

Art on display

By Kristie Favro
Production Assistant

Students from all over campus will have a chance to show off their talent at the upcoming First Annual Student Art Gallery, sponsored by the Student Program Board.

From noon-2 p.m. on Feb. 12 in the Fireside Lounge of the OC, different pieces of art will be on display for all students and faculty to view.

According to Heidi Knaus, Visual and Performing Arts Chair for the SPB, this will be a chance to let students show off their skills, whatever they may be.

Although this is Knaus' first year as chair, she is optimistic for her upcoming student events.

"This event is for the students and by the students," said Knaus.

Last year Knaus held another gallery of artwork, but this year she says it will be quite different.

In the previous event, there was a competition where the pieces were judged, but this year the event is all about letting the students show off their hard work. It's about pride in what one can accomplish, not to be critiqued by others.

According to Knaus, this is a great opportunity for students to really shine, which happens to be this year's theme.

"No one will be censored," she said.

Knaus believes the gallery is a great way to let people show how talented they are without having to be in the Meadow Brook Art Gallery, which is selective in their gallery choices and nearly impossible to get work into the exhibits.

So far, there are quite a few students who have signed up to take part in the event. One designs costumes and travels with them all of the country.

Knaus said the deadline for signup is Feb. 7. Anyone who wants to be a part of the gallery still has plenty of time to sign up.

Although the program is student-based, Knaus said she is "totally open for working with professors as well. It's all about tapping into the resources right here on campus. There's talent right here in front of our faces, whether it's students, faculty, or the custodial staff."

One exciting feature of the event is that all one has to do to be a part of this gallery is sign up. It's completely free to be a part of and to view. The SPB will also offer free refreshments to those who attend.

Other events the SPB have held include poetry contests, as well as the upcoming "Step Afrika!" performance which will be held at 8 p.m. on Feb. 8 in the Pioneer Food Court and Casino Night which will be held from 7-11 p.m. on Feb. 8 in the Gold Rooms.

These events are free and open to everyone.

According to Jean Mick, Chairperson of the SPB, she enjoys the challenges that come with all the event planning.

"It takes a lot of promotion, publicity and planning," said Mick. "We provide a life for the campus, which sometimes can get really boring."

The SPB holds many events throughout the semester to make campus life a little more exciting. To pick up an events calendar, just stop by the office in room 49 in the Oakland Center or call (248) 370-4295 for more info.

CSA offers discount tickets

By Laura Angus
Campus Life Editor

Students interested in off campus professional theatrical events are now being offered discount tickets to the Fisher Theatre, the Fox Theatre and the Detroit Opera House through the Center for Student Activities.

Discount tickets for shows, like Fisher Theatre's "Beauty and the Beast," "Lord of the Dance" at the Fox Theatre and the Detroit Opera House's "Rent" are available. Other shows include "Dead Man Walking," "Die Fledermaus," "Bring in the Noise, Bring in the Funk," "Annie" and "Don Giovanni."

The CSA is offering discount tickets for many other shows. Interested students should check the schedule on the CSA bulletin board in the basement of the Oakland Center.

Also, a discount for some programs and events at the Palace of Auburn Hills is being offered.

Paul Franklin, coordinator of Campus Programs, said the CSA gets the discount by purchasing blocks of tickets, receiving a group rate for the seats. The CSA reserves blocks of seats, tries to sell as many as possible and buys the tickets after the closing date for CSA's ticket sales.

"It's an absolutely wonderful way of being introduced to professional theatre in Detroit, besides Meadow Brook Theatre," said Franklin.

He said the discount allows some \$68 tickets to be sold for only \$20.

Also, the Student Program Board supports this by giving the first 150 students who buy tickets costing more than \$15 an additional \$5 discount.

Freshman Stephan Woloszczuk said he would definitely take advantage of the offer, "because we get a discount, and family would want to go and stuff," he said.

For more information, go to the CSA ticket window in the basement of the OC or see the bulletin board across from the CSA window.



Swordplay, action, excitement and humor are all parts of "Zastrozzi," which opens in Varner Studio Theatre Feb. 6. Another Varner show, "for colored girls ..." will open on Feb.7.

Swordplay, suicide

Two new Varner shows open this Thursday and Friday

By Laura Angus
Campus Life Editor

Two new shows will hit the Varner stage this week. One with a flurry of sword fights on Feb. 6, and the other an empowering address to all of humankind opening on Feb. 7.

The first is George F. Walker's "Zastrozzi" directed by John Manfredi, adjunct instructor of stage combat.

Manfredi described the show as a battle between good and evil, although the line between the two is blurred.

"The playwright George Walker makes the evil character very attractive," he said.

The lead character, Zastrozzi, spends the show fighting against his enemy Verezzi because of what Manfredi calls a "miscommunication."

"He fights against everybody," Manfredi said. "The action of the play is him bent on revenge against Verezzi."

Manfredi said, "In actuality he's battling against the aristocracy, he's battling the status quo, he's battling himself, he's battling religion."

The show contains action and drama, but Manfredi said there is also humor. He also said there are a lot of sword fights in the show.

"There's a lot of swordplay, there's a lot of sex, there's a lot of humor," he said.

Karen Sherdin, associate professor of theatre in the Music, Theatre and Dance Department, said many of the actors in the show had taken three years of Manfredi's stage combat class and became certified stage combatants.

According to Sheradin, the choice to do "Zastrozzi" was made because of these student stage combatants.

"We asked ourselves, 'Who do we have to feature doing what they just learned?'" she said.

Patrick Butcher, senior, plays Verezzi in the show. He is also one of the students who took the stage combat classes.

He said students should see this show because "it's short, it's very entertaining, there's lots of swordplay and humor."

The show contains adult material. Opening Feb. 7 is "for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf," written by Ntosake Shange.

Sheradin, the director of the show described it as a "choreopoem." She said it is an African American all-female, seven-person show. The characters are delineated by the seven colors of the rainbow.

Each of the seven represents differ-

ent women, she said. Through poetry, monologue, song and movement, the characters express the lives of women.

She said some of the events are traumatic, but there are touching and humorous stories told during the show.

"It's a good show for letting people know they are not alone," said Sheradin. "It's a very solid piece that speaks to all humanity."

The all-student casts consist of Scheherazade Berry, My-Ishia Cason-Brown, Soyini Cowan, Angela Gary, Sherita Humphrey, Joi Olden and Krysty Swann.

Sheradin said the show was selected because last year she found there were a lot of minority students in the 400 level acting styles class.

"That was the first time that ever happened," she said. "We've never had that many African American people in Advanced Acting."

She decided to choose minority focused plays for this year's season. Earlier this year another African American focused play, "Les Blancs," was performed by the MTD Department.

"It's a terrific thing to find some vehicles for our minority students," she said. "You don't get to do that unless you have the actors."

The show is a part of African

American celebration month, and the first scene will be performed during the closing ceremonies in the Fireside Lounge in the Oakland Center.

Because of the subject matter of the show, Sheradin recommended patrons of the performances be older than 16.

The shows are going to be performed on the same set, which allows them to be performed one right after another. Because of this, Sheradin said that the light and set crews had to design two different shows at the same time.

Students designed all of the lighting, sets and costumes for the shows, she said.

"Students really run the show," she said.

"Zastozzi" will be performed at 8 p.m. on Feb. 6, 13, 14 and 15 and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 8 and 9 in the Varner Studio Theatre.

"for colored girls ..." will be performed at 8 p.m. on Feb. 7 and 8, at 10 a.m. on Feb. 11 and 12 and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 15 and 16 in the Varner Studio Theatre.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students. All tickets for the 10 a.m. matinee are \$5.

Luck be a lady at OU

By Laura Angus
Campus Life Editor

Students will find themselves transported to Las Vegas when they walk into the Oakland Center Saturday night.

The annual Casino Night sponsored by the Student Program Board and Residence Hall Programming will be held from 8 p.m.-1:30 a.m. on Feb. 8 and 9 throughout the OC.

Students will be able enjoy casino games, Make Your Own Music Video, psychics and a hypnotist during this free event.

SPB's Lecture and Special Events Chairperson, Demetrius Gary, sophomore, said there will be about \$2,400 in prizes given out.

"This is probably our biggest event of the year," he said.

According to Gary, prizes include a Palm Pilot, a digital camera, a TV, gift certificates and many other prizes.

Janece Hayes, Residence Hall program director, said students participating in Casino Night will need their student IDs in order to receive tokens.

The tokens are free, and will be given to the students when the sign in.

Students will sign up and present their IDs in order to get their cup of tokens.

Everyone starts with the same number of

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Demetrius Gary
sophomore
SPB's Lecture and Special Events chairperson

tokens.

Gary said students will be able to play a variety of casino games including slot machines, roulette, Big Wheel and card games with tokens.

Hayes said at the end of the night, participants exchange their tokens for tickets, which will be used in a raffle for the prizes. She said the more tickets students have, the more chances they have to win.

For the raffle, participants will write their names on their tickets and then put them in buckets for the prizes they want.

Students can put as many tickets into which ever buckets they want, she said.

As in all casinos, winning prizes comes down to luck, though.

Hayes said, "I've seen people put all of their

tickets into one bucket and not win anything."

This is one of the more popular events on campus. Hayes said it usually draws around 500-600 students every year.

"I think (students) have a lot of fun," she said.

Paul Franklin, coordinator of campus programs said the event has gone on for about 20 years.

He said RHP and SPB have worked together on the event for the last 15 years.

RHP and SPB work together off and on for many events throughout the year, he said.

One example of their collaboration is the groups collaborated in bringing Jimmy Fallon for Friday Night Live last semester.

"I think it's an important thing," he said. "We want to make campus more fun."

Casino games can be found at 8-11 p.m. in the Gold Rooms, Make Your Own Music Video will be held from 8-11 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge, from 8:30-11:30 p.m. in the Oakland and Heritage rooms students can speak to Psychics and hypnotist Michael Anthony will perform from 12:30-1:30 a.m. in the Pioneer Food Court.

Students may bring one guest, but only OU students can win prizes.