

Illuminate your inner artist with CSU's Summer Arts classes

Performances, lectures and courses run through July.

07/06/08 22:41:54

California's on fire -- that we know -- but Fresno's arts community is smokin' this month too, during the annual Summer Arts program. Go ahead, inhale the creativity.

California State University, Fresno, hosts this program, and it's done so well that CSU has agreed to keep it here through 2010.

During most of July, world-class guest artists teach college-level classes almost every day, then take turns performing or lecturing at night.

The cost is minimal, with admissions to some performances costing as little as \$7. Events go on through July 25, with tickets priced from \$7-\$30. Check out the full schedule at 278-5109 or csusummerarts.org.

The caliber of the instructors is enough to make you sweat. To entice the theater lovers, for example, there is an opportunity to learn from the members of the Steppenwolf School, one of the nation's foremost regional theaters. Actor Gary Sinise, Steppenwolf co-founder and an award-winning film and television star famous from "Forrest Gump" and "CSI: NY," will perform July 20.

On July 13, the world-class flamenco guitar icon Juan Serrano and his son, Juani, will perform at the Tower Theater.

Charles Zembillas will give an animation lecture on July 15 at Conley Lecture Hall at Fresno State. Zembillas, a professor at California State University, Northridge, is a character designer, animator, and art director for many animated television shows.

Therman Statom presents glass sculpture with sass and attitude July 17 in Conley Lecture Hall. Statom is a two-time winner of National Endowment for the Arts fellowships and has been exhibited in many galleries and museums. He's created large-scale, public-art projects all over the world.

This is a an opportunity in one short span of time to see and learn from talents in digital photography, gospel music, animation, screenwriting, spoken-word performance and glass blowing.

It means a lot to this community financially, culturally and educationally to host this event. One of the reasons Fresno State was selected to host is because of the community support we give it. Don't miss out.

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