queer Identity.

Speaking to an audience of students in the NUMMI Theater gave the event more of an intimate feel. In his readings from his book, Alexander covered topics such as what it means to be black, homosexual and male in America.

Alexander's reflections on growing up black and intellectual led him to feel like he was living a false life. He said that being black he should act tough and intimidating and not kind and reserved.

While the audience may have been able to sympathize with what Alexander was saying about the pre-

existing stereotypes, there was still a sense of this is something that not all will be able to relate to.

Like his outrage about negative opinions from white woman about a black woman, which in turn gave Alexander a sense of anger but also made him aware.

His strong association with others of African descent may have seemed like a foreign concept as many people of different races may or may not associate with their race as strongly as Alexander.

When Alexander talked about being gay it was mainly about

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Smith Center Presents!
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TAO LIN
Classical Piano
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"keen musical intelligence...
crisp, crystalline, and exhilarating."
Miami Herald

Chinese native Tao Lin has appeared in North America, Asia and Europe, bringing critical acclaim for his subtle intimate pianism and brilliant technique.

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