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City Dionysia: Ecstasy and Despair  
 Project Dates: March 3-April 16  
 Location: UCCS campus and various sites in Colo. Springs  
 Opening Reception: GOCA121, March 3rd, 6 - 9 pm.

Colorado Springs, CO --

#### WHAT

*City Dionysia* is an unprecedented inter-arts festival sponsored by the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and the Department of Visual and Performing Arts. Reflecting the Ancient Greek Festival that it is named for, *City Dionysia* arises out of the THEATREWORKS/VAPA production of *The Bacchae* by Euripides. The various performances and installations of *City Dionysia* explore the idea of ecstasy and despair and, especially the space between those two extremes... the place where one turns to the other. The myth of Dionysus allows for myriad interpretation since he, the god, seems to actively skirt the line between destruction and creation, between boyish revelry and blasphemous sexuality.

#### THE EVENTS

**City Dionysia Opening at GOCA121** | Evening reception amidst the artwork at UCCS's new downtown gallery. Featuring the Dionysian installation, *Emergence*, by local artist De Lane Bredvik with assistance from UCCS's acting classes. UCCS Professor Corey Drieth will also be showing work. Professor Landis will give a short talk on City Dionysia and there will be live music provided by UCCS musicians. Plus, a wine tasting from the experts at *Swirl Wine Emporium* in Manitou Springs. Limited availability. Reservations are required.

For reservations, call 719.255.3232.  
 GOCA121; 121 S. Tejon, [www.galleryuccs.org](http://www.galleryuccs.org) March 3 | 6 - 9 pm.

**MOAN: Pleasure and Pain** | Taking inspiration from a sound that straddles pleasure and pain, *Moan* features art work in a variety of media by UCCS Visual Art faculty and students as a part of the City Dionysia Festival. A maelstrom of violence, *The Bacchae* is a potent source for examining the heart of revelry, intoxication, and vengeance.

*The Gallery of Contemporary Art / UCCS; 1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway; 719.255.3504; www.galleryuccs.org; Free parking available in lot 3. March 4th – April 2nd. Opening reception Thursday, March 4 | 6 - 9 pm.*

**Dionysia Film Fest:** Two Evenings of Rare Celluloid Pleasures | Presented by the UCCS Film Studies Department  
 The evenings will feature rare films with a Dionysian theme:

#### Sat, March 6, 2010

5:00 – Reception, Dwire Hall 121  
 6:00 – Introduction, Prof. Robert von Dassanowsky, Dir. Of Film Studies  
 6:30-9:03—Screening: *Isadora*, Dir. Karel Reisz (UK/France 1968) 153 min.

#### Sunday, March 7, 2010

2:00 – Greetings and Introduction TBA  
 2:30 -4:40 – Screening: *Fellini Satyricon*, Dir. Federico Fellini (Italy/France 1969) 128 min.  
 5:30 –7:10--Screening: *Black Orpheus/Orfeu Negro*, dir. Marcel Camus (Brazil/France 1959) 100 min.  
 7:45—9:33-- Screening: **What's New Pussycat?/Quoi de neuf, Pussycat?**, dir. Clive Donner (France/UK/USA 1965) 108 min.

*All screenings in Dwire Hall 121 Theatre, UCCS Campus; 1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway. Free parking available in lot 3. Check the City Dionysia web page for full details. [www.facebook.com/citydionysia](http://www.facebook.com/citydionysia) March 6th and 7th, various times.*

**The Bacchae** / Euripides' dark account of Pentheus, The King of Thebes and his complex relationship with the vengeful god Dionysus. Presented with original music from the music department and designed by students and professionals from THEATREWORKS and UCCS, *The Bacchae* will be a visceral experience in which the audience is placed in the middle of the action.

*The Dusty Loo Bon Vivant Theatre/THEATREWORKS; 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy; 719.255.3232; tickets and prices [www.theatreworkscs.org](http://www.theatreworkscs.org) March 11-13 and 18-20 7:30 pm. Matinees March 13 and 20 | 2 pm and March 14 and 21 | 4pm.*

**Twice-born Dionysia and the Wild Women** | In conjunction with *The Bacchae*, Dr. Suzanne MacAulay, Chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, will present a talk that explores the origins of myths and rituals associated with the cult of Dionysus in Greece and Asia Minor, including a discussion of the archaeology of drink based on recent Bronze Age research. It is believed that fermented beverages are one of the earliest and most inventive achievements of human endeavor. Thoughts about the importance of first beer, and then wine, to Bacchic celebration provide an interesting prelude to viewing *The Bacchae*.

*The Dusty Loo Bon Vivant Theatre/THEATREWORKS; 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy. March 14 | 2:30 pm.*

**City D Poetry Slams** | Surrounded by art, students will slam about topics related to the Bacchanalian themes. The second slam will precede the Cuong Vu concert at the Fine Arts Center (see below).

*The Gallery of Contemporary Art / UCCS; 1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway, 719.255.3567; [www.galleryuccs.org](http://www.galleryuccs.org) March 17 | 7:00 pm and  
The Fine Arts Center; 30 West Dale Street; 719.634.5583; [www.csfineartscenter.org](http://www.csfineartscenter.org) April 7 | 6 pm.*

**The Bacchae Ensemble** | Original music created for the student production of *The Bacchae* will be performed amongst the art at the UCCS Gallery on the final evening of MOAN.

*The Gallery of Contemporary Art / UCCS; 1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway; 719.255.3567; [www.galleryuccs.org](http://www.galleryuccs.org) April 2 | 7 pm.*

**Cuong Vu Concert** | VAPA and the music department are proud to host Cuong Vu for the City Dionysia festival. Vu is a Grammy award winning trumpet virtuoso and will join us, with his band, on April 7th. UCCS students will present a Poetry Slam before the concert. \$7 general, \$5 student.

*The Fine Arts Center; 30 West Dale Street, 719.634.5583; [csfineartscenter.org](http://csfineartscenter.org), April 7 | 8 pm.*

**Gamelan Ensemble** | The UCCS Gamelan Ensemble presents an evening of gamelan at UCCS's Upper Lodge.

*The UCCS Upper Lodge; 1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway. April 9 | 7 pm.*

**City Dionysia Parade** | The closing event of *City Dionysia*, the parade will include five UCCS arts classes coming together for a mad procession of revelry and art. Participants include beginning acting students, creators or wearable art, professors and more.

Parade will begin outside THEATREWORKS/University Hall, proceed through campus, down the hill through the woods and end at the new University Village Shopping Center for the opening of HedoGeist. *April 16 | 3 pm.*

**HedoGeist** | A collaborative video installation by UCCS students Kevin Beechwood, Kim Ferderer, Daniela Oettinger-Furr, Kiersten Orr, Rob Painter, Thomas Swiech, and Ashley Thompson. This multifaceted work explores the themes of hedonism, propriety, and Zeitgeist.

*On exhibit at the University Village Colorado (North Nevada Ave & Eagle Rock Road), opening Friday, April 16 at the conclusion of the City Dionysia Parade (~4:30 pm).*

OTHER EVENTS WILL BE ADVERTISED ON OUR WEB PAGE. CONSULT [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CITYDIONYSIA](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CITYDIONYSIA) FOR FULL SCHEDULES AND EVENT DESCRIPTIONS. PRESS QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO DR. KEVIN LANDIS AT [KLANDIS@UCCS.EDU](mailto:KLANDIS@UCCS.EDU).