

By Michael Chung

Staff writer

The Crucible will celebrate its seventh anniversary with yet another "fire opera."

"The Seven Deadly Sins," written by Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht, will be performed Wednesday through Jan. 14 at The Crucible, located at 1260 Seventh St. in Oakland. All performances will begin at 8:30 p.m.

The production follows Anna, the heroine who descends into seven American cities, each introducing a new deadly sin. Caught between two worlds, Anna struggles with having to earn money to build her family a new home in Louisiana and her inner desire to create art. As times goes on, Anna is weighed down by family pressure and the evils of consumerism and capitalism. She is also confronted by her demanding kin, who counter her urge to succumb to temptation.

"What is so amazing about this production is the marriage of high art and industrial capabilities," said Thomas Sepe, who will perform in the production. "Where else can you see live blacksmithing with glowing red-hot steel while listening to a full live symphony? And that is just one of the many 'fire arts' taught that will be incorporated into the action. There is simply nothing quite like this show."

The production, directed by Roy Rallo of the San Francisco Opera, will feature artists from the San Francisco Opera and the Oakland East Bay Symphony. The production will also feature sculptures by The Flaming Lotus Girls, Justin Gray, Orion Fredericks, Vance Cearley, The Sun Brothers, Jeremy Lutes and several of The Crucible's students.

Lutes said he submitted two pieces, which will be used either in the production or as decoration.

"The first is a sculpture titled 'Finial,' which is a rhombic cube, actually, made out of stainless steel wire, light emitting diodes and electronics," Lutes said. "Each of the six facets of the piece contain 64 LEDs and the LEDs are controlled in such a way as to suggest the ripples of waves on water."

By CSUEB News Service

"Civil Empire: Genesis," a collection of original comedy sketches, will open the 2006 theater season at California State East Bay with performances on Friday and