



# NEWS

El Camino College Compton Center  
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**For Immediate Release**  
Copy by Helene Ansel

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## **El Camino College Compton Center Theatre Arts Proudly Presents...**

The El Camino College Compton Center Theater Arts Program is presenting "In the Hands of the Poets." It is a staged poetry/spoken word/dance/performance by the theatre production classes. Performances will take place on Wednesday, March 18 and Thursday, March 19, at noon and 7:30 p.m., and on Friday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. on the Compton Center campus, building Y, room 82. Donations are accepted for admission, and seating is limited.

The presentation is produced and directed by Dr. P.J. Van Niel, who formed the program in 1972 and has been at its helm since then, along with Tim Stewart, the technical director.

Dr. Van Niel sets the stage for the production by describing poetry as the way we tell stories through rhyme and rhythm. He says: "Until modern times, all theater was in poetry. We respect the tradition of the staged reading of poems in a dramatic format, coming full circle." This production honors Black History and Women's History celebrations with original poems and others selected by the students.

Christiann Govan, a new Compton Center student, says: "From the start, the script provided the power of diversity of people when they come together through poetry." Another student, Destiny Hagood, a theater and fine arts major who aspires to be a college teacher, says: "The experience of working on this production has been invigorating, and you can express what you want."

For information about this production or the theater arts program, contact Tim Stewart at 310-900-1600, ext. 2962 or Dr. Van Niel at ext. 2965.

El Camino College Compton Center is accredited and serving the educational needs of our community. Students can earn an associate degree, transfer to a four-year university or receive career training. Fees are only \$20 per unit. The college catalog, class schedule, evening and weekend college offerings are available in-person or online at [www.compton.edu](http://www.compton.edu). Compton Center is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA; 310-900-1600.

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