

## Palomar's performance groups to collide in 'American Dream' festival

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By PAM KRAGEN - pkragen@nctimes.com | Posted: April 28, 2010 9:26 am | No Comments Posted  
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[Buy this photo](#) Theater and arts teacher for Palomar College Michael Mufson speaks at a student rally over state budget cuts in March. He is organizing the "American Dream 2.0" festival April 30-May 2. Photo by Hayne Palmour IV / North County Times

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Palomar College's Michael Mufson thinks of theater as more of an experience than a spectator sport, so for his "American Dream 2.0 Festival" on campus this weekend, he promises showgoers an experience he calls "collision vision."

"The idea is it's like a particle collider, where you energize the particles and then smash them together to see what's inside and explore the interior," said Mufson, the festival creator and a longtime theater professor at Palomar. "So I've energized 15 performance groups plus our honors ensembles, set them off in an artistic direction in terms of the 'American Dream' theme, and all of

their interpretations, depictions and expressions will collide."

The "American Dream 2.0" festival, created to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the college's performing arts department, is a way for audiences to see the diversity of performance venues and programs on campus. Showgoers will visit five different locations to see the different pieces of the show, which Mufson says asks what the "American dream" means today and what it will mean in the future.

"Every generation has reimagined the dream, and it transformed over time. But as a country, right now we're at a place where there's a huge divide over how we see the future of our country and who is directing us toward the new driving vision," he said.

To create "American Dream 2.0," Mufson asked more than a dozen performance groups at Palomar to come up with their own interpretations of the theme. Participants include the Palomar Symphony, Palomar Jazz Ensembles, Palomar/Pacific Coast Concert Band, Palomar Drum and Dance Ensemble, Palomar Chorale and Chamber Singers, Palomar Near and Middle Eastern Dance Ensemble and Palomar Electronic Music Ensemble. Their performances will be knitted together with a story throughline performed by student actors rechristened the "American Dream Theatrons" and by dancers performing the "American Dream 2.0 Video Game Show."

The program will begin with "appetizers," where the audience will be split in three groups. Each group will be sent to a different location to watch a 20-minute performance. Afterward, they'll have 10 minutes to get to one of the other two rooms, eventually seeing all three "appetizers." From there, the audience will move into the outdoor courtyard to watch a 30-minute theater piece, and then the show will finish up inside the Howard Brubeck Theatre with performances by the college's large ensembles. As the audience members move from one venue to another, Mufson said they'll pass by, or be led by, small groups performing in hallways and open areas.

"As I considered how to structure such a festival, I wondered how to take the audience on an exciting, surprising, thought-provoking, festive journey through a performing-art-scape of the American Dream," he said. "Along the way, we will become a community of fellow travelers."

"American Dream 2.0"

When: 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday

Where: Performing Arts Complex, Palomar College, 1140 W. Mission Road, San Marcos

Tickets: \$16, general; \$12, seniors; \$10, students

Info: 760-744-1150, ext. 2453

Web: [palomarperforms.com](http://palomarperforms.com)

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