

ALLEYES ON CSUSB

DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE ARTS

2024-2025 SEASON



Department of Theatre Arts Faculty

André Harrington • *Professor & Department Chair*

Guillermo Aviles-Rodriguez • *Assistant Professor*

Thomas Berry • *Lecturer*

Nicole Cloeren • *Lecturer*

Kathryn Ervin • *Professor Emeritus & Lecturer*

Shannon Galuszka • *Lecturer*

Marlita Hill • *Lecturer*

Brady Greer Huffman • *Lecturer*

Lisa Lyons • *Part-Time Lecturer*

Jason Mann • *Associate Professor*

Frank Mihelich • *Lecturer*

Kristi Papailler • *Assistant Professor*

Jennifer Schulz • *Lecturer*

Tami Silver-Ryan • *Lecturer*

Johanna Smith • *Professor*

Terry Donovan Smith • *Professor*

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ALL EYES ON CSUSB



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“It is not in the stars
to hold our destiny
but in ourselves.”

William Shakespeare
- Julius Caesar



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2024 - 2025 SEASON

William Shakespeare's

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Directed by Kristi Papailler

Theatre for ALL ages - One Weekend Only

Mariposa / Butterfly

By Sandra Fenichel Asher and José Casas

Directed by Johanna Smith

December 6 - 8, 2024

November 15 - 24, 2024

Plus: Student Playwright Showcase - Date TBA | Alumni Homecoming Event - Date TBA | ... and so much more!

YOU DON'T EVEN SPEAK SPANISH!

by Aaron Higareda

Directed by Guillermo Aviles-Rodriguez

April 25 - May 4, 2025

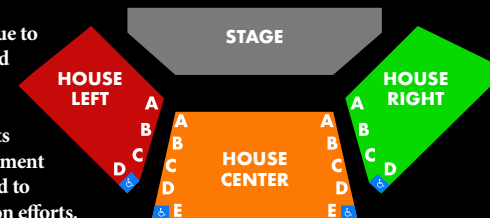
THE RONALD E. BARNES STAGE

With only 144 seats, there are NO 'bad seats' in our intimate theatre.

From tried and true classics, to contemporary pieces, to student-written-and-directed productions, the Barnes Theatre has seen it all since its opening. Hosting a slew of amazing plays from the likes of William Shakespeare to Lin-Manuel Miranda, the CSUSB Theatre remains one of the greatest entertainment values in the Inland Empire.

One of our greatest strengths at the Theatre is the relationships we cultivate with our amazing student body. Not only are they our on-stage performers, but CSUSB Theatre students actively participate in every aspect of stage craft. Set construction, design, costuming, lighting, projections, props, sound, house management, and so very much more - our students are always there.

This is ONLY possible due to the support of the Inland Empire community - every ticket, donation, and season pass supports the Theatre Arts Department Trust, which is dedicated to academic and production efforts.



SPOTLIGHT ON CSUSB THEATRE ARTS

'Jump out and SEIZE the moment'

When CSUSB theatre arts major Dea Armstrong learned the essay she wrote about former slave, abolitionist and playwright William Wells Brown had won first place in a national competition, she did not think it was possible.

This is the first time a CSUSB student has won a Black Theatre Network research award, which includes a monetary prize and the possibility of being published in the Black Theatre Review, the BTN's journal. Armstrong also presented her work at at the 37th annual Black Theatre Network Conference in St. Louis Mo. in July.

At the urging of her mentor, CSUSB assistant professor of acting and directing Kristi Papailler, Armstrong submitted her essay, "*First-Person Accounts and the Importance of William Wells Brown's Work*" to the Undergraduate Division of the Black Theatre Network's (BTN) S. Randolph Edmonds Young Scholars Competition in March, and in June, learned she won.

"I would encourage other Black students, artists, essay writers, anyone entering scholarship competitions, to definitely jump out and seize the moment because this was not something that I ever could have thought was possible unless I talked to my professors about it," Armstrong said. "Stepping out of my comfort zone and really applying myself has made all of this come true."

Papailler, Armstrong's mentor, praised her efforts. "Dea's scholarship and her paper 'First Person Accounts and the Importance of William



Dea Armstrong
- CSUSB Department of Theatre Arts
Class of 2024

Wells Brown's Work' is outstanding," she said. "Ms. Armstrong's research and analysis is new, unique and presents a valuable perspective appreciated by emerging and seasoned scholars in the field. Placing first in the prestigious national S. Randolph Edmonds Young Scholars Award competition represents what no doubt is the first of many recognitions of (her) work."

The only CSUSB student at the conference, Armstrong was accompanied by Papailler, as well as CSUSB emerita professor of Theatre Arts Kathryn Ervin, a BTN board member and BTN past-president, and CSUSB professor of Theatre Arts and department chair Andre Harrington, immediate past-president of BTN.

"The three professors had a 'dress rehearsal' for me so I could present the abstract and they could give me feedback on it, which was definitely helpful. It soothed my nerves about the whole presentation," she said, adding that her talk was well-received.

"Everyone at the conference felt inviting and wanted me to join in, and it felt good to be out in a new experience. I learned a lot," she said. "It felt good being around other Black professors, academics, designers, directors and actors."



The Players of the Pear Garden Win for Best Collaboration

When darkness fell on the performing arts building in the fall of 2023, the ghosts, ghouls, goblins and dancing bats came out to play!

Over the course of three nights in October, the Players of the Pear Garden joined forces with the CSUSB xREAL Lab to create a truly unique event:

The Hauntenanny. Part haunted house,

part comedy show, with dramatic script readings, choreographed dance performances, a house party and state-of-the-art motion capture performance all told with a macabre twist.

The Hauntenanny was an event unlike any other.

After surviving a gauntlet of ghouls,

guests were escorted by Igor into the Black Box Theatre where they were introduced to MC Mary Corpse as she led the audience through a series of performances, each leading up to a frightful motion-capture spectacle!

Facilitated and directed by Professor Kristi Papailler, the motion-capture performances of *Molly Means*, *The Big Toe*, *The Woman in the Snow* and *La Llorona* were brought to life by an amazing array of performers, adorned in motion-capture suits with digitally animated avatars projected behind them, as each horror-filled tale unfolded.

The xReal team, James Trotter, Yutong Liu, Denise Hernandez, Jacob Dankel, and JC Mariscal, created surreal environments, dramatic lighting and stunning avatars that not only performed through motion-capture, but would also follow you home after the event through use of QR technology.

Following the motion-capture performances, audience members were invited to attend a delightfully decadent dance party complete with choreographed Time-Warp and Thriller dances!

On Tuesday, April 30th, 2024 the Players of the Pear Garden were officially awarded the "*Best Collaboration With A Non-Student Organization*" trophy for the Hauntenanny, presented by the CSUSB Office of Student Leadership and Engagement.

Congratulations to the Players of the Pear Garden, Professor Papailler and the CSUSB xREAL lab for this amazing collaborative achievement.





SPOTLIGHT ON CS USB THEATRE ARTS

Anansi's Carnival Adventure

The theatre arts department celebrates a major achievement

The Cal State San Bernardino theatre arts department celebrated a remarkable achievement as their musical, "Anansi's Carnival Adventure," received a prestigious invitation from Region 8 of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival program. Selected as one of only four productions, the play was featured at the regional Festival 56, named in honor of its 56th year. This is a significant milestone for the theatre arts department, as it marked their first invitation to participate in Festival 56 since 2006. The festival took place Feb. 11-17, 2024 at Glendale Community College in Glendale, Calif.

In the play, a Caribbean town witnesses the abrupt sale of its adjacent forest to developers. What ensues is an adventure involving a boy named Felipe, an Afro-Latina spider called Anansi and a group of wild animal companions. This motley group endeavors to find Hurracan, the God of Wind, and

convince him to expel the developers and save the forest.

"When I read the description of the play, I thought, 'Oh, this would be fantastic!' It's for young audiences, perfectly suited to the actors," said Kathryn Ervin, director of the production and professor of theatre arts. "It's a delightful play, and we have a great cast of students."

The journey to securing the rights to perform the production involved communication with the playwright, Alberto Justiniano, and the composer, Gary Rue, who graciously agreed to allow CSUSB to perform the production.

Interestingly, the backdrop against which the play is set

Goes To KCACTF Festival 56!

with their prestigious KCACTF Festival 56 performance!

aligns with a year-long investigation by the department of anthropology into the Afro-Latino connection. Moreover, Andre Harrington, chair of the department, specializes in masks – aligning perfectly with the play's costume needs. Ervin emphasized the fortunate alignment of these and other elements, underscoring how seamlessly they came together to set the stage for this production.

Reflecting on the preparation for the festival, Ervin spoke about the joy experienced by the actors and crew during rehearsals. "With such a zany, silly play, it's a great opportunity to be really inventive," she said, describing the actors' portrayal of animals, such as foxes, turtles and bats.

The production's impact on the audience, especially the younger



viewers, was heartwarming. Ervin recounted a touching moment involving a young audience member who came back several times with his parents. According to his mother, he told her he wished he could watch the play every night, which delighted the cast and crew.

The spotlight shone on the theatre arts program as they presented "Anansi's Carnival Adventure" at Festival 56. Their performance was met with a blend of enthusiasm, pride and a shared love for the art of theater.

Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival

The Kennedy Center

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Part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program is generously funded by David and Alice Rubenstein. Additional support is provided by the U.S. Department of Education, the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation, The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein, and the National Committee for the Performing Arts. Our productions are entered in the Kennedy

Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aim of this national theater education program is to identify and promote quality in college-level theater productions. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels. Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Last year, more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theatre department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theater across the nation.

All Eyes On The Prize...

Construction on the all-new 73,337-square-foot state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center continues!

The twenty-year dream of a modern, 500-seat shared performance space is almost a reality!

The new center will provide teaching, rehearsal and performance spaces necessary for a modern performing arts program, creating a more equitable educational experience that reflects the excellence of the theatre arts and music programs at CSUSB. At completion, the theatre will be the only one of its size and quality in the Inland Empire and will allow more of

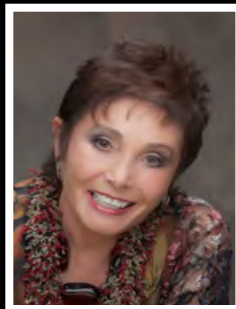
the area's community to experience the highly acclaimed productions from CSUSB student-performers and student-musicians. The building will also serve as a new "front door" to the campus, presenting a modern and forward-looking image to visitors and the larger community.

Both theatre and music students excitedly await their time on the new stage as the scheduled 2025 opening nears.



ELLEN WEISSER

ENDOWED THEATRE SHOWCASE



Ellen Gaynor Weisser graduated from CSUSB with a bachelor's degree in English in 1968. She is the former chair of the College of Arts and Letters Community Leaders Board (2004-2015) and immediate past chair of the CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation. Ellen appeared as Shakespeare's Desdemona during the CSUSB 1967-1968 season in a production of short plays titled *Matches and Mismatches*. Her passion and enthusiasm for her alma mater are inspiring.

Ellen's husband, Stanley "Stan" Weisser, earned his R.Ph. from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy in 1963. Currently, he is a trustee of the University of Redlands. Stan is brilliant, warm, and dedicated to serving his fellow man.

On June 4, 2016, for their 50th wedding anniversary, Stan surprised Ellen with The Ellen Weisser Endowed Theatre Showcase honoring her service to CSUSB, the university's 50th anniversary, and most importantly, their golden wedding anniversary. The Ellen Weisser Endowed Theatre Showcase supports a CSUSB Department of Theatre Arts production each year. The inaugural Ellen Weisser Endowed Theatre Showcase production, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, filled the theatre to capacity at every performance. In spring 2023, the Ellen Weisser Endowed Theatre Showcase presented *Anansi's Carnival Adventure*, the amazing musical by Alberto Justiniano and Gary Rue. In the spring of 2024 the tradition continued with the Tony Award-winning *Pippin* by Roger O. Hirson and Stephen Schwartz.

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of the CSUSB Department of Theatre Arts, thank you to Stan and Ellen for creating this wonderful endowment!

Ellen Weisser Endowed Theatre Showcase Stan & Ellen Weisser

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