

'Starting Here, Starting Now' Starts Friday

By Amy Doan
Staff Writer

A musical with no actual plot or characters has a lot to overcome, but Adam Fresquez is

confident that his adaptation of "Starting Here, Starting Now" - with lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr. and music by David Shire - "rocks!"

Snoopy in last summer's "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," Fresquez has already proven his talents in acting and singing. "Starting Here, Starting Now" will be his third and final time

directing at Cal State Hayward, before "hopefully graduating in June or my parents will kill me." Fresquez first saw "Starting Here, Starting Now" while touring at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland last year.

"The show was really good because it only had six people in the cast and they made it a board game rather than a regular music revue," he said.

Fresquez saw another adaptation of the show in Walnut Creek several months ago and was not as impressed with it.

"They did song after song after song as a musical revue, and it got boring," he said. "So I suggested that my last production at Cal State

Hayward be 'Starting Here, Starting Now,' but incorporate the board game back into the show and make it my own."

The show has no interacting characters or story line. It is about love and depicts different aspects of the emotion, from a broken heart to a love for music and dance.

"It's about every type of love you can experience," said Fresquez. "It's a cheap set. I designed it myself and it's not very pretty but it's cool."

Actors enter the stage playing games on a heart-shaped board. The game pieces resembles those of the classic board game "Sorry," but with a big heart

perched on top.

"Each time the piece lands on something, the mood of the show changes to show that aspect of love," said Fresquez. "We also have 'Chance' cards like in 'Monopoly,' and if you for instance pick up the one that says...," he pauses, "the breaks into a song - 'eeeeending love!' then it goes to the songs that are really depressing."

"I hope this show will remind people of aspects of love they don't tend to notice," he said.

The cast of three includes Lindsay Cross, Sheba Howerton, and Michael Ryken.

Amy Cheong designed the costumes, which Fresquez describes as "elegant and in blue, red, the colors of love. They're classy but not too stylish, so it's still pretty hip."

Fresquez is currently a part-time student at Cal State Hayward, trying to complete his degree by taking evening and weekend classes.

When asked what he hopes to do in the future, Fresquez responds, "I'm already doing it!"

He's working full-time as the lead actor in Kaiser Permanente's "Peace Signs," a show that teaches nonviolence to kids. Fresquez tours from San Diego to Sacramento and also participates in workshops aimed at showing kids peaceful ways of resolving conflicts.

"I work from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m., have rehearsal at night, and usually don't go to bed until 3 a.m.," he said. "Living in a fraternity house also keeps me awake."

Fresquez lives in the Delta Chi house on Carlos Bee Boulevard, famous for its dangerous location on a right-to-left curve where speeding cars frequently jump the curb.

"Starting Here, Starting Now" opens Friday in the University Theatre at 8 p.m. and will be performed again on Dec. 1, 7, and 8.

Its last show will be on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. Persons wishing ticket information may call (510) 885-3261.

Student Photographer's Show Opens Monday

By Amy Doan
Staff Writer

Cal State Hayward photography major Allison Haag will graduate next month - after presenting her first show on Monday, Dec. 3.

The exhibit, "If Everything's Beautiful, Nothing's Beautiful," will be on display in the University's Student Art Gallery through Dec. 8.

The collection of 25 black-and-white and color photos were all shot within the past year and share a common theme of "the celebration of solitude."

Originally, Haag had termed the work a "celebration of lone-

liness" but quickly changed her mind.

She explained, "Loneliness has such sad, negative connotations."

Though she realizes some people may view her work as dark and gloomy, she said, "It doesn't mean that I'm an unhappy person. It just means that there's beauty in everything. Beauty comes from actually putting your soul into something."

Haag's favorite subjects are lights - sunsets, lights in buildings - and people, mostly her friends because she's too shy to approach strangers for photographs.

"I want people to set aside

what scares them and to see my pictures as normal people dressed up and living in a fantasy world," she said.

Haag began to take an interest in photography when she was 10.

"I used to see all the pictures that my dad took of me as a baby when he was still married to my mom," she said. "He stopped taking pictures after their divorce and lost interest in photography altogether."

Haag hopes to pursue a career in photography.

A reception for the artist will be held Monday between 7 and 9 p.m. Champagne and Hors d'oeuvres will be served.



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