Expressing Faith Through Creative Soul

Student production explored spirituality with performing arts

Summer Meza  
Associate Reporter

It's not every day that a student production becomes a performance art in spirituality. The production, titled "Charisma: The Spirit of Yoga," offered audiences an immersive experience that combined physical, emotional, and spiritual elements. The show was performed at the Fess Parker Studio Theatre and featured original songs, dance routines, and a live performance of on-stage yoga with cast members. The production was a celebration of self-expression, spirituality, and diversity of the arts.

The audience was greeted by a beautifully decorated stage, with candles and soft lighting setting the tone for the evening. The show began with a yoga class where participants were led through a series of movements designed to help them connect with their inner selves. The yoga instructor, a seasoned yogi, guided the audience through a series of poses, encouraging them to let go of their worries and find peace.

As the yoga class concluded, the stage was transformed into a dance floor. The cast members, dressed in vibrant and colorful costumes, took center stage, performing a series of dance routines that were both playful and contemplative. The music, a blend of traditional and contemporary sounds, added to the spiritual atmosphere of the production. The dancers moved gracefully, their movements reflecting the flow of energy that is central to yoga.

Following the dance, the audience was treated to a series of original performances, each one highlighting a different aspect of spirituality. The performances ranged from spoken word poetry to traditional music, each one designed to inspire and uplift the audience.

The show concluded with a final dance, a fusion of yoga and dance that brought the evening to a close. The audience was left with a sense of peace and tranquility, having been part of a unique and intimate spiritual experience.

Students let their inner spirit flow as they dance it out on stage for Charisma 2015. The production was an entire student-run, student-directed show that featured a variety of performing arts media.

Many college students are at a time in their lives when they are constantly growing and learning more about themselves and their own spirituality. Charisma represented that journey. "Charisma helped me to be introspective of where I come from spiritually and where I encounter God," said Olivia McClary. "For me, it's music and how I take God and my experiences and share them with people."

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MCC Director Talks Diversity at Santa Clara

Shapell Lounge

Students walk through Shapell Lounge located outside of Benson Memorial Center. The space houses Santa Clara's different multicultural clubs such as MECHA, Barkada and Igwebule as well as providing Bronco students the opportunity to find a community within the larger student body.

Openness to culture creates understanding

Eddie Solis Jr.  
THE SANTA CLARA

Racial tensions are at the forefront of our country's mind. This week, Santa Clara celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a justice rally. Focusing on understanding and equality, Max Nguyen, the director of the Multicultural Center, expressed the importance of diversity within our community.

The Santa Clara: What does diversity mean to you?

Max Nguyen: Diversity means celebrating all the various differences that come from each of us. We all have these different stories that cause us to perceive the world in a certain way.

Diversity is when you have all these different perspectives that come with each other, but you want to be able to celebrate the fact that they are different. We value all these different approaches and angles of looking at life.

TSC: In the midst of the racial issues in America, why does diversity matter?

Nguyen: Even though it's 2015, people still don't understand how the system has caused us to think in certain ways. That leads us to perceive people in ways that are unjust. Racism, stereotyping, and biases hurt many people in different ways that are disrespectful.

TSC: How does this issue relate to Santa Clara?

Nguyen: Coming to Santa Clara, we all have the privilege of going to a place where many people have the opportunity to get an education as awesome as ours.

At the same time, the privilege of being in a private school in the United States is mostly enjoyed by a majority white, upper-middle class. That's who can afford college and see that reflected in our demographics when you walk through school.

For some people, there's a lot of diversity here, but for some people there's not. What I'm really hoping for is for us to be able to go to school and realize their different privileges and see how their privileges allow them to do different things without even thinking about it.

When you don't have to think about something, that's a privilege.

TSC: How can students promote diversity throughout campus?

Nguyen: Look at your own friends groups and their backgrounds in terms of ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, sexuality and examine if those people are the same as you. If they're different, how can you make them even more different?

I feel like the greatest way to see the rest of the side of the grass is to have those close friends who tell you, "This is my life and if you're my friend, you will respect it." When you have those diverse kinds of friends groups that have very diverse opinions and perspectives, it broadens your own because you're more empathetic toward those situations just because they're your friends.

TSC: What helps with understanding diversity?

Nguyen: You have to be comfortable being uncomfortable. That means, when I go into colleges looking for friends with the same background, it was me looking for something to feel comfortable with. I realized that was the wrong way to do it. What helps you build yourself as a person is to do things that scare you and challenge your mindset.

TSC: Why is it important to be uncomfortable?

Nguyen: If you don't have these uncomfortable conversations, no one's going to talk about the issues. If you don't talk about the problem, you're ignoring the elephant in the room. There's this huge problem, and we all have to work to solve it, but we can't do that with colorblindness and saying, "Oh, you're making a race issue out of something that shouldn't be an issue." Someone being offended about it means that there's still an issue.

TSC: What advice can you give Broncos?

Nguyen: Be the best storyteller and listener that you can be. We all have these different stories from our life experiences that we want to share with others, but you also want to be a good listener as far as listening to other people's stories. They bring us together. They connect us. It brings us to a oneness.

Contact Eddie Solis Jr. at esolis@scu.edu or call (408) 513-6482.
TOP REASONS TO LEAVE YOUR COUCH THIS WEEK

1/22 | THURSDAY
Eco-Fashion Show and Art Show
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: de Sotoe Museum
Why Go? Chic meets green on the runway as designers showcase looks that are environmentally friendly.

1/23 | FRIDAY
Junior Class Taco Extravaganza
Time: 11 a.m.
Location: Pony Express
Why Go? Munch on some tasty tacos and chat it up with your class of 2018 companions.

Bronco Music Night
Time: 8 p.m.
Location: The Bronco
Why Go? Start your weekend right with a night of acoustic music performed by fellow students.

1/24 | SATURDAY
Men's Basketball: Pepperdine University
Time: 8 p.m.
Location: Leavy Center
Why Go? Support your Broncos as they take on the Pepperdine Waves.

1/25 | SUNDAY
Liturgy
Time: 10 a.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Location: Mission Church

1/26 | MONDAY
The Forge Garden Drop-in Volunteer Hours
Time: 2 p.m.
Location: The Forge Garden
Why Go? Be one with the Earth and volunteer at Santa Clara's own organic garden.

1/27 | TUESDAY
Overheard at SCU
Time: 3:15 a.m.
Location: Outside of Shapell Lounge
Why Go? The Multicultural Center and other students will be expressing attitudes on campus through social media.

RLCA Presents SCU A Cappella
Time: 8 p.m.
Location: Meyer Theatre Amphitheater
Why Go? Enjoy amazing performances by Santa Clara students while snacking on cookies and hot chocolate.

1/28 | WEDNESDAY
A Capella with Coffee and Tea
Time: 9 p.m.
Location: The Bronco
Why Go? Listen to impressive performances and sip on some warm refreshments.

Santa Clara University New Music Festival
Time: 12 p.m.
Location: Music Recital Hall
Why Go? Explore the musical stylings of Alvin Lucier, American composer.

2015 Santa Clara New Music Festival: Featuring the music of Alvin Lucier

Have you always wanted to edit a literary journal, run a radio station, put out a newspaper, or publish a yearbook?

Now's your chance.
GET INVOLVED.
GET HEARD.
GET PAID.

Students interested in applying for Santa Clara Review editor; The Santa Clara newspaper editor; The Redwood yearbook editor, or KSCU General Manager are invited to participate in the selection process.

Applications for the 2015-2016 academic year are available online now at:
https://orgsync.com/20964/forms/32184

Deadline is February 13, 2015.