

'Thunder Rock' Set Poses Problem: Must be Both Unnatural and Real

Lighthouse Interior No Trouble, Special Showing But Most of Characters Are Dead Of 'Rock' Slated

"Thunder Rock" makes use of only one set, which seems like a simple task for Bill Schlosser's stage and design crews to take care of.

But Robert Ardrey's play presents a little of a problem, according to the personable technical director of the University Theater.

"We have to create a feeling of unnaturalness and yet not destroy the realism of the set," says Schlosser.

"Thunder Rock" has the interior of a lighthouse for its scenic effects.

No Problem

This, says Schlosser, presented no problems. All that was necessary, besides the main floor and walls, was the construction of a stairway, a balcony-like catwalk and another, steeper stairway leading up, out of the set, to the light.

"But because we have to get over the idea that most of the people are dead," he elaborated, "we have to create a mysterious atmosphere without losing the

realism of the set."

This will be accomplished through the use of lights. When focused on colors in the set the lights will bring out one part of the stage, without detracting from action on other parts, he explained.

Lighting Important

In addition, the lighting has to create a daybreak and a sunset, and with the help of sound effects, a storm.

Finding lamps has been one of the director's biggest problems. One lamp—a kerosene type which can be hung in a wall bracket, has remained particularly elusive.

"But," shrugged Schlosser, "when we can't find them, we make them and hope for the best."

Schlosser and the stage crews have one additional problem to face. That is, striking "Thunder Rock" so that the set for "Winterset" can be put up in time for presentation for the Northwest Drama Conference, Feb. 11. This task should keep the crews busy until early the following morning.

A special showing of "Thunder Rock" by Robert Ardrey will be given Monday night, Feb. 6, Horace W. Robinson, director of the University Theater, has announced.

The Trinity Methodist Church of River Road has purchased tickets for half of the house. Any organization wishing to purchase the other 200 seats for the presentation may contact Mrs. LeJeune Griffith at the Theater business office.

Two organizations may each buy 100 seats, also. The price for 200 seats is \$110. Sixty-five dollars will buy 100 seats.

Slide Series On Study Available

A series of 49 colored slides entitled "Some Tips for Scholastic Success in the University of Oregon" are now being shown in connection with a talk by Vergil S. Fogdall, director of men's affairs, to men's dormitory residents.

Freshmen and transfer students in John Straub Hall will hear and see the illustrated talk next Monday evening. Each hall will be taken separately. Fogdall presented the series in the Veterans Dormitories last Monday and Tuesday.

Oregon is the only university or college in the country to present such an illustrated series to Fogdall's knowledge. "We had done everything to locate a similar series in some other school without success, and finally decided to do the scholastic series locally," Fogdall stated.

Sponsor of the scholastic success talks is the University chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, national scholastic fraternity for freshman men.

First of the slides attempt to show the student the glamorized Hollywood idea of college life, football games, strolling on the campus, and spring term activities, for instance. This is contrasted with the ideas one has of college graduates, picturing them as doctors and other professional men, putting across the point that graduation is the result of hard study, not frivolous living.

"Pick courses wisely," is the first tip given. The slides suggest that students follow their adviser's suggestions and drop into his office throughout the year, not only at the start of the term.

A diagram of the location of a hydroelectric plant is used to show students how to pick a vocation, in that the "bedrock of ambition" and "natural interest" should meet in the location of the plant, or vocation. Students are also advised to make use of the counseling center.

Charts showing freshman and sophomore courses for those who haven't yet picked their vocation are also shown.

"Arrange a good place to study," is the second tip. Depicted is a typical student's room in the Veterans Dormitory.

"Plan a time schedule." The series suggests making use of the personal daily schedule furnished students by the Co-op Store. Slides show ways of filling out the schedule for various study programs.

A shot of a student working in a downtown sport shop illustrates the fourth tip, "Watch for part time jobs." Charts in connection

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NW Drama Conference Brings Theater Experts

The third annual Northwest Drama conference, Feb. 9, 10, and 11, will bring delegates from all parts of the Northwest to the University campus to discuss common theater problems and exchange ideas.

In its brief history, the conference has become the largest regional drama conference in the United States, with the number of delegates almost equal to the attendance of the national convention, Horace W. Robinson, associate professor of speech, commented:

The conference started on the Oregon campus in 1948 by Robinson. Similar conferences were sponsored by the University of Washington until World War II, when they were discontinued.

Started in 1948

Robinson installed the conference at the University two years ago, adding Montana, Nevada, and Northern California to the meet, which previously included only Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Conference delegates will discuss contemporary problems in four major divisions of the theater, centering around the general topic, "Art and Business of the Theater." Divisions represented will be high school, civic and community, college and university, and children's drama.

Activity Schedule

Activities during the three-day confab will include three full-length drama productions by the University Theater and Portland Civic

Theater Players, a buffet banquet for delegates at the Eugene Hotel, and the appearance of Barret H. Clark, author and drama scholar of New York, as principal speaker.

Maintaining no officers or membership, the conference is merely a convention of interested drama personnel, working together to obtain new materials, techniques, ideas, and plays, Robinson continued.

"We hope that the conference will continue to be a device whereby various theater interests can be brought together, and will increase in size and appeal," he concluded.

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