

CSUSB DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE ARTS
2023 - 2024 SEASON

ALL EYES ON CSUSB



Join the conversation!



CSUSB Theatre



ALL EYES ON CSUSB

Welcome back to the thrilling world of theatre at California State University, San Bernardino, as we embark on an exciting journey through the 2023-2024 season!

This year promises to captivate and entertain audiences with the iconic *Murder on the Orient Express* and the beloved musical *Pippin*. Check out the following pages for more information!

Adding to the excitement of this theatre season is the arrival of our new department chair, André Harrington. With a wealth of experience and a passion for the performing arts, Harrington brings a fresh perspective and innovative ideas to our department. His leadership and commitment to fostering artistic excellence will undoubtedly elevate our theatre program and provide enriching experiences for both our students and audiences.

Furthermore, we are delighted to update the community on the ongoing construction of the new Performing Arts Center on campus. This state-of-the-art facility will serve as a hub for creativity and artistic expression, providing our talented students with enhanced resources and performance spaces. As we eagerly anticipate the 2025 completion of this remarkable venue, it underscores our commitment to the performing arts in the Inland Empire and ensures a bright future for the performing arts at CSUSB.

From Professor Harrington:

Welcome to the CSUSB theatre arts department where we hold dear the mission of the university and the future of those that are a part of this special community.

We welcome you in a time of resurfacing from the residue of a pandemic, social and political turmoil, and a search for light at the end of a tunnel. We all have suffered, thrived and persevered during this time of change.

I embrace that we all will survive and hope that introducing you to the art of theatre will provide a healing balm, a source of encouragement and a path for personal growth.

Theatre has and will always be the voice of a community, the trajectory of innovation and exploration and path for new discovery.

*Professor André Harrington ,
CSUSB Department of Theatre Arts Chair*

CSUSB DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS 2023 - 2024 SEASON

Department of Theatre Arts Faculty

André Harrington • Professor & Department Chair

Guillermo Aviles-Rodriguez • Assistant Professor

Thomas Berry • Lecturer

Carol Damgen • Part-Time Lecturer

Kathryn Ervin • Professor Emeritus, Lecturer

Shannon Galuszka • Lecturer

Lisa Lyons • Part-Time Lecturer

Jason Mann • Associate Professor

Terry Donovan Smith • Professor

Frank Mihelich • Lecturer

Steven Morris • Lecturer

Kristi Papailler • Assistant Professor

Tom Provenzano • Professor

Jennifer Schulz • Lecturer

Tami Silver-Ryan • Lecturer

Johanna Smith • Professor

Department of Theatre Arts Staff

Catherine M. Erickson • Costume Shop Manager

Sara Flis • Scenic Design & Prop Artisan

Scott Kruger • Box Office, Publicity Specialist & Graphic Design

Eric Mulz • Technical Director

Anitra Timmons • Administrative Support Coordinator

Special Thanks:

Professor Frank Houlihan • DES1125 "Design Thinking" Class

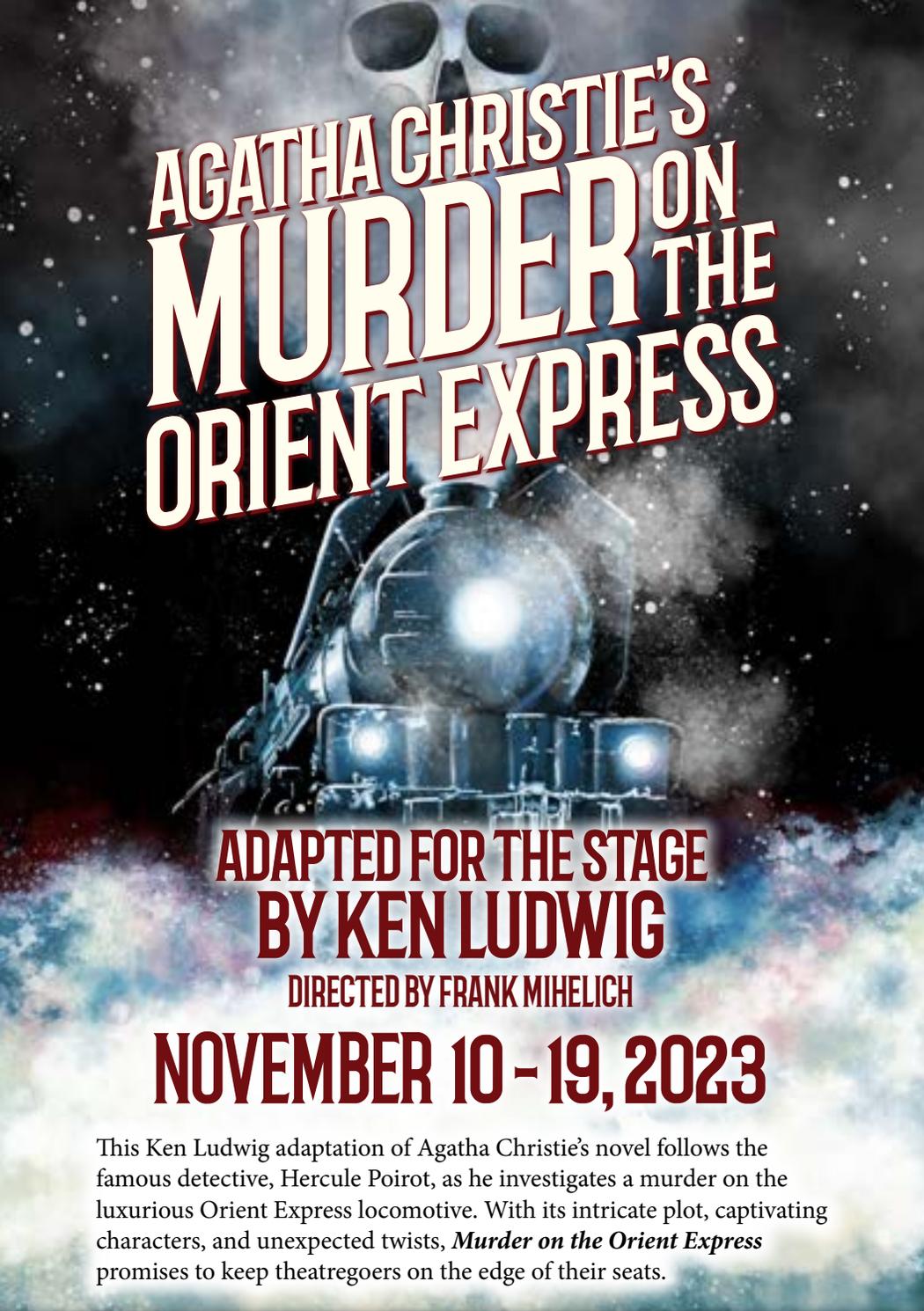
Monika Bradley • 'All Eyes on CSUSB' Student Concept artist

Join the conversation!



CSUSB Theatre

Accredited Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre



AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE
BY KEN LUDWIG

DIRECTED BY FRANK MIHELICH

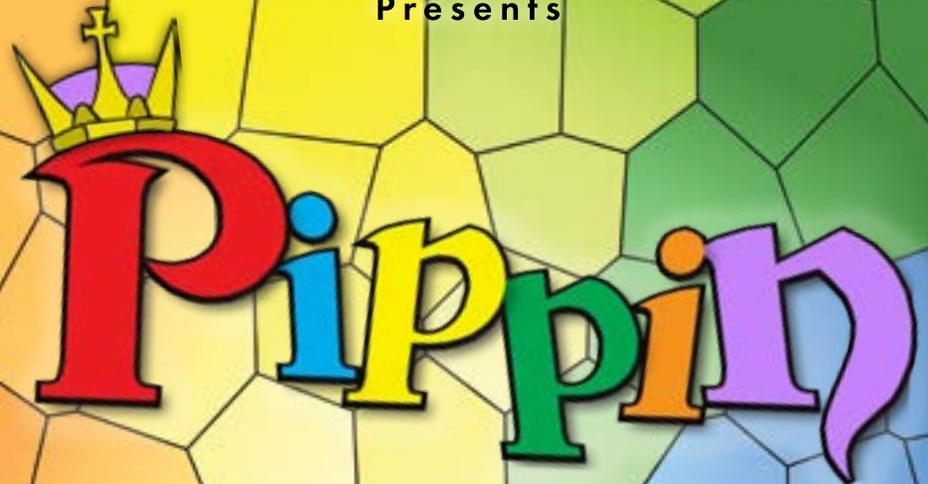
NOVEMBER 10 - 19, 2023

This Ken Ludwig adaptation of Agatha Christie's novel follows the famous detective, Hercule Poirot, as he investigates a murder on the luxurious Orient Express locomotive. With its intricate plot, captivating characters, and unexpected twists, *Murder on the Orient Express* promises to keep theatregoers on the edge of their seats.

ELLEN WEISSER

ENDOWED THEATRE SHOWCASE

Presents



Pippin

Book by

ROGER O. HIRSON

Music & Lyrics by

STEPHEN SCHWARTZ

Directed by Kathryn Ervin

APRIL 26 - MAY 5, 2024

This enchanting, Tony Award-winning musical takes audiences on a magical journey following the titular character, Pippin, son of King Charlamagne, as he searches for meaning and fulfillment in life. Filled with dazzling choreography, unforgettable songs, and a compelling storyline, "Pippin" promises to be a feast for the senses and a celebration of the human spirit.

PLUS: THE OTHER THEATRE PROJECT - Brought to you by the Players of the Pear Garden. The OTP will take stage in the Black Box in early 2024.

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.

Our student club, the Players of the Pear Garden, was founded in 1966 to promote campus interest in theatre arts. The PPG organizes and performs in various activities, including student-produced and -directed productions. The PPG is open to students of all disciplines across campus.

YES! I WANT TO BE A DONOR

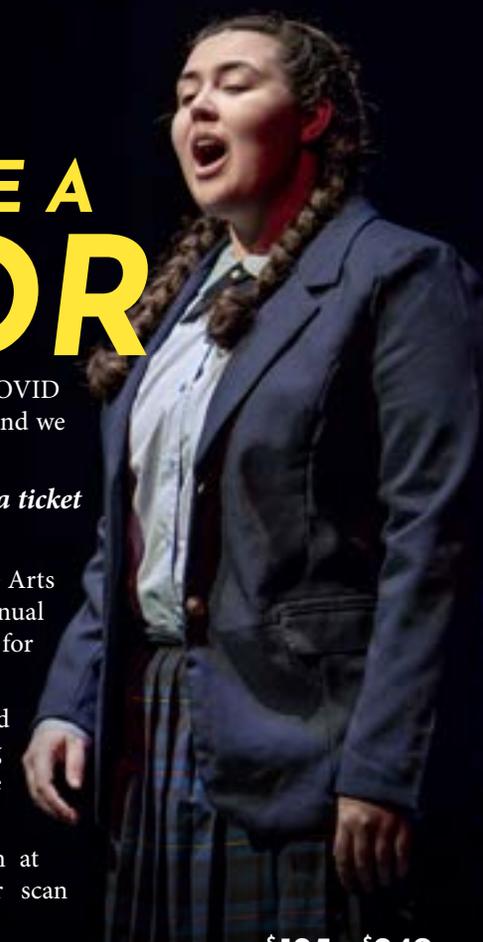
Our return to live performances in a post-COVID world has been a rough one to say the least, and we could use YOUR help.

Donating to the theatre or simply buying a ticket helps immeasurably!

Donors to the CSUSB Department of Theatre Arts receive special acknowledgement in the annual brochure as well as all of the show programs for the academic year.

Sponsors, Benefactors, Director's Circle and Producer's Chair donors receive preferred seating to all of the theatre performances as well as free parking for their chosen performance dates.

Email the Box Office for more information at theatrearts@csusb.edu, call 909.537.5884 or scan the code below!



- Sponsor** \$125 - \$249
- Benefactor** \$250 - \$499
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- Producer's Chair** \$1,000+

TICKET PRICES:

- ADULT** (18 - 64) \$15
- SPECIAL**
(CSUSB F/S, seniors 65+, military, non-CSUSB students) . . . \$12
- CSUSB STUDENTS** (or children under 17). \$6

Group rates are available. Contact the box office for more information.

SCAN HERE TO DONATE OR PURCHASE TICKETS!





FROM CONCEPT TO REALITY



With sights set on a 2025 opening, the future looks brighter than ever.

For over twenty years there had been talk regarding a “*New Theatre Building*.” Those three words were no more than a dream for the faculty, staff and students alike... but on September 7, 2022 that abstract concept became a reality when ground was broken on the project.

The new 73,337-square-foot state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center, is located south of the existing Performing Arts Building.

“Providing our students with 21st century resources means that they require access to state-of-the-art facilities. Therefore, our campus needs both to refresh and build new over time,” said CSUSB President Tomás D. Morales during the event, who expressed his joy for attending CSUSB musical and theatrical performances. *“I know that you agree with me that our students deserve the very best. They have that already with their faculty – now we need to ensure that they have it in their learning spaces.”*

Creating a new 500-seat performing arts theater will allow the university to provide 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 create a new “front door” to the campus that shows a modern and forward-looking face to visitors and the larger community.



From left: Joe Baca Jr., Fifth District San Bernardino County supervisor; state Sen. Rosilicé Ochoa Bogh, 23rd District; Ellen Weisser, donor and alumna '68; Lesley Leighton, music department chair; CSUSB music student Trisha Owens; Terry Donovan Smith, former theatre arts department chair; Rueyeling Chuang, dean, CSUSB College of Arts & Letters; university President Tomás D. Morales; Rafik Mohamed, provost and vice president, Academic Affairs; Samuel Sudhakar, CIO and vice president, Information Technology Services; William “Bill” Stevenson alumnus '77 and '84, CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation chair; Robert Nava, vice president, University Advancement; and Stan Weisser, donor.

The center will provide modern teaching, rehearsal and performance spaces necessary for a modern performing arts program.

ELLEN WEISSER

ENDOWED THEATRE SHOWCASE



Ellen Gaynor Weisser graduated from CSUSB with a B.A. 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 vivaciousness and enthusiasm for her alma mater are truly inspirational.

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. This spring the tradition continues with the Tony Award winning *Pippin* by Roger O. Hirson and Stephen Schwartz, opening April 26, 2024.

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



Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival



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.

SEASON DONORS

Thank you for your support throughout the years. Your generosity makes our seasons possible!

Ellen Weisser Endowed Theatre Showcase

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Linda Arias | Stan & Ellen Weisser | Marilyn Nelson |
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Drama Scholarships & Theatre Arts Minority Scholarships

- | | | | |
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| Dana Eckerts | Jeffrey Fischer Smith | T. Patrick Mullen | Thomas Provenzano |
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Ronald & Mary Barnes Theatre Scholarships

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Producer's Chair

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- Margaret Soffa

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THEATRE ARTS

2 0 2 3 - 2 0 2 4 S E A S O N

Featuring:

**Agatha Christie's
Murder on the Orient Express
and the musical Pippin**



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