

Las Positas College For Immediate Release

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Las Positas College Drama Students from 1980s Convene for Alumni Reunion

Several Former LPC Students Have Careers in Hollywood

(Hayward, CA) - Tom Hanks may be the most famous student to pass through the halls of a drama department in the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District (Hanks attended Chabot College for two years in the 1970s), but a recent reunion of drama alumni from Las Positas College (LPC) proves that he is not the only one making a living in the entertainment business.

Recently, more than 36 former students participated in the reunion in downtown Livermore, hailing from points as far away as New York and Texas. In the early 1980s this group of students was part of LPC's fledgling drama department launched by then-dean Dr. Barbara Francisco Mertes. In 1984, the department's production of "Under Milk Wood" by Dylan Thomas was named one of the top five college theater productions on the West Coast by the American College Theatre Festival.

At the center of the reunion was Jeri Warren, who chaired the LPC drama department from 1980 to 1989 and taught acting, directing, improvisation, film appreciation, costuming, and tap dance, as well as directing and choreographing four productions a year at the college. Warren is now a resident of Harvard, Massachusetts, and has been for the past 27 years, but she and her former students have kept in touch for the nearly three decades when they parted.

Among her former students is David Paul Francis, the writer/producer for the Netflix original series Hemlock Grove, the Sony PlayStation original series Powers, SyFy's new series Krypton, and who had a starring role in the second Jungle Book movie.

Another writer from the group, Charlie Huston, has authored more than 14 novels that have drawn accolades from Stephen King and led to productions on HBO, Fox, and the PlayStation networks.

Meanwhile, alum Kimberly Cass Shaw took to the stage following her graduation from the National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York City. She went on to work as staff for The Bonnie Hunt Show and the Ellen DeGeneres Show, and acted in the hit TV series "Without a Trace." Shaw is the CEO of the independent film company Muzzlebite Films.

About Las Positas College

Las Positas College currently enrolls 8,000 students and offers curriculum for students seeking transfer to a four-year college or university, career preparation, or basic skills education. The College provides university transfer classes, retraining classes for those in need of employment or career advancement, a first-time educational opportunity for many adults, enrichment classes for those seeking a broader perspective, and career and technical training for those entering the technical and paraprofessional workforce.

Las Positas College is a learning-centered institution focused on excellence and student success. It is fully committed to supporting Tri-Valley residents in their quest for education and advancement. Las Positas College faculty and staff are distinguished by their energy, creativity, and commitment to making a difference in the lives of the students they serve and the future of the Tri-Valley region.

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