



Romeo and Juliet reinterpreted: A modern retelling

Shakespeare's classic "Romeo and Juliet"

has been reinterpreted and will be performed as CCA's fall theatre production from Nov. 11 through Nov. 20. The version is a modern retelling of the iconic love story and is set in a world where deaf and hearing cultures collide, according to the play's director, Stacey D'Angelo. Colleen Mott is assistant director.

The production will be presented in American Sign Language (ASL) and Shakespearean verse. "This experience will engage both deaf and hearing audiences as the fateful pair discovers a connection beyond language," D'Angelo says. Thirty actors, with an additional five ASL "shadow" interpreters, comprise the cast. Twenty-three are CCA students, including one who is deaf, along with five deaf performers from the region, and two ASL interpreters.

Why tackle such a challenging adaptation? For D'Angelo, the answer is personal and professional. Both of her paternal grandparents were deaf from birth, and, although she grew up around deaf culture, she always yearned to know more. D'Angelo, theatre director for CCA, already had selected "Romeo and Juliet" as the college's fall production when she attended her grandmother's funeral in the spring.



Photo by: Mark Smith

Juliet, played by Ashley Dearborne of Thornton, and Romeo, played by Martell Epperson of Aurora, star in Romeo and Juliet.

There, she was struck by her immersion in both hearing and deaf cultures, because, while growing up, social outings with family were usually one or the other. "I had been searching for a unique way to illustrate the divide between the Montagues and Capulets, and it came to me that day," she explains.

The characters of Juliet, Lady Capulet, Tybalt, and Paris will be played by deaf actors who will perform in ASL. To achieve a universal experience for both deaf and hearing audiences, the characters will be doubled with hearing actors who will serve

as their "speaking voice." During the Romeo and the Montague scenes, which will be spoken aloud, a team of ASL interpreters will be in the background, signing the play for deaf audiences. A unique aspect of the interpreters is their ability to take on the persona of the speaking actors they are signing for.

D'Angelo says there can be a lack of understanding and awareness between the two communities. "The play will explore the two cultures and how a love like Romeo and Juliet's could unite these two families and their differing

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Gov. Bill Ritter, Jr. public lecture offered Nov. 30



A lecture by Gov. Bill Ritter, Jr.,

originally scheduled for Oct. 26, will be held at CCA at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 30 in the Fine Arts Building Forum, CentreTech Campus.

The community is invited to hear Ritter's presentation, which is offered as part of the political science course "Current Political Issues." The talk is titled "Executive Leadership and Politics" and is free and open to the public.

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CBS-4's Dr. Dave Hnida to address CCA audience

Dr. Dave Hnida, doctor, veteran, author, and journalist, will

give a presentation at CCA at 6 p.m. on Nov. 17. The event will be held in the Student Centre Rotunda on the CentreTech Campus. A practicing physician and reporter on medical issues for Denver's CBS Channel 4, Hnida will speak at the college during CCA'S Global Citizens Student Conference. His talk is free and open to the public.

A combat-decorated major in

the U.S. Army Medical Corps, Hnida served two tours of duty in Iraq and authored the book *Paradise General: Riding the Surge at a Combat Hospital in Iraq*. For more information, visit <http://cbs4denver.com/bios/Dr.Dave.Hnida.9.571359.html>.

This year's Global Citizens Student Conference, slated for Nov. 17 and 18, will focus on health and medicine. The conference is sponsored by the Global Initiatives Committee, the Office of Student Life, and Student Government Association.



CCA to help Aurora celebrate "Top 100 for youth" status

The City of Aurora has been recognized by America's Promise

Alliance as one of the top 100 best communities for young people, and, to acknowledge this designation, a community-wide celebration will be held Dec. 9. CCA will participate in the event, which will take place from 4-6 p.m. at the Aurora Municipal Center.

Among CCA faculty and staff assisting with Aurora's America's Promise Alliance activities is Angie Tiedeman, director of the Office of Student Life. "We want CCA's outreach and assistance to build on what we are already doing for young people," Tiedeman said. "With concurrent enrollment and other educational opportunities, CCA is a model for the nation in terms of what can be done

for students before they even turn 18." Tiedeman noted that she is eager to contribute her time and expertise to making the celebration a success; she also is working closely with student clubs at the college who will take part in the event.

The 100 Best recognizes communities that make youth a priority by implementing programs that help keep children in school and prepare them for college and the 21st century workforce. Most winning communities also have taken steps to facilitate improved access to health care for young people, encourage youth civic engagement, and supply developmental resources that create better places for young people to live and grow. The list can be found at www.americaspromise.org/100Best.

Aurora was named to the list because

of its commitment to increasing the city's graduation rate and providing critical resources for youth development. Aurora boasts a history of community collaboration with groups working together to tackle specific issues, with youth development a top priority. Aurora's Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department, through the Office of Youth Development, has led the charge in developing programs for youth.

"Aurora is taking bold and effective steps to help young people graduate and lead healthy, productive lives," said Marguerite W. Kondracke, America's Promise Alliance president and CEO. "Aurora serves as an example to inspire and educate other communities across the nation." The Alliance was founded in 1997 by General Colin Powell.

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cultures and bring peace and awareness between the deaf and hearing," she explains. She adds that as the production has evolved, there has been a joining of the cultures. "We all learn sign language at each rehearsal," she says. "We all have had to develop a unique means to communicate and stage this play."

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 11, 12, and 13, and on Nov. 18, 19, and 20. Additional performances are at 11 a.m. on Nov. 12 and Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. Performances are in the Larry D. Carter Theatre, Fine Arts Building, CTC. Tickets are available for presale at <https://ccaaurora.edu/romeo>, 303-340-7529, or at the door before each performance. General admission is \$10; student admission is \$7; CCA students, free.

Business executive Dale Mingilton to encourage students to finish strong

The semester is hurtling toward its conclusion,

and to eliminate any finals anxiety, college officials felt a little inspiration was in order for one unique group of students. Enter Dale Mingilton, president and CEO of the Denver/Boulder Better Business Bureau, whose noon presentation on Nov. 12 will be directed toward a group of 29 Mile High United Way scholarship recipients.



Mingilton will share his personal story of overcoming the odds to become a well-respected leader in the community, and he will encourage students to keep their eye on the prize: a college degree.

The scholarships earned by students in this group will permit them to complete their studies at CCA and transfer to and graduate from Metropolitan State College of Denver. The scholarship program was created and funded by the Mile High United Way, and

Mingilton was instrumental in the creation of the program and its continued development.

Mingilton's aim is to motivate the students to finish their first semester and continue progress toward a bachelor's degree. "Dale comes from the same place as our students," says Diana Whye, executive director of the CCA Foundation. "His story of growing up in Denver's Five Points neighborhood and using that experience as the springboard to his professional career will reinforce for our

students that they, too, can become college graduates and leaders of real influence in their communities." Mingilton is a member of the CCA Foundation board of directors.

"Not only do the recipients of the scholarship have the opportunity to change the lives of their families for generations to come, but we want them to start thinking about giving back to their communities once they are in a position to do so," Mingilton says.

City, college collaborate on contest

The Global Initiatives Committee at CCA,

in partnership with the City of Aurora, is hosting a poetry contest to promote the ideals that Martin Luther King, Jr., and so many others, stood for and continue to actively support. In January, the City of Aurora will host its 25th commemoration of King's life and teachings, and college and city officials have issued a creative challenge: How has Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision continued to inspire, more than 40 years after his famous "I Have a Dream" speech?

Middle school and high school students from Aurora Public Schools, Cherry Creek

Schools, and CCA are eligible to participate in the contest. Participants may submit any kind of poem: free verse, blank verse, classical, haiku, rap, etc. Poems may be no more than one page in length, and submissions must be accompanied by a title and the author's name. Poems must be on a theme that Martin Luther King stood for; sample subjects include justice, human and civil rights, freedom from prejudice, embracing diversity, ending conditions that cause poverty, and promoting peace and goodwill.

Submissions and an official entry form may be sent to Ruthanne.Orihuela@CCAurora.edu by Dec. 3. The entry form may be found at <http://ccaurora.edu/poetry-contest-2010>.

According to Orihuela, contest winners will be acknowledged in a number of ways. "Winners will be recognized as people who speak out for human rights and justice," she said. "We want students' words and ideas to inspire other people to embrace the kind of values that Martin Luther King stood for." Winners will be given the opportunity to read their poem at a public event and will receive a gift certificate. Certificates will be awarded in each of three categories: 6-8 grades, 9-12 grades, and college-level submissions. Entries will be judged by the faculty of the Performing Arts and Humanities and the Communications Departments at CCA.

Disaster Management Institute unveiled

The Disaster Management Institute of Colorado, with

its high-technology capabilities and impressive capacity for interagency training on state-of-the-art emergency simulation equipment, was on display for the public during a grand unveiling on Sept. 20. The Institute is a program within CCA's Center for Simulation.

Larry Trujillo, director of Colorado's Office of Homeland Security, offered keynote remarks at the event. Additionally, U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter offered his perspective on the Institute's opening. "This educational facility provides students with a higher level of practical experience in a safe, realistic, and monitored environment," he said. "It allows both professionals and students a chance to train together." A longtime proponent of the facility, Perlmutter supported Congressional appropriations totaling more than \$567,000 toward equipping the Institute.

The facility features a fully functional Emergency Operations Center that allows students and working professionals to experience and train in management of simulated disasters of all types and sizes. Event attendees experienced the enactment of a disaster scenario—a tornado and its aftermath—and had a chance to experience, firsthand, the power of the technology that first responders and disaster management professionals use to mitigate and recover from such emergencies.



Clinton Andersen, director of the Disaster Management Institute at the Community College of Aurora, introduces the state-of-the-art facility to gathered guests.



Simulation Coordinator Pony Anderson illustrates the benefits of the ADMS, or Advanced Disaster Management Simulator, at the open house.

Students celebrate Constitution Day at CCA

Quick: Who wrote the U.S. Constitution? When was it written? How many amendments does it have? What is an amendment, anyway?

CCA celebrated Constitution Day on Sept. 16 with a college bowl-type competition where questions about American government and the U.S. Constitution were asked of student teams in rapid-fire format.

The competition evolved from a question-and-answer session into discussions on democracy, individual rights, and the balance of power between the states and the federal government. Students contributed the occasional snippet of trivia, including the fact that President William H. Taft was the first president to ride to his inauguration in an automobile and the first president to throw out the ceremonial opening day baseball pitch (in 1910).

Geoff Hunt, CCA social sciences department chair and history professor, and Bobby Pace, adjunct faculty member in political science, led the Constitution Day festivities at CCA.

Seen Around Campus

Election Night at DMI



Student Josh Ryines was interviewed about Colorado's Third Congressional District race on election night in front of the DMI greenscreen. His analysis was broadcast later that night as a "breaking news report" to other political science students.



Robert Wydick, a student in Matt Gianneschi's Current Political Issues course, prepares to go on camera with his analysis of election night outcomes.

The walls come down



Traci Fielden takes a ceremonial swing to bring down a wall in the Office of Student Life. The space will become the new Student Success Center.



Sofia Charter takes notes for her Cultural Anthropology class while listening to Ethan Casey. Casey, a journalist and author, along with Todd Shea, visited the college Oct. 25 to talk about their experiences in Pakistan, Haiti, and other countries.

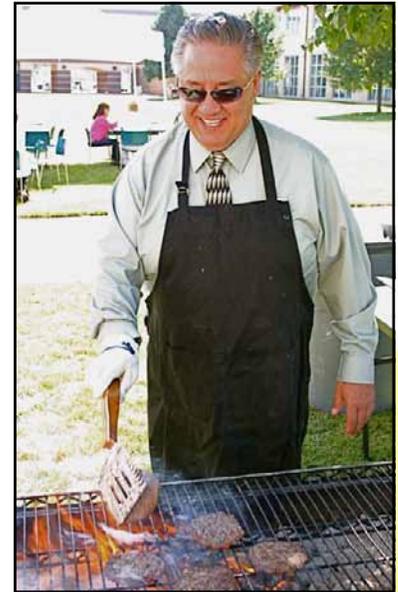
Todd Shea and Ethan Casey visit CCA



Humanitarian aid worker Todd Shea tells students they don't have a right to complain about what's going on in the world if they aren't going to help do something about it. Shea told his audience he finds it hard to sleep at night knowing there are people in need of assistance. "Just because there are a few bad people in one country doesn't mean all the others shouldn't be helped," he said.

Staff Picnic

Faculty and staff enjoyed the annual Welcome Back picnic on the Lowry Campus on Sept. 21.



Seen Around Campus



Spoken word artists Bobby LeFebre, at left, and Suzy Q Smith, second from right, talk to students following their moving performances on behalf of the National Day on Writing.

National Day on Writing



Author John Shors addressed students on behalf of the National Day on Writing and autographed books following his presentation.

CCA News Briefs

“Colorado Skies: Science, Stories, and Stars”: Nov. 12

The community is invited to “Colorado Skies: Science, Stories, and Stars” on Nov. 12. The 6 p.m. event will be held in the Fine Arts Building Forum and will include observatory viewing, weather permitting. Larry Sessions, a veteran space and astronomy writer, will encapsulate a look at the stars and constellations of fall and winter in Colorado. Sessions has written for *Space.com*, *Sky & Telescope*, and *Rolling Stone*. He is a “Solar System Ambassador” for NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory and an adjunct faculty member at CCA. The event is free and open to the public.

Successes shared with White House

In response to a call for stories about how community colleges affect people’s lives, numerous individuals connected to CCA submitted personal accounts of their experiences to the first-ever White House Summit on

Community Colleges. The Summit was held Oct. 5 in Washington, D.C., to highlight the role that community colleges play in developing America’s workforce and reaching educational goals. Chaired by Dr. Jill Biden, the Summit brought together community colleges, business, philanthropy, federal and state policy leaders, and students. Additionally, CCA’s solar tech program and how it is meeting employer needs was included in the official brief “How to Create High-Impact Partnerships for Jobs & Economic Vitality in the U.S.,” which was submitted to the Summit by Business Champions, Inc., a national network of business organizations and leaders.

PTK scholarship launched

The CCA Foundation has established the Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship, awarding \$1,000 per semester, or \$2,000 annually, for up to five students each year. Eligible students must be enrolled at CCA for a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester and must have

a grade point average of 3.5. Preference will be given to students who are active Phi Theta Kappa members at the college. Interested applicants may visit <http://www.ccaurora.edu/ccafoundation/scholarships> for more information. The deadline for application for the spring semester is Dec. 1.

Nominations sought for employees of year

Faculty and staff may now submit nominations for the Classified Employee of the Year and the Exempt/Administrative Employee of the Year. For information about procedures, a nomination form, and a listing of eligible employees, contact HR@ccaaurora.edu or 303-361-7371. Nominations are due by Nov. 19.

Kudos to . . .

David Bailey, Chris Tombari, and Catherine Truth, who presented at the Rocky Mountain Association for Institutional Research in Denver on Oct. 21. Their presentation,

titled “Collaborative Research: Working with Academic Programs to Assess Student Performance,” offered a look at the partnership between Institutional Research and CCA’s ESL and developmental education programs to develop and implement plans to assess student success.

CCA “Green” tip of the month

Do you produce trash at lunchtime? Do your part: If you carry your lunch to work, go for reusable bags or a lunch bag, pack the individual goodies in sealable containers, use a cloth napkin, and take the whole works home with you at the end of the day. A related idea: “Keep a washable mug on your desk and save as many as 500 disposable paper or plastic cups a year.” *Source: Page-a-day calendar: Living Green: 365 ways to make a difference.*

CCA Events

Colorado Film School Student Show, 7 p.m., Dec. 9, Harkins Theatres Northfield, 8300 E. Northfield Blvd., Denver, CO 80238. Come see the best of what CCA’s aspiring filmmakers have to offer! Free and open to the public.

Performing Arts Weekend. Dance Showcase, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 3. **Theatre Showcase**, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 4. **Music Recital**, 4 p.m., Dec. 5. All performances will be held in the Larry D. Carter Theatre, Fine Arts Building, CentreTech Campus. Free and open to the public.

CCA Jazz Band Concert, 7 p.m., Dec. 10, Larry D. Carter Theatre. Free and open to the public.

Visit <http://ccaaurora.edu/news-events/event-calendar> for more events.

Aurora Events

John Fielder presents: Ranches of Colorado, 7 p.m., Nov. 12. St. Marks Lutheran Church, 111 Del Mar Circle, Aurora. Fielder will discuss his recent book and will sign purchases. Sponsored by the Aurora Historical Society. Free.

Red Ranger Came Calling, Nov. 26 – Dec. 19. The Aurora Fox, 9900 E. Colfax Ave. Aurora. Regional premiere. By Berkeley Breathed. Call 303-739-1970 for information.

Gateway to the Rockies Art Exhibit, Nov. 12 – Dec. 18. Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Pkwy., Aurora. Juried exhibit of paintings, photography, and miniatures. Co-sponsored by the Aurora Artists Guild. Free admission. Call 303-739-6666 for information.

For more events, see www.auroragov.org.