

BLINN COLLEGE FINE ARTS EXPRESS

The Blinn College Fine Arts Program is committed to fostering artistic, musical, and verbal expression on our campuses and within our communities.

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Bussiki Conducts Italian Opera “Viva La Mamma”

Viva La Mamma (a recent title for the original *Le Convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali*) is one of the most amusing and clever operatic treatments of the intrigue, jealousy and general chaos so common in the operatic world. The opera illustrates an opera within an opera, a chaotic rehearsal in which a stage mother (Mamma Agata), sung by a bass in woman's costume, wants her own daughter to upstage the prima donna.

In the title roles are Brazilian baritone Inacio de Nonno, performing the role of Mamma Agata; and American Soprano Carol MacDavid in the role of Corilla Scorticchini (a role she performed in a New York production of *Viva la mamma*).

Mr. De Nonno is not a new name for the audiences of the Brazos Valley he performed twice with the Brazos Valley



Cast of Viva La Mamma in Rio

Symphony and will join us for the third time in November singing Mozart's Requiem.

The production, *Viva La Mamma*, was sponsored by the Bank of Brazil and was performed at the Bank of Brazil Cultural Center in Rio de

Janeiro where it received excellent reviews by critics in Rio and Sao Paulo.

Bussiki is conductor of the Brazos Valley Symphony and teaches music appreciation at Blinn College.

Plaag Prepares for Carnegie Hall

The Blinn College Choral (under the direction of Joel Plagg) is currently preparing for their debut at Carnegie Hall where they will perform Mozart's Requiem. As the Blinn College Director of Choral Activities, Mr. Plaag began working with the Brenham Chorale in 2001. Due to the dedicated efforts of the Choral membership and Plagg's skillful tutelage the

dream of Carnegie Hall will become a reality on June 16th, 2003. Both Plaag's professional background and academic training have prepared him to coach the choir as they take the stage at Carnegie Hall. Plaag acted as director of the University of Houston's touring choir (The Governor's Distinguished Collegiate Chorale) in 1999/2000. He maintains a

studio of conducting students and has served as clinician and adjudicator for various high schools and music festivals around Texas. Plaag holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX, a Master of Music from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, and anticipates a Doctor of Musical Arts in choral conducting from the University of Houston in 2003.

Blinn College Musical and Theatrical PERFORMANCE DATES (Fall 2002)

Nov. 21 - 24	Arsenic and Old Lace Brenham Campus
Nov 10-11	Blinn Choral Performance (Brahm's Requiem) Brenham Campus
Nov 12	Faculty Recital Brenham Campus
Dec 2	Blinn Choral Performance (Christmas Concert) Brenham Campus
Dec 3 - 4	Student Recitals Brenham Campus
Dec 6	Christmas Performance (Downtown Brenham)
Dec 8	Buccanear Band in Christmas Parade Bryan/College Station
Dec 11	Symphonic Band Annual "Kid's Concert Brenham Campus

Dujka in Concert



On the evening of September 27th the Dr. W.W. O'Donnell Performing Arts Center became the domicile of controlled energy due to the musical magic of John Dujka. The selections ranged across the musical spectrum, including; classical, patriotic, and folk. Among the selections which showcased the magnitude of his musical talent were Beethoven's "Pathetique", Liszt's "un Sospiro" and Valenti's "Chopinesque".

Mr. Dujka earned his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Piano Performance at the University of Houston Moores School of Music where he studied with Albert Hirsh, Ruth Tomfohrde and piano virtuoso Abbey Simon.

A member of the Blinn College faculty since 1990, Mr. Dujka is an active recitalist and also maintains a private piano studio in Brenham. He is in demand as an adjudicator and is vice president of the Brenham Area Piano Teachers Association and a state ensemble chairperson for the Texas Music Teachers Association. He has been featured soloist with the Blinn College Symphonic Band performing Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" and Grieg's "Piano Concerto in A minor". Mr. Dujka is a versatile musician who is at home performing classical repertoire, Czech and German folk music, Hebrew and Ladino songs, and jazz/pop styles. He is also well known in Texas for his recordings and performances of Czech folk music along with his brother Mark as "The Dujka Brothers."

Brad Nies named President

The Blinn College Fine Arts Division is proud to announce the election of Brad Nies as President Elect for 2003 of the Texas Community College Speech and Theatre Association. Blinn College Theater Arts Director since 1990, Mr. Nies earned an A.S. in Theater Arts from Amarillo College, a B.S. degree in Radio/Television/Film from West Texas State University, and a M.A. in Communication. He

currently holds memberships through such organizations as the Texas Educational Theatre Association, the Washington County Arts Council, and the Navasota Theatre Alliance. It is under the direction and mentorship of Bradley Nies, that a multitude of students have actively participated in Delta Psi Omega (the national theatre fraternity) and the Texas Community College Speech and Theatre Association Play Festival (which will

be hosted on the Blinn Campus in 2003). Mr. Nies's years of committed service to his students and Blinn College have provided a venue of exciting and engaging theatrical productions and classroom experiences. His upcoming tenure as president will provide additional opportunities for continued innovation in the world of theater productions.



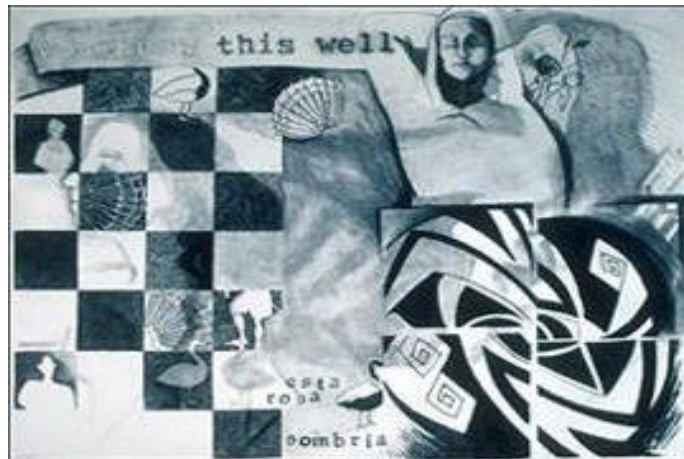
Scene from "The Ugly Duckling" directed by Brad Nies.

Arnillas Prepares for Art Show

Liliana Beatriz Arnillas will be participating in an "Afternoon of Art and Music" as she exhibits several selections from her body of work. Beatriz is a painter/printmaker born in Lima, Peru. She studied art studio and art education in the Catholic University of Peru and did her MFA at the University of Kentucky. Between 1994 and 2001, Beatriz taught painting, drawing and printmaking in Seton Hill University, and was a tenured associate professor before moving to College Station. Beatriz has been a visiting artist in several Universities, including the Rochester Institute of Technology and Rice University. She has done Artist-in-Residence work in public schools and colleges in Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, and Georgia, has presented "Very Special Arts" programs with the Kentucky Arts Council, and was a con-

sultant with the Kentucky Department of Education in the KERA (Kentucky Education Reform Act) Multicultural Pilot Program. While employed by Seton Hill she also directed the Western Pennsylvania National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) Community Chapter.

Beatriz is the Coordinator of the Office of Gender Issues Education and Director of the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) Campus Affiliate at Texas A&M University. She presents "gender in diversity" awareness programs and workshops to improve the campus climate for women, men and individuals who identify as Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual or Transgender, and works as the advocate of survivors of sexual violence. Beatriz' interest in gender also appears in her artwork. Her paintings, drawings and prints



subvert the meaning of neo-colonial gender and ethnic stereotypes through mythical allegories and selective use of poetic quotes. She was recipient of a Vermont Studio Center Fellowship Award, a Peace Education Organization Grand, and two Kentucky Foundation for Women Personal Grants. A few years after being a recipient of grants, Beatriz was asked to serve in the KFW Board of Directors and in the Lexington Arts and Cultural Council Diversity Committee. Her artwork has

been displayed in the Chrysler Museum, the Hofstra University Museum, The Rochester Institute of Technology, and many other University and private Galleries. Currently, she teaches Art History at Blinn College and is designing an on-line art history course to be offered in Spring 2003.

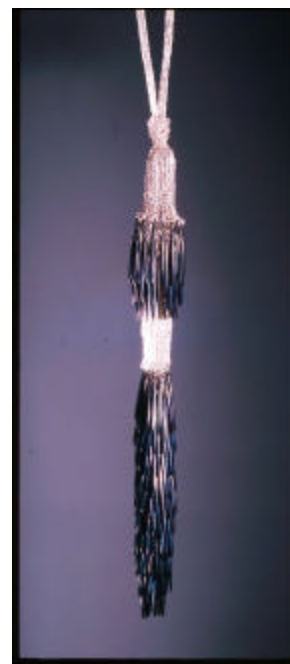
To view selections of Arnillas's work, visit: www.nextmonet.com and do a search by "artist's name".

Brockman Featured in Art Show

Cathy Brockman is a studio artist whose latest exhibit was featured at the Fayetteville Artwalk. The works are rings and necklaces from the series in memory of St. Michael. Brockman draws from sources as diverse as historic military costumes and reproductive biological forms to create these heavily ornamented pieces of jewelry working with sterling silver, brass, bronze, pearls and hematite. These pieces explore themes of adornment, obsessiveness, rhythm, and sexuality. Brockman specializes in

metal working and small sculpture.

Due to her dedication to her discipline, she is currently developing a two-year art program for the Blinn College Fine Arts Division. We are appreciative of having this accomplished working artist as an instructor within our program and for the vision she has for her discipline at our institution.



The Fine Arts Program is dedicated to the vision and mission of Blinn College; therefore, faculty members embrace the opportunity to be involved in campus leadership through sponsorship of student organizations and committee appointments.

Faculty Committee Appointments

The Fine Arts Program extends appreciation to the following faculty members who support the vision of Blinn College through their committee service:

Clay Redding:	Professional Development
Jane Haggard:	Blended Course Design Team
Joel Plaag:	Scholastic Dishonesty
Karin Kinson:	Professional Development
Debbi Cook:	Curriculum Committee
Jane Haggard:	Academic Standards
Joel Plaag:	Core Curriculum

Faculty Sponsorship of Student Organizations

The Fine Arts Program extends appreciation to the following faculty members who dedicate time, energy and effort to the sponsorship of student organizations:

Shirley Abraham (Blinn Catholic Student Association), Dean Birkes (Delta Psi Omega), Cathy Brockman (Art Club), Larry Campbell (Kappa Kappa Psi), Debbi Cook (Phi Theta Kappa), Margarita Gangoteno (Blinn Republicans), Karin Kinson (Phi Theta Kappa), Brad Nies (Delta Psi Omega), Joel Plaag (Choir Club), and Jill Stewart (Kappa Kappa Psi).

Next Issue Highlights

Experience service learning in action as you journey into two Blinn College classrooms which combine academic vigor with civic engagement. The results of this dynamic methodology are based upon the following five steps :

- Step One: PREPARATION
- Step Two: ACTION
- Step Three: REFLECTION
- Step Four: CELEBRATION
- Step Five: EVALUATION

For additional information on service learning visit the following websites:

www.texasampuscompact.org
www.compact.org
www.gseis.ucla.edu/slc
www.aacc.nche.edu/servicelearning

**PREPARE
FOR
SUCCESS**

Seeking Submission

Thank you for reading the inaugural edition of the Fine Arts Express. If you have submissions that promote artistic, musical and verbal expression on our campuses and within our communities please submit articles or announcements to the following address:

Fine Arts Division
 Newsletter Submissions
 P.O. Box 6030
 Bryan, Texas 77805