



Photos courtesy of Fremont Symphony



Larry Osborne left, conducts the Ohlone Symphony Orchestra. At right, the orchestra & Osborne receive recognition for their work.

Symphony Orchestra performs for Ohlone

By ANIKA DOKES
Staff writer

If you enjoy live music that is soft, soothing and enjoyable to the ear.

Ohlone Symphony Orchestra is the place for you to come out and listen.

The Ohlone Symphony Orchestra formerly known as the Ohlone Chamber Orchestra, is a group of dedicated volunteer musicians who perform great classical music for our community. They opened their seventh season this fall semester on Oct. 13 under the direction of Music Director and Conductor Larry Osborne.

Osborne has been conductor of the Orchestra since fall of 2003, and he continues each year to conduct the orchestra and symphony who

make outstanding music.

Osborne has several degrees in music performance and music education and has taught music education at all levels from elementary school through college.

In addition to teaching, Osborne has been a member of the San Jose Ballet Symphony, a French hornist with the Opera San Jose, American Wind Symphony, San Francisco Opera Orchestra as well as the San Francisco Theatre Orchestra.

He is not only an outstanding music director and conductor, but Osborne also has the passion to teach instrumental and string music to elementary and junior high students at Hayward intermediate schools as well in addition to three other elementary schools in the Hayward Unified School District.

Over the past several years the Ohlone orchestra has been receiving two sources of funding from the Associated Students of Ohlone College and ticket sales.

Osborne said that "the Orchestra performs four concerts per season; but because of the budget cuts that are being made to some of the departments on campus the Orchestra is going to continue their second concert starting in March of 2010."

The majority of the co-orchestra members in the Symphony are enrolled at Ohlone and the rest of the Symphony and Orchestra members are not Ohlone students.

The Ohlone Orchestra and Symphony boasts a variety of different age groups from 15 going all the way to 60 years old.

The Ohlone Orchestra and Symphony is open to college or professional experienced players who play the violin, viola, cello, trumpet, bass, flute, piccolo, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, French horn, timpani as well as a host of other instruments.

In the coming months, Osborne states, "The Orchestra has enormous plans to prepare for their second concert, which will be held in March and May of 2010."

The musical pieces that the Orchestra plans on playing include "Overture to the Opera 'Nabucco' by Verdi, Serenade No. 10 'Grand Partita' featuring the Ohlone Symphony Orchestra Wind Players Mozart and Symphony No. 7 by Antonin Dvorak.

However, for the May perfor-

mances the Symphony and Orchestra will also play "Two Fanfares For Bass and Percussion by Richard Stravss as well as "Second Piano Concerto by Rachmaninoff with soloist Russell Hancock and finally Beethoven Fifth Symphony."

The Nutcracker

The Fremont Symphony Orchestra will put on their production of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 2 and 7 p.m as well as on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. For tickets, contact Ohlone's Box Office @ 510-659-6031

Egyptian students form Q&A panel

By NAZIA MASTAN
Features editor

Ohlone offers its students an opportunity to attain an education. However, our exchange programs allow us to enrich ourselves with the beauty of diversity. Sixteen Egyptian

students are currently studying at Ohlone on scholarships.

The students are enriching our daily interactions with their rich culture and points of view, increasing our learning experiences through simple exchanges.

Ohlone's Speech Department is

putting on a panel of our scholarship students from Egypt; a question and answer session here at Ohlone college. It will be held today, Nov. 19 from 12 to 12:50 p.m. in Building 3, Room 3102.

There will be three Egyptian students on the panel who have received

scholarships to attend Ohlone, these scholarships have benefitted our college community immensely in expanding our outreach.

The students will be speaking and answering questions on various topics. Some topics such as the geography, religion, politics and

the rich culture of Egypt have been outlined for them to discuss, while a wide range of questions may be asked.

According to Eddie West, who is director of Ohlone's International Programs and Services department, the panel's goal is to share the Egyptian student's personal experiences. Also, to enlighten Ohlone students and staff about Egyptian values and culture and share in the spirit of International Education Week.

IEW or International Education Week is organized by the Department of Education, and is from Nov. 16-20. It is a nationally observed week that celebrates international students and educational exchanges.

Many colleges across the nation are putting on similar forums and discussions that highlight the contributions that foreign students give our institutions.

International Education Week offers Americans an opportunity to prepare themselves for successful interactions with actors of the world stage, by allowing their students and staff to gain a greater appreciation for cultures that they come into contact with every day, as does Ohlone with our large foreign student body.

Come join Ohlone today in celebrating the enrichment that we receive by our Egyptian students.

Nutcracker at Ohlone



The Berkeley City Ballet is being featured at Ohlone College with their winter production of The Nutcracker. It will be performed on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 1 and 5 p.m. as well as on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 1 and 5 p.m. The Nutcracker will be in Ohlone's Jackson Theater.

Alice not found in this 'Rabbit Hole'

By **KELSEY BLOOM**
Staff writer

Is there a correct way to grieve? Is there a right way to feel? This is the question boldly and searingly proposed by The Ohlone Performing Arts stunning production of *Rabbit Hole*, the 2006 Pulitzer Prize winning play by David Lindsay-Abaire.

The plot of *Rabbit Hole* is very much a cliché by soap opera standards. It focuses on the enormous strain on a family brought about by the death of a young child. It has bitter squabbles, miscommunication, violent outbursts, denial, suspicion and grief. Everything you would expect from an episode of "Days of Our Lives."

However, what sets this play apart from all those is the heart-wrenching realism and authenticity of how a mere cast of five characters reacts to these massive challenges.

These types of dramas almost always have a certain equation to them, the characters are expected by the audience to react a certain way to these situations. A mother coping with the loss of a young child is expected to be erratic and wildly emotional, or to still feel that way, but to express those emotions carefully and subtly. Becca (played by Stacey Lynn Bell) is not them, Becca is devoid of all emotion entirely, an android.

This is not how a mother reacts to a dead son? She is supposed to show the world her pain, to prove to the world how much she loves her son. It is hard not for the audience to deny these reactions as poor writing or poor acting. But as the show goes on, with the characters dutifully trudging through their daily lives, the façade starts to chip away.

We learn that Becca is not an android, in fact, she is all too human. It becomes painfully obvious that, as the matriarch of the family, she is accustomed to always being in control of her world, a great source of strength to her eccentric mother and insecure sister.

It is for those very reasons that she is terrified

by the prospect that her emotions will turn her into a smoldering heap of rubble. She is a woman so terrified by her own grief that she denies it, tries to purge it from herself, lest she fail herself and the family that depends on her.

Although this play has characters displaying emotions and reactions that may seem alien to some of us, it works because it has authenticity. Although we may think that we would never react to a crisis in a certain way, be it in a drama or reality, we are that way because we are all individuals.

The cause and effect of these characters interactions and crises they face, their emotional equation, is shown in a way that is so very authentic. The audience understands that although they might react a certain way, it is because they are not the characters. It is a play that makes empathy accessible to all people, not just those whom the story relates to.

The essence of this play is peacefulness and understanding. It shows us that as people trying to solve the problem that is our own lives, we must step back and realize that we are all different, and react to things different ways. It teaches us, stunningly, that empathy is our greatest tool of communication. When we understand each other, we understand ourselves.

Despite all that, this was still a production of the Ohlone Performing arts, and as usual there are certain variables in the play that are left to their creative control; lighting, staging, sets, blocking, acting, etcetera.

They were a total afterthought, not even worth noticing. Why? They were flawless, in every category. All that could be perceived on stage that night were artists, doing art the right way, the true way, and my, was it beautiful.

The *Rabbit Hole* is continuing next weekend on Nov. 19-21 @ 8 p.m. in Ohlone's Theatre. Tickets are on sale at the Box Office which can be reached at (510) 659-6031.

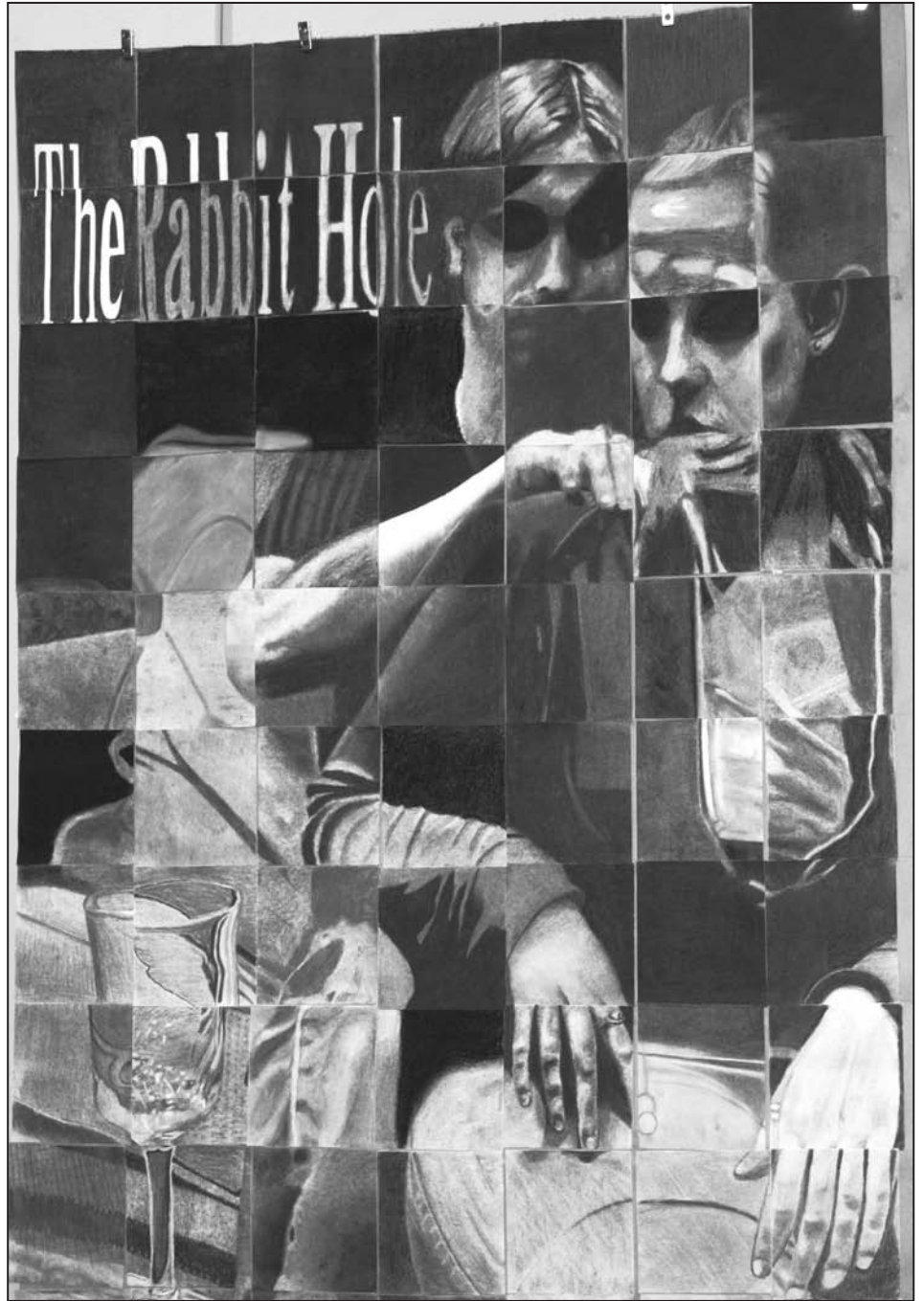


Photo by Manal Bejaoui

Professor Kenney Mencher's art classes have put together this montage of a scene from 'The Rabbit Hole.'

The Nature of Conflict



Photo by Accalia Calip

Brenda Ahnholz, Speech and Communications professor will present a Brown Bag Seminar entitled Nature of Conflict in Lesbian Relationships. The Seminar will focus on her master's thesis from the University of Northern Iowa. Qualitative data in the form of interviews showed her that the primary path to intimacy between lesbian couples is communication.

Winter Showcase

By **MANIKA CASTERLINE**
Opinions editor

The annual Winter Dance Showcase performed to a sold out Ohlone NUMMI Theater just last year.

This year promises to deliver the same resoundingly magical momentum. It will also highlight the talent of over 100 Ohlone dancers.

Ohlone's Dance department will exhibit the diversity of dance through a several styles and techniques. It will feature several jazz, tap, contemporary, salsa, ballroom, and possibly a hip hop group that is currently in Taiwan.

Bliss and iLLusion dance companies will also each have an act within the showcase.

The music that will accompany the performances ranges from mainstream pop to a track off of Michael Buble's latest release "Crazy Love."

"The spring production is more about the bells and whistles while the winter showcase is more informal," according to Director of Dance, Janel Tomblin-Brown.

Dancers from the showcase are will be donning items from their personal wardrobes for their costumes.

While the Winter Showcase seems like a low key affair, some of the dance teachers are basing performances in the showcase as a final for their dance students.

This ensures grueling dance sequences and heart racing beats with artistic drive. All for the enjoyment of the community.

The winter showcase will be held at the NUMMI Theater in Ohlone's Smith Center for the Performing Arts on Dec. 3, 4 and 5 at 8 p.m. Tickets are for \$10 and proceeds go to fund the Ohlone College dance department.



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