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Intergenerational Revue Highlights Talent at Oakland Technical High School Showcase featuring “Technites” from 1940s to present on Sunday, Feb. 8, at 2:00PM

OAKLAND, CA – January 23, 2015– In recognition of the centennial year of Oakland Technical High School, performers who got their start at Tech are uniting for a celebratory afternoon of song, dance, music and theater on Sunday February 8th from 2 to 4 in Tech’s auditorium, at the corner of 42nd and Broadway. The showcase is a fundraiser for Tech’s Peer Tutoring Program.

Unlike most high school performances, this one has something different: performers beyond their teen years. The idea grew out of the Centennial Book Project that, last year, reached out to over 10,000 alumni and published a yearbook-style volume last fall. “I just kept hearing these amazing stories from graduates,” says Cathy Rosenfeld, parent and organizer of the Centennial Book Project. “There was so much gratitude for their years at Tech. Older alums were so proud to hear of their school’s success and they really want the kids of today to succeed. I also heard from a number of them who became performers and credited influential teachers for encouraging them. Their continued interest in the school is what inspired the show.”

Beginning with a handful of alumni performers, the show has grown to include current staff and award-winning student performers. A highlight will be a powerful scene from *99 Years*, Oak Tech Rep’s outstanding 2013 original work based on interviews with alumni from the 1940s through today. The scene features the “TryUMF” anthem. TryUMF (Trying to Uplift my Folks), an influential youth empowerment program, was founded in 1999 by Tech graduate Derrick Smith, ’92. Iminah Ahmed, ’04, local entertainer and inspirational speaker, will host the show. Performers include Marv Tripp, ’43, Estelle Jung Kelley, ’49, Michael Grbich, ’50, and Omar Shabazz, ’89 among others. Organizers hope to reach a broad audience that includes older members who recall the San Francisco’s nightclub era and clubs like Chinatown’s Forbidden City, dance enthusiasts who enjoy classical as well as jazz and Polynesian dance, music lovers of Big Bands and Alt Rock, and families with young children.

The showcase is a fundraiser for Boost, Tech’s after school peer tutoring program, founded 20 years ago by alumni from the 1950s marking their 40th reunions. They turned sponsorship over to the newly formed Tech Parent Emeritus Club this year. Each week about 20 peer tutors assist over 100 students who need extra help and the peer tutors benefit from a mentor-like relationship with teachers who oversee the program.

Tickets (\$10 general admission, \$5 students 5-18, free for young children) available the day of the event, online at Brown Paper Tickets <<http://technitesshowcase.brownpapertickets.com>> (search Technites or call 800-838-3006), or at the door. For group tickets or to help promote the show please contact us at TechnitesShowcase@gmail.com.

And no, Clint Eastwood is not on the bill!

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