

**CSUSB**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**THEATRE**  
**ARTS**

# 2025- 2026 SEASON

**A SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS**

**DIA 2502**



## CSUSB DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

### FACULTY & STAFF

Matthew Poole • *Interim Department Chair of Theatre & Music*

Guillermo Aviles-Rodriguez • *Assistant Professor*

Thomas Berry • *Lecturer*

Abbie Bosworth • *Lecturer*

Catherine M. Erickson • *Costume Shop Manager*

Kathryn Ervin • *Professor Emeritus & Lecturer*

Sara Flis • *Scenic Design & Prop Artisan*

Shannon Galuszka • *Lecturer*

André Harrington • *Professor & Department Coordinator*

Marlita Hill • *Lecturer*

Brady Greer Huffman • *Lecturer*

Scott Kruger • *Box Office, Publicity & Graphic Design*

Lisa Lyons • *Part-Time Lecturer*

Kristi Papailler • *Associate Professor*

Jennifer Schulz • *Lecturer*

Tami Silver-Ryan • *Lecturer*

Johanna Smith • *Professor*

Terry Donovan Smith • *Professor*

Anitra Timmons • *Administrative Support Coordinator*

# 2025-2026

## A SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS

All eyes are still on CSUSB as we enter the new academic year and edge ever-closer to the opening of the all-new **Performing Arts Center**. The faculty and staff of the **CSUSB Department of Theatre Arts** would like to take a moment to thank former chair André Harrington for his years of service and guidance, and extend a warm welcome to new Department Chair Matthew Poole.

Professor Poole comes to us from the Communications and Visual Arts departments with years of leadership experience in both areas. With Professor Poole's guidance, the Department of Theatre Arts will begin its next big transition: the opening of the Performing Arts Center in the 2026 Spring Semester.

This season will have us opening on the Barnes Stage with *Rhinoceros*, by Eugène Ionesco, directed by Terry Donovan Smith. *Rhinoceros* is an absurdist drama about the sudden rise of fascism and mob-mentality in a small town. *Rhinoceros* will play for 7 performances from November 14 - 21, 2025.

The end of the fall into the spring semester will see the *History in Harmony*, A Musical Theatre Touring production, setting down in the Barnes December 5-7, 2025 and the PPG's Other Theatre Project, and more leading to our seasons grand finale...

The **Ellen Weisser Endowed Theatre Showcase** presents the musical sensation - *Little Shop of Horrors*, Book By Howard Ashman, Music By Alan Menken, Lyrics By Howard Ashman and directed by Professor Kristi Papailler, tentatively scheduled to be the first production in our new Performing Arts Center from April 24 - May 3, 2026. A struggling florist discovers a mysterious, man-eating plant that brings him fame and fortune, but at a sinister cost!

Tickets for the new season will be on sale October 1, 2025 and will stay the same low price they've always been, continuing the tradition of the CSUSB's Department of Theatre Arts as the best entertainment value in The Inland Empire...





2025-2026 SEASON

NOVEMBER 14 - 23, 2025

# RHINO CEROS

BY EUGÈNE IONESCO

DIRECTED BY TERRY DONOVAN SMITH



ONE WEEKEND  
ONLY

## HISTORY IN *Harmony*

A TOURING MUSICAL REVUE

CURATED & DIRECTED BY LISA LYONS

DECEMBER 5 - 7, 2025

## LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

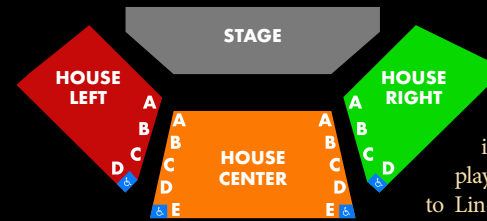
BOOK BY HOWARD ASHMAN,  
MUSIC BY ALAN MENKEN,  
LYRICS BY HOWARD ASHMAN

DIRECTED BY KRISTI PAPAILLER

APRIL 24 - MAY 3, 2026



## THE RONALD E. BARNES STAGE



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.

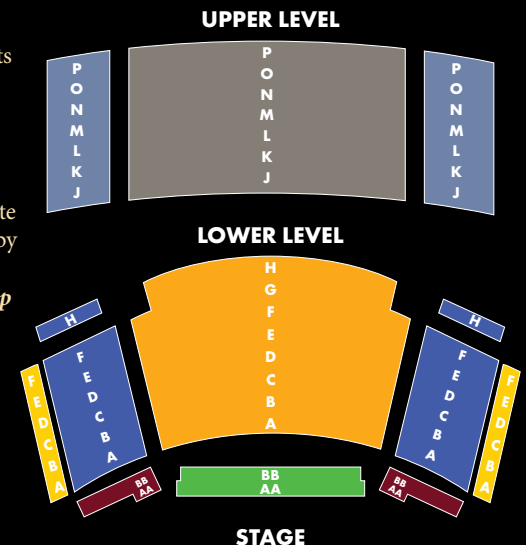
One of our greatest strengths at the Theatre is the relationships we cultivate with our amazing student body. Not only are they our on-stage performers, but CSUSB Theatre students actively participate in every aspect of stage craft. Set construction, design, costuming, lighting, projections, props, sound,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

## THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Scheduled to open in December 2025, the new state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center at CSUSB will feature a 478-seat shared performance space.

The currently unnamed theatre will celebrate its grand opening with a gala hosted by President Tomás Morales (date to be announced), tentatively followed by the Department of Theatre Arts' debut production on the new stage, *Little Shop of Horrors*, opening April 24, 2026.



Even with all the exciting upgrades, our ticket prices will remain the same, ensuring continued accessibility for our community. Become a Patron of the Arts by subscribing or donating today and secure your seats for the season!

# 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 2025, the Ellen Weisser Endowed Theatre Showcase presented *You Don't Even Speak Spanish!*, by new playwright Aaron Higareda. This year the tradition continues with *Little Shop of Horrors*, Book By Howard Ashman, Music By Alan Menken, Lyrics By Howard Ashman.

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!

## SHOWCASE DONORS

### Stan & Ellen Weisser

|                               |                            |                              |
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| Jeffrey Fischer-Smith         | Marilyn Nelson             |                              |

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### Theatre Arts Department Annual Fund

|                    |                  |                  |                        |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|
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| Edward Pedroza     | Louis Fernandez  | Angela Mayo      | Bryon Raymond          |
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| Brian Morrill      | Rodney Hixon     | Edward Myers     | Robin Steege           |
| Pamela Briguglio   | Paula Holden     | Antolina Navarro | Anitra N. Timmons      |
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### Drama Scholarships & Theatre Arts Minority Scholarships

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Dana Eckerts          | Thomas Provenzano |
| Jeffrey Fischer Smith | Sigrid Wolf       |
| T. Patrick Mullen     |                   |

### Ronald & Mary Barnes Theatre Scholarships

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Crystal Vickery

### Harlan Jeglin Scene Shop Fund

|                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
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### Director's Circle

Richard Doyle in Memory of Tom Provenzano  
Linda Paule

### Benefactors

Mayr Donovan  
Barry Morgan & Craig Henderson

### Sponsors

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## THE PLAYERS OF THE PEAR GARDEN



Founded in 1966 to promote interest in theatre arts, the *PLAYERS OF THE PEAR GARDEN* organizes and performs in various activities, including student-produced and directed productions.

In March of 2025 the PPG launched an all-new audio/video show: *THE PODCAST OF THE PEAR GARDEN*. This student led podcast takes its audiences through a behind the scenes look at campus life from the perspective of theatre students.

The PPG is open to students of all disciplines across campus.

For more information regarding the PPG and PPG-sponsored events, contact the CSUSB Box Office at 909.537.5884 or [theatrearts@csusb.edu](mailto:theatrearts@csusb.edu)







# 2025-2026

## A SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS

FEATURING:

**RHINOCEROS • HISTORY IN HARMONY  
OTP • LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS  
& MORE!**

**SUBSCRIBE**



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