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THEATRE

Green World Country Fair Saved, Pentagon Thwarted!

Review by Jim Stiak

Lights dim on a room buzzing like a bucket of crickets. Heads lift from their urgent conversations as long-robed musicians appear from a side door, bearing drums, guitars, flute. From somewhere south of the border, rhythm, chords and words fill the hall. Out steps the narrator—why does the mere sight of Ernesto Ravetto make me laugh, long before he says any-

thing? How long is this guy going to be around this town before he's discovered by Hollywood or Broadway or David Letterman's Stupid Pet Tricks?

But no, this play, *The Green World*, is not a one man show. A whole stewpot of memorable characters parade across the stage, down the stairways, past the brownies and lemon bars, doing everything but selling beer and peanuts between innings. They drive up the refugee trail from Central America, cross country from New Jersey, and right out West Eleventh Street, moving around faster than the red queen in three-card monte.

And it's the characters that make this production, because the plot disappears somewhere around the intermission. It is, after all, a comedy, a farce, a cross between Shakespeare and Dylan, and such creations aren't usually too strong on believability. But then, neither is the defense department's plans to build radio towers to be used after a nuclear war. Neither, for that matter, is the Country Fair, nor Rambo. Yet they all figure prominently in this play, as does a place called Managua, Nikawawa, a flash of fire, foreign ambassadors, love drugs, and a philosophy teacher who moves to Oregon (I had one of those back in Madison!). Which, dear readers, is as much of the play as I can give away, except to say that it uses many of the same words as this review, but in a different order.

The Green World was written by U of O philosophy professor Cheyney Ryan, who shows definite symptoms of wit and promise. On The Edge, Eugene's reigning royalty of comedy, make

up the cast, assisted by other local talent. Long-time Eugene director Joe Zingo adds his touch to the two-hour production. And the music, by Sandunga, was great. Love that Latin beat!

It seemed that most of the hundred odd people there enjoyed the show, though I couldn't say for sure. A good reviewer might have conducted an exit poll, or at least asked around for opinions, but at three cents a word there's no time to waste on that when the appropriate thing to do is go home, twist one up, and write as many words as you can. However, even that's not too easy when you liked the cast and want to write something nice, but really didn't like the show as much as you had hoped. After the first half had made me laugh aloud several times and generally enjoy myself, the second half fell a bit flat. Some of the jokes sunk the proverbial nail, but others, especially as the play approached its "climax," came closer to the thumb.

Now, this was only the first of four weekends the play is running, and these are some dedicated actors. Some of them, I know, will read this. And, after they cancel their ads with this paper or take whatever retaliatory action they might—Hey, I mean it! These people can be terrorists!—they will undoubtedly nuzzle that grindstone, schooled as they are in the discipline of the performing arts, and improve that second half. And so, the play you go to see may be better than the one I did, should you have the good sense to go.

It plays every Friday and Saturday for the rest of March, at 8 p.m. at the Latin American Cultural Center, 1236 Kincaid.

SPRING'S GOING GREAT!

The going's getting even better this spring at the Hult Center. With top performers like David Copperfield, Ricky Skaggs, the Smothers Brothers and a full schedule of plays, ballets and symphonies, it's easy to see why spring's going great at the Hult!

MARCH

13	Eugene Symphony: Classical	Silva	8:00 PM
15	Roger Miller	Silva	8:00 PM
15	Mrs. Oregon Pageant	Soreng	7:00 PM
17	Legends of Irish Music—	Soreng	8:30 PM
21	David Copperfield, Magician	Silva	6 & 9 PM

APRIL

11	Jay Leno, comedian	Silva	8:00 PM
15	"Airmen of Note"	Silva	8:00 PM
15	"Miha Pogacnik in Concert"	Soreng	7:30 PM
17	Eugene Symphony: Classical	Silva	8:00 PM
18	EUMA Benefit	Silva	8:00 PM
18-19	Jefferson Dancers	Soreng	7:30 PM
19	Cascade Chorus	Silva	8:00 PM
20	Ricky Skaggs	Silva	7:00 PM
22-23	Ballet West: "Sleeping Beauty"	Silva	8:00 PM
24	Oregon Symphony	Silva	8:30 PM
26	Ella Fitzgerald	Silva	8:00 PM
26	Oregon Mozart Players	Soreng	8:30 PM

MAY

2	Eugene Opera: "Madame Butterfly"	Silva	8:00 PM
3	The Smothers Brothers w/Mason Williams	Silva	8:00 PM
10	Eugene Ballet: "An Evening of Premiers"	Soreng	7:30 PM
11	Eugene Ballet: "An Evening of Premiers"	Soreng	2:30 PM
14	Mason Williams	Soreng	7:30 PM
23	"Martins Coat," Dance	Soreng	7:30 PM
24	Kiken Chin, Dance	Soreng	7:30 PM
31	Oregon Mozart Players	Soreng	8:30 PM

PLUS SORENG FILM ADVENTURE SERIES

March 18	"A New Look at Germany"	Soreng	7:30 PM
April 29	"Song of India"	Soreng	7:30 PM

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Wonderful Weekends FOR KIDS



April 5	Magic Theatre: "AMERICANA"	Soreng	2:00 PM
April 26	"Robin Hood"	Soreng	2:00 PM
May 17	"The Princess and the Frog"	Soreng	2:00 PM

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April 10, 17, 24
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Eugene Symphony Guild lecture series is at noon in Studio 1 on Apr. 17.

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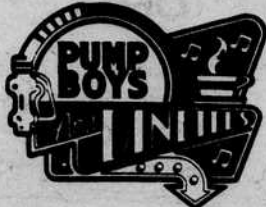
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