

Instructional Related Activities
Report Form

SPONSOR	DEPARTMENT
Catherine Burriss	Performing Arts

ACTIVITY TITLE	DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY
Spring Performing Arts Production: <i>Cabaret</i>	March 28-April 1, April 5-7, 2012

PLEASE EXPLAIN (1) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY; (2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S); AND (3) WHAT YOU LEARNED FROM THE PROCESS.

1) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY

The sixth annual PA spring production was CI's first musical—the groundbreaking, thought-provoking, and highly entertaining *Cabaret*. Set in the uninhibited and decadent Berlin of Weimar-era Germany, *Cabaret* follows the stories of an ensemble of compelling characters who work and play in the slightly sleazy but completely captivating world of a cabaret joint called the Kit Kat Klub. A cast of twenty-one CI students from various majors played dozens of roles in this ensemble piece. The show sold out before it even opened, ran for eight performances with full houses, and was attended by over 350 people overall. Dr. Catherine Burriss directed, Drs. KuanFen Liu and Ted Lucas served as musical directors, and Heather Castillo (lecturer in dance) choreographed.

2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S)

This production was not only a 3-unit course (PA/ART 391 Production) taken by the 27 cast and crew members, but students from ART 499 Capstone created a highly impactful video projected during the show, and designed the poster. The subject matter also made the production serve as extra-curricular engagement for several other courses, such as ENGL 433 Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Studies and HIST/ PSY 340 History and Psychology of Nazi Germany. Also, the performances were attended for free (thanks to the IRA funding) by a total of 277 CI students. Many of these students were attending to fulfill a requirement for another course.

3) WHAT YOU LEARNED FROM THE PROCESS

We learned that CI and Ventura County LOVE musicals, and that our students are exceptionally talented and committed. *Cabaret* was well-reviewed (http://www.thecamarilloacorn.com/news/2012-04-13/Dining_%28and%29_Entertainment/Emcee_steals_show_in_Cabaret.html) and covered in advance as a first and a model of interdisciplinarity for the campus (<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2012/mar/30/csuci-musical-production-a-first-for-the-campus/>) More practically, we learned that we should plan on longer performance runs for musical productions in the future, as we could have easily filled another

weekend of performances. We also learned that CI staff, especially the indomitable Rosario Cuevas, can rise to the occasion of putting on something as resource- and labor-intense as a musical, and that the many extra hours of faculty and staff time are worth it to provide such a successful educational experience for the students and our community.

**Assessment forms from students, list of attendees, peoplesoft program report—sent electronically to IRA support coordinator