

THEATRE

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Photo by Ray Lawrence

Ernesto Ravetto, Janet McIntyre, and Jerry Campbell in On the Edge's Christmas Special, *The Case of the Missing Messiah*.*On the Edge presents***The Case of the Missing Messiah**

The place: the office of Arnie Hecht, private detective. The time: a rainy Monday afternoon. The town: Jerusalem, 30 A.D. A mysterious woman arrives at Arnie Hecht's office. She asks for a bourbon, and tells him an incredible story—about religious prophets, Roman soliders, and political intrigue. She needs the help of a private eye, and is willing to pay for it. When Arnie Hecht agrees, he begins a search through the seamier side of Jerusalem life; a search that introduces him to Pontius Pilate, Mary Magdalene, an old guy named Orient Nick, and a sur-

prising host of others; a search, finally, that changes his life and the lives of those around him.

The Case of the Missing Messiah takes place in early Jerusalem, but it is performed in the style and dress of a 1930s mystery. It is written and produced by the members of *On the Edge*, the popular cabaret group marking its one-year anniversary at the Brass Rail. But *The Case of the Missing Messiah* is a striking departure from past *On the Edge* reviews, in that it is a full length play, performed by members of *On the Edge*, guest artists Ken Hof and Rebecca Proctor and

directed by Hans Christoffer-son.

The Case of the Missing Messiah is a holiday play for adults of all ages. It retells the story of Christmas and Easter in a strikingly original style; full of suspense, humor, poignancy, and song. Not your typical Christmas play? What would you expect from *On the Edge*.

The Case of the Missing Messiah runs Dec. 14-17, 21-24, and 28-30, at 9 p.m. Call the Brass Rail, at 342-2298, for reservations. (No one under twenty-one, please.)

**Improvational Comedy**

For Play, an improvisational theatre group, will be performing at DeFrisco's on December 10, 16 and 17. The seven-member group consists of University of Oregon Theatre students or graduates, and they are currently working on plans to transplant For Play to New York City.

For Play's hourlong show is 100% improvisational comedy. The subject matter for every scene is taken directly from the audience. This run at DeFrisco's is Eugene's last chance to catch this group in the act before their move to New York. Tickets are available at DeFrisco's in the Atrium Building, downtown Eugene. Showtime is 9 p.m.

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