Edinburgh Fest. Fringe' Topic for First OLL Lecture
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Participating in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the legendary summer theatre fair of Scotland, will be
discussed by Tom Hird, professor and chairman of the Department of Theatre and Dance for California
State University, East Bay on Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 2 p.m. on the university's Concord campus, 4700
Ygnacio Valley Road.
"I plan to share stories of the challenges of introducing young artists to foreign places, remains of his-tory, international audiences, and global artists," said Hird, who has produced more than a dozen shows
over the past 15 years while escorting CSUEB students, alumni and East Bay community members to
the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.
Hird's presentation is the first of the fall 2006 lecture series of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at
the Concord Campus of CSUEB. The lecture will take place in the Oak Room of the library building.
Admission for each lecture in the series is $5 per person for the general public and free to members of
the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Cal State East Bay.
The series continues on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. with a lecture on "The Southern Pacific Railroad
and the Development of the American West," presented by Richard Orsi, professor emeritus of history
for CSUEB. He is author of the book, Sunset Limited: The Southern Pacific Railroad and the Develop-ment of the American West.
"In the late 19th and early 20th century, the Southern Pacific Railroad was the corporation that Califor-nians loved to hate," Orsi said. "The Southern Pacific was indeed powerful in shaping history, and cer-tainly made its enemies. But its corporate self-interest let the company work to settle the state, further
the interests of its farmers and businesses, and develop modern, responsible environmental policies."
Orsi will present his research in first-hand documents which disclose the flaws in the traditional interpre-tation of the Southern Pacific and its role.
The lecture series concludes on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. with "Benjamin Franklin at 300: Still the
Same Old Story?" It will be presented by Dee Andrews, CSUEB professor of history. She will trace the
career of Franklin and will discuss what made him tick and why historians continue to debate his place
in the founding of the United States.
"Benjamin Franklin is our most modern founding father, but he was also the oldest and took the longest
to support the American cause," Andrews said.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Cal State East Bay is sponsored by the Bernard Osher Founda-tion and the university's Concord Campus. The institute provides opportunities for intellectual stimula-tion and learning for students 50 and older.