

**Cabaret Night 2008:
 Give My Regards To Broadway**

The 2008 edition of the AVPA’s much-anticipated *Cabaret Night* will feature some of Broadway’s greatest hits. Opening on Jan. 31, the show is comprised of “mini-musicals” – showcasing highlights from various blockbuster hits, including *Oklahoma!*, *My Fair Lady*, *West Side Story*, and *The Sound of Music*. Talented AVPA students will also perform a compilation of audience-favorite showstoppers, such as “Luck Be A Lady” from *Guys and Dolls*, “Don’t Cry for Me Argentina” from *Evita*, and “All That Jazz” from *Chicago*.

Set in a nightclub-style venue, the show takes place on the stage of the Robert Frost Auditorium (4401 Elenda St.) at Culver City High School on Jan. 31, Feb. 1 and 2, at 7 pm, with a matinee on Feb. 2 at 2 pm. To create the intimate atmosphere,

the audience sits right on the stage, close to all the musical action. Short film vignettes, featuring background on each of the musicals, will help make this a truly memorable evening.

The AVPA Jazz Ensemble and Chamber Singers will perform highlights from the recent stage and screen hit *Hairspray*. The medley will feature songs such as “Good Morning Baltimore,” and “Welcome to the ‘60s!”.



Lisa Michel and the AVPA Chamber Singers rehearse for Cabaret Night

Co-directed by Lisa Michel and Tony Spano, Jr., this popular annual event will both entertain and educate the musical expert and novice alike. “This is always the highlight of the year for the music department,” says Dr. Spano, head of the Culver City High School music program and AVPA Co-Executive Director. “It’s a wonderful opportunity to educate the students about these great songs and shows, as well as producing a very entertaining event,” adds Lisa Michel, AVPA Chamber Singers director and co-director of this 5th edition of *Cabaret Night* with Dr. Spano.

Tickets are available online at www.avpa.org. General

admission is \$15, \$10 for students with ASB, children, seniors, and faculty. Get your tickets now, this show sells out fast.

10th Annual Frost Film Festival

The AVPA is proud to welcome young filmmakers from around LA County to participate in the 10th annual Frost Film Festival on February 8 and 9. The event is hosted by our own AVPA Film students who are looking forward to showing films from schools such as Santa Monica High School, Mira Costa High School, LA County High School for the Arts, Harvard Westlake, Washington Prep and Pacifica Christian High; as well as their own short films.

Two AVPA seniors will premiere their fall films at the festival: Kenny Suleimanagich directed *Sudoku* and George Mikhail directed *Clyde & Joey: Born to Lose*. Both Kenny and George have spent 4 years of intense study learning all aspects of filmmaking.

Films up to 15 minutes long, preferably on Mini DV format, are eligible for the festival. The official deadline for submissions is February 1st. If you have a film but can’t make the deadline, please call Film Department Director, Stephen Kim, at (310) 842-4200 X-3306.

The festival runs February 8 and 9, from 7pm to 10pm, in the SPoT (Black Box) behind the Robert Frost Auditorium on the campus of Culver City High School, 4401 Elenda Street, 90232. Admission each night is \$5. For more information please call (310) 842-8400 x3306

Join us for our landmark festival and for two great evenings of creative student filmmaking. The films will be as diverse and exceptional as the students who created them.



This George Mikhail film will premiere at the Festival.

Inside This Issue

- Rotary Club Art Contest2
- Ryman Scholars2
- Dance Co-Director Moves On...2
- Spring Schedule of Classes3
- Important Registration Info3
- Rehearsals for Music Man3
- MOCA Sicknasty Opening4
- MOCA Teen Night.....4
- Film Students Enter Festivals ...4
- Contact Us4
- January Photo Gallery.....5
- Announcements5

AVPA Art Students Win Rotary Club Art Contest

The Culver City Rotary Club has announced their Art Contest winners and honors go to two AVPA art students. Karissa Huey is a First Place \$100 winner for her beautifully detailed pencil portrait. Emily Hirohama won a strong \$50 Second Place recognition for her watercolor painting.



Rotary Club Art Contest Winners: Emily Hirohama (l) and Karissa Huey

Karissa will now be a finalist attending the Rotary Club's District Contest.

The AVPA Art Department would like to thank the Culver City Rotary Club and send a special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Chabola for all their

work to coordinate this competition. Karissa says, "I was completely surprised when I heard that I won the Rotary Contest. I was honored that the judges picked my piece." Good luck in the district finals, Karissa!

Art Students Receive Ryman Arts Scholarships

This Fall, AVPA art student Charlene Amarasekara, alongside 3 more art students from Miss Fien's art classes, Alissa Contreras, Sophie Costas, and Ivan Hernandez, have all received scholarships to the Ryman Arts program at the University of Southern California. Selection into this highly competitive and rigorous program is a challenge. This is an extraordinary arts program that continues to recognize and support the talent of young artists throughout southern California. Each Ryman student receives a full scholarship of \$8 -10,000 that includes a series of free art classes, instruction, supplies, and transportation. Nine of our most talented students now hold scholarships to this prestigious program and will be honored with a culminating exhibition at The California African American Museum in May. Ryman Arts provides the foundation for students to flourish in the visual arts. The artwork they create is always of the highest caliber. According to Charlene Amarasekara, "I know this great opportunity will enable me to explore and reach my artistic potential".



Ryman Scholar Charlene Amarasekara with some of her work

AVPA Dance Co-Director Moves On

After 8 years of dedicated service to the AVPA Dance Department, Cari Ann Shim Sham* Henderson has decided to step away from her duties as Co-Creative Director in Dance and focus on her work as a Master of Fine Arts candidate at UCLA. Cari Ann leaves a legacy of master teaching in tap, ballet, flamenco, West African, choreography for solos and duets, and improvisation. While working for the AVPA, in addition to teaching and administrating for the Dance Department, she supported the Academy by choreographing for the Music Department's annual Cabaret Night and choreographing and directing some of the Musical Theater projects. As a second year MFA student, she is teaching, choreographing, researching and producing dance for the camera, and co-creating a project for which she received a grant to share her work in New York City. She will also be showing her graduate work in an MFA2 concert in



Cari Ann Shim Sham in Bali during her Surdna Foundation Arts Teacher's Fellowship last summer



Cari Ann (left) and Julie Carson at AVPA orientation

March. She plans to continue sharing her expertise in tap dance with the AVPA students this semester.

Julie Carson, having shared the creative directorship in Dance with Ms. Henderson since fall 2007, is now performing solo. "Teaching and taking full responsibility for the Dance Department without my colleague is somewhat daunting. Cari Ann has done an excellent job with the kids, and she has taught me so much about working for the AVPA....I will miss her. Although this is a big change, my experience with the AVPA dance students has been excellent and I'm happy to continue to work with them."

Among the offerings in dance this semester will be: intermediate modern dance, tap, a Jazz dance workshop, and a workshop in contemporary Indian dance.

Carson continues, "There are exciting projects in store for the dancers this coming semester. We are developing a very creative project for the spring dance concert. I imagine it will be a great experience in creating and performing for the students."

There are plenty of opportunities for the dance students to perform. Many of them will participate in *Cabaret Night* in February, *The Music Man* in March, and the Spring Dance Concert in April.

Stay tuned for more dance!

Important Registration Information

Here are registration dates, times, and locations for Santa Monica College (SMC) and West LA College (WLAC) classes in the Spring Schedule.

SMC - Wed, Feb. 6, 1:15-2:15 pm, Tech Center

WLAC - New Students only for Dance/Art, Wed, Feb. 6, 1:15-2:15, Room 1 (Hatanaka)

WLAC - New Students only for Theatre/Film/Music, Friday, Feb. 8, 3:15-5:15 pm, MPR-Library

Rehearsals for *The Music Man*

Rehearsals for the AVPA production of *The Music Man* begin on **Monday, February 4th at 6:00 pm in Room 94**. The entire cast is expected to attend this read-through of the script. If you haven't received a copy of the script, see Dr. Spano before the rehearsal. A full schedule will be given to the cast that evening.

Spring Schedule of Classes

Classes begin the week of February 11th. Classes in bold type require West LA College or Santa Monica College registration. See important registration information above.

Department	Class/Workshop	Time	Location	Teacher(s)
Dance	Modern Dance (Dance 462, WLAC)	3:15-4:45 M, 2:15-3:30 W	Frost	Julie Carson
Dance	Dance Rehearsal and Performance (Dance 822, WLAC)	3:30-5:00 WF	TBA	Julie Carson
Dance	Jazz (6 weeks - Feb 7 - March 13)	4:30-6 pm, Th	CCMS Room 305	Saleemah Knight
Dance	Contemporary Indian Folk Dance Workshop	TBA	TBA	Ana Swarup
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	Advanced Guitar	2:15-3:15 pm, W	Room 94	TBA
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)	3:15-5:30 pm, T/Th	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 Design	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 I (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: All AVPA students will be required to attend a once-a-month convocation in the Robert Frost, 1:15-2:00 pm, on the following dates:

Jan 30, Feb 27, March 19, April 9, May 7, June 4

**Additional classes, workshops, field trips, and special events are announced throughout the year--see avpa.org for updates!

**Classes and locations may change due to schedule changes and faculty availability.



MOCA Opening Is "SICKNASTY"

By Alexa Giffen

By definition, "sicknasty" means "awesome in its purest form." Few other words could describe the January opening of the AVPA art exhibition at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA. With generous support from Sony Pictures Entertainment, AVPA students have been extremely fortunate to create their own artwork and have it displayed at a major metropolitan museum.



MOCA with Janice Pober of Sony (right)

Working with MOCA artists and educators, Fabrizio Flores and May Jong, AVPA Art students created their own artwork inspired by the exhibit Copyright: MURAKAMI. After months of hard work, students unveiled their exhibit to a large and eager crowd.



During the MOCA reception, many different kinds of people filled the audience. From members of the AVPA and their families, Sony, MOCA, and CCUSD VIP's to 500 curious onlookers, there was no shortage of diversity. Both the crowd and excellent mood of the students helped charge an unforgettable afternoon. The very talented AVPA Music student, Jasmine Golan, added her incredible music to this event. At the end of the day, both guests and students left feeling proud and impressed. A landmark exhibit in the history of the AVPA, "SICKNASTY" will never be forgotten by anyone lucky enough to have attended the exhibit.



Jasmine Golan



Here's the news we got from our alumni this month. If you have news to share for the February issue of the Spotlight, please get it to the Editor (kamcconkey@pacbell.net) by February 22.

Natalia Garduno (Theatre, 2005) plays Le Beau in the upcoming UCLA Shakespeare production of *As You Like It* which runs February 28, 29 and March 1. All shows are at 7:30pm in the Northwest Campus Auditorium at UCLA.

AVPA Film Students Hit the Festival Circuit

In addition to hosting the 10th Annual Frost Film Festival right here in the SPoT on February 8 and 9, AVPA's Young Filmmakers will also be submitting their own short films to other local, regional and national film festivals. Among others, entries may be submitted to the Los Angeles Film Festival (presented by the LA Times), the Backlot Film Festival, and the Columbia University National Undergraduate Film Festival (CUNUFF). Good luck to our young auteurs!

MOCA's Teen Night: Eye Candy

Running for its sixth year, MOCA's Teen Night: *Eye Candy* will feature artwork by AVPA art students. Like the AVPA's very own exhibit, SICKNASTY, the work submitted to Teen Night is also inspired by the current exhibit at MOCA: Copyright: MURAKAMI.

The event caters especially to high school students and will feature art created by teens from across the Los Angeles area including many pieces from Academy students. Says senior art student Andy Vives, "Having my art in another show at MOCA is really cool. I'm proud to share what I do with other students in Los Angeles."

Eye Candy will be held at MOCA's The Geffen Contemporary on Saturday, February 2, from 7-11pm.

Contact Us

- Dr. Tony Spano (AVPA co-director, music director): tonyspano@avpa.org
- Kristine Hatanaka (AVPA co-director, art director): kristinehatanaka@ccusd.org
- Julie Carson (dance director): jcarson@danceusa.org
- Stephen Kim (film director): stephenkim@ccusd.org
- Farhang Pernoon (theater director): farhangpernoon@ccusd.org
- Shannon Kennedy (theater design director): euphrates47@yahoo.com
- Karol Mora (administrative coordinator): karol.mora@sbcglobal.net
- Dan Nannini (AVPA Foundation president): DanNannini@aol.com
- Kathy McConkey (Spotlight editor): kamcconkey@pacbell.net

January Photo Gallery



Announcements

It's Not Too Late to Buy an Ad in AVPA's 2007-2008 Ad Book

You can still buy an ad! Publication of the 2nd edition of this year's Ad Book has been postponed until March. (Note: The few additional ads purchased so far for the 2nd edition will be printed as a supplement to the first edition for the Cabaret Night and Frost Film Festival productions.)

The AVPA Ad Book is distributed at all AVPA productions, performances, and exhibitions throughout each school year. Businesses can reach this large potential audience and support our arts program by purchasing an ad. Parents can help pay their child's participation fee of \$100 for 2nd Semester by selling an ad, or purchasing a tribute ad for their child. Remember, these ads help sponsor the productions, events, classes and workshops AVPA will provide to 200 students this year. Download the form at www.avpa.org/cont_ad.htm or email info@avpa.org, or contact Dr. Spano at (310) 842-4200, ext. 6094 for more information.

AVPA Needs You!

Volunteers are the life-blood of the AVPA. Ask any department director how you can help or consider these opportunities:

Photographers: Looking for something to do with that fabulous digital camera you got as a holiday gift? The Spotlight needs a few dedicated photographers to capture candid moments and cover AVPA events. Theatre, film, dance, music, and visual artists are hard at work all around the AVPA—use your skills to record the action. Contact Kathy McConkey at kamcconkey@pacbell.net or (310) 559-6421, for more information and ideas.

Recycler: The Dance Department is still looking for a volunteer to recycle the spent printer toner and ink car-

Upcoming Events

Cabaret Night: "Give My Regards to Broadway"
January 31, February 1-2; 7pm, February 2, 2pm, Frost

MOCA's Teen Night: "Eye Candy"
February 2, 7-11pm, The Geffen Contemporary

Frost Film Festival
February 8-9, 7pm, SPoT

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 24-26, 7pm, 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.

tridges they've been collecting and storing for a couple of years! Will you find the best price for the cartridges already collected (there are lots of them) and then do that recycling every couple of months? If so, please contact Dance Director Julie Carson at jcarson@danceusa.org.

Maybe you don't have time to volunteer but would like to help in some other way. Check out the AVPA Wish List at http://avpa.org/cont_needs.htm. Here's one suggestion:

Water Cooler Sponsor: Sponsor water coolers for the music room and the Frost with monthly water bottles. Not only would this ensure our students had decent water, but it would help the environment by reducing the number of water bottles the students would consume. Can you help with that? If so, contact Karol Mora at karol.mora@sbcglobal.net.

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