

Local café hosts comedians

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Comedians and improv groups from Cerritos College gathered at the Leche Café and Bookstore in Norwalk on Friday to a seemingly full audience.

Graphic design major, Jamar Miller aka "Mac Fly" was the host for the night and got the audience involved early in the show with jokes and asking the audience a few questions, one of them being if they knew what "turn up" meant and an audience member screamed out by answering with "It's something that you eat."

"I just try to get them involved as soon as possible and that's one thing I found to be effective," Miller says.

Among the talent was comedian Evan Cassidy who performs his creative character comedy and brought out two characters within him as "Barry" and "Sketchy Eddy."

"Barry is an engineering student, kind of a timid guy. Sketchy Eddy is a surfer type guy," Cassidy says.

Cassidy started doing stand-up comedy 7 years ago when he was attending UC Irvine and

says that he didn't know anyone on campus so he started to crash parties at dorms by knocking at the door and acting as a French man.

Just like every performer that night he enjoyed making everyone laugh at the Café.

The Leche Café is a new establishment that opened three months ago and the employees are working on building an audience and a name for themselves with having locals come down and show what they have to the community.

Event coordinator, Danielle Acevedo was pleased with the outcome of the comedy show. "It's wonderful," she says, and expects to have more in the future.

"(Leche Café is) about culture, building a community together through arts. Through the diversity of the arts and communication especially, and through literacy," Acevedo says.

The Café hosts comedy shows, open mic, kid's talent shows, bands and book signings.

Audience members Mychella Orozco and Mitch Yolton were impressed and shared their thought on the show.

They were both in agreement that the show was both hilarious and amazing.

Among the audience was also the owner of Leche café and bookstore, Jesse Pelayo.

Pelayo is a teacher that has been teaching high school students for 15 years and owns six bookstores in L.A. and Orange County and promotes literacy for kids.

When opening Leche Café, his focus was to get the community involved and offer different programs and a place to share their talents since there are not plenty of them.

"It's needed I think. A lot of people from Norwalk, Cerritos and Downey, they don't have a spot to express their talents and they end up going to Hollywood, Downtown L.A., different places," Pelayo said.

He also offers free tutoring in math and reading having students from college, high school and middle school come down and volunteer their time to help others.

Pelayo was very happy with the outcome of the show.

"I am very pleased man, I am pleased that the community is coming out and supporting."

There will be an open mic night of February 28 from 6:30p.m. to 10pm.

Leche Café and Bookstore is located at 11723 Firestone Blvd. Norwalk, CA 90650

For more information and upcoming events log onto www.lechecafe.com



GILDARDO AQUINO/TM
Laughing it up: Orialia Neria (left) and Devon DeLamora (right) entertain audiences while performing comedy improv at the Leche Café.



GUSTAVO LOPEZ/TM
Low turn out: Left to right: Hilary Baca (theatre major), Aries Johnson (musical theater major), Priscilla Quinonez (theater major) and Jay Kin (theater arts major). The hopeful actors had to fill out a form before going into the audition stage.

'Boys' auditions has rocky start

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Despite being nervous, Jorge Fogear, theatre major, had fun rapping like a chicken during his audition for the upcoming musical, "The Boys from Syracuse."

Fogear, who is in Jerry Prell's Intro to Musical Theater class, decided to show up and audition, "I recently re-enrolled in school and this is something I've always wanted to do. I've never had the guts or knowledge on how to do it."

After the audition he felt relieved and said, "I let the nerves get the better of me because I've never actually auditioned for anything before. So it was a new experience."

Auditions for the theatre department's upcoming musical, "The Boys From Syracuse," had a low turnout Feb. 18 and Feb. 19.

The first day of auditions only had four participants and the second day didn't fill up the roles.

During auditions, across from the stage, Prell sat with Hector Salazar, musical director, and Christopher Albrecht, choreographer.

According to the play's director, Prell, there were a lot of interesting characters and funny situations involving romantic mix-ups in the musical.

"Energy is most important because the show was written in the 1930's," he said. "It was written like a vaudevilian piece so it's very presentational, very slapstick, (it has) a lot of high energy and very farcical."

The production is based on a Shakespeare play, "The Comedy of Errors," which deals with the story of two separated twins.

It has been presented on and off Broadway since 1938. In the musical the twins, Antipholus of Ephesus and Antipholus of Syracuse, are separated during a shipwreck as children.

Their servants are also long lost twins. When the

pair came to Ephesus one of the twins is mistaken as the husband of the other twin's wife.

According to Salazar, "The Boys From Syracuse" wasn't the first choice of musical and there were plans to present the musical "Into the Woods" by Stephen Sondheim instead. It is a musical based on tales by the Brothers Grimm.

But due to having the rights pulled, the theater department decided on "The Boys from Syracuse," after deciding between different musicals.

"We vetoed several shows, we talked about the pros and cons... the needs and demands not only of the cast but set requirements, cost requirements, the size of the orchestra and all that," said Salazar, musical director.

Aries Johnson, a musical theatre major, who had only heard about the auditions the first day on February 18, was eager to audition.

"This will probably be the first thing I've done since high school which was three years ago ... I really want to gain that experience and continue doing productions so I can get better."

For students who couldn't attend the Feb. 18-19 auditions, an additional date has been given: March 10 at 7 p.m. at the Burnight studio theatre.

Scan to view the updated audition info



<http://bit.ly/1mGd0Zw>

Music concert has classical inspiration

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Christine Lopez gave a lecture on Robert Schumann, a German composer and a pianist well known in the world of music during the Music Departments concert "Do You Hear What I Hear" on Feb. 21.

The lecture focused on two main subjects, the first being Robert Schumann and a piece he composed and the second being a live in class performance by a pianist Dr. Sung Ae Lee.

Lopez's intent is to help piano students or students who are taking piano classes get a little more familiar with the piano. She wants students to learn about different styles and different composers.

Lopez said, "There's nothing like a live performance, I tell this to my students all the time, get out there and watch people perform, it's an incredible world that your going to allow yourself to discover."

Lopez gave a short presentation on Schumann's life and later discussed one of his most prominent works called "Carnaval", which was later performed by Lee on the piano.

Schumann was also a journalist and conductor, he lived from 1810-1856, which was known as the romantic period. He began composing at the age of 7. At a lat-

er age, he took lessons from Friedrich Wieck and went on to marry Wieck's daughter who's name was Clara.

Schumann also had a mental disorder called schizophrenia, it began to show at an early age and he was eventually confined to a mental institution. Clara was a key factor in Schumann's life; she continued to play the music her husband composed since he was too ill to play himself. She kept her husband's music alive for everyone to hear.

Lee had started playing the piano at the age of 11 and wanted to become a church pianist, which was her major motivation to become a pianist. She taught at many different locations, which include Shepherd University School of Music, Coastline Community College and Bethesda Christian University. She has been a part of the Cerritos College Faculty since 2004.

Lee's spectacular and inspiring performance silenced the room. In those few minutes, all eyes were on her and every short piece she played was remarkable and distinct from the last.

Audience member, Sarah Lopez described Lee's performance, "captivating and fascinating."

Lee spoke of how she used to play the song while she was pregnant with her first child; it is a song she's been playing for 17 years. She said, "This is such a great piece, very challenging, very difficult but it has a history for me," referring to "Carnaval" and why she was intrigued by the piece itself.



GUSTAVO OLGUIN/TM
Mindful teachings: Director Kevin Slay gets into the minds of his actors to make sure they understand the emotions that go into the scene that they are working on.

'Rebel Without A Cause' set to drive audiences on a wild ride

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Cerritos College breathes new life into bad boy character Jim Stark in its production of "Rebel Without a Cause" that opens Friday.

Cristian Paul Martinez, who plays Plato, can feel the difference of the production based on the stage alone.

"Stylistically it's in a completely different ballpark," he said. "We are going to be on a thrust stage, so we will almost be completely surrounded by the audience."

A thrust stage comes out toward the audience and

the viewers of the show will be seated all around the stage, rather than directly in front of the stage.

However, Director Kevin Slay wants to use the unusual stage to his advantage.

"The audience much closer to the actions," Slay said. "We'll be using the area on the part and it creates a level of immediacy for the audience. It forces the actors to really rise to the occasion and it has to be real all the time."

Besides the stage, the way rehearsals have gone has also stood out to Martinez.

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Theater Arts
Opening night of 'Rebel Without A Cause'

The Cerritos College Theatre Department opens its first show of the year "Rebel Without A Cause" Friday 28 at 8 p.m. and runs for two weeks.

Scan to buy tickets for 'Rebel' online



<http://bit.ly/1hd8ooR>

Culinary Arts
Chef Ray L. Duey Cec fruit and vegetable carving

Chef Ray L. Duey Cec will be presenting a vegetable and fruit carving demonstration in the Student Center on Friday, February 28 from 9 a.m to 12 p.m.

Music Department
Music Department Spring Faculty Gala

The Music Department will be hosting a benefit concert to raise scholarship funds for the students in the Applied Music Program on Sunday March 2 at 2 p.m. in the Burnight Center

Art Gallery
Featured Artist Meeson Pae Yang

Meeson Pae Yang, an artist featured at the college's art gallery, will be presenting an artist talk March 7 at 1 p.m in Room FA 43

Music Department
Scott Henderson Memorial Concert

The Music Department will be hosting a benefit concert to raise scholarship funds for the students in the Applied Music Program on Friday April 4 at 7 p.m. in the Burnight Center