

weekend preview

Summer students get the best and the worst of the weather.

After a day of baking in class they usually find time to transform the sunshine to an asset on the bike trails, in the parks and by the side of their favorite swimming spots. A number of Oregon institutions are doing the same this weekend, among them the Renaissance Fair and the Ashland Shakespearean Festival.

For those who prefer to beat the heat indoors I have a few tips, too.

Ron Gold is doing a special on Jethro Tull on his "City" program tonight. For an earful of Tull tune-in to KWAX between midnight and 2 a.m.

Stan Fink's Jazz Group will be doing a series of six weekly concerts at the Wesley Center beginning tonight. The basic corps of musicians will feature guest artists from time to time. A 50 cent donation will be asked at each 8 p.m. performance.

The ACME-Bijou Film Society will launch its summer film fare with "Paisan" tonight. "Rome, Open City" follows Friday night, "Voyage to Italy," Monday. All three films were directed by Rossellini. Show time is 8 p.m. in 180 PLC. A one dollar admission will be collected.

In Portland, jazz man Herbie Mann will do a concert tonight for Paramount Northwest. Tickets are \$5 to the 8 p.m. gig.

Crack-ups Cheech and Chong hit the Paramount Friday night at 8 p.m. Tickets are also \$5.

In the Portland Coliseum Friday country western stars Johnny Cash, June Carter and Carl Perkins will perform. Tickets are all reserve at \$4.50, \$5.50, \$6.50 and \$7.50 to the 8 p.m. show.

"I Do, I Do," the play about fifty years of marriage, opens Friday night at the Eugene Hotel's Theatre-at-Large. \$8.50 tickets include cocktails at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and the play itself at 8:45 p.m. A performance



An exhibit of photographs and other related material celebrating the 500th anniversary of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus will be at the Museum of Art through July 1.

Saturday follows the same schedule; Sunday's is a bit earlier with cocktails served at 5 p.m.

The seventh Oregon Renaissance Faire is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday near Veneta. Two hundred and fifty craftsmen will offer their wares in booths erected for the occasion. Foods and beverages will be proffered in forty-five additional stalls. Wandering minstrels, madrigal singers and puppeteers, who add a flavor of the 15th century fair, will be on hand to entertain fairgoers. The grounds will be open each day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is \$1, parking is free.

Another special entertainment drawn from an old tradition is celebrating its "official" opening this Saturday. The Oregon Shakespearean Festival will commence its summer season with its Feast of the Tribe of Will and a performance of "As You Like It" at 8:45 p.m. in Ashland. Other plays in the summer repertoire include "The Dance of Death" by Strindberg, "The Alchemist" by Ben Jonson, and Shakespeare's "Othello," "Henry the Fifth" and "The Merry Wives of Windsor." Daily performances at 2 p.m. and 8:45 p.m. through September 9 will be offered at prices ranging from \$3 to \$6. Student rush tickets are available 30 minutes prior to the blast of the opening trumpet.

The Pizza Palace (29th and Willamette) shows free films in the parlor. This weekend they are featuring "Fatty and Minnie" starring Fannie Arbuckle; "\$10 or Ten Days" with Ben Turpin; and a Laurel and Hardy classic, "Help Mates."

The Ananda Marga Yoga Society kicks off its summer film series with "Elvira Madigan." The Swedish film directed by Bo Widerberg will be shown twice, at 7 and 9 p.m. in 180 PLC. Admission is \$1.

Weekend forecast: warm. Entertainment-wise, that is.

Teresa Margaret Sotta

drama

America's first four act mime play and a good comedy

Good pantomime is often more expressive and entertaining than action which is supported by dialogue. Because of its non-verbal nature, pantomime demands the audience's undivided attention and offers more rewards to the viewer who allows himself to become immersed in what is before him.

Such is the case with the Oregon Mime Theater's production, "Life of an Artist," which premiered in Portland June 9th and 10th. Believed to be America's first four-act play in mime, the excellent production examines the artist's view of the world, how he experiences it and how he expresses himself.

The play was written and directed by Francisco Reynders, who portrays the artist. He is supported by his wife, Elizabeth, mime teacher Burl Ross, and Rhonda Anderson, a Portland jazz teacher and choreographer. Although Reynders is the most outstanding of the quartet, each performer demonstrates a superb grasp of mime techniques coupled with individualistic interpretations.

The play opens at sunrise, as the artist awakens to begin a day's work. Reynders is marvelous as he cavorts through a series of exercises, dressing, and preparing to paint. But he soon falls victim to the wandering of his own mind, and slips into a state of limbo.

Act II, which seems to draw inspiration from Theater of the Absurd, finds the artist facing judgement by a monkey, a bird, and a boar. The episode is punctuated with humor as the bird-defender of the artist's work, and the boar-prosecutor-attempt to juggle the scales of justice held by the dumb ape. The artist finally loses his head in a grotesquely funny operation-execution by the animals.

The remainder of the play consists of short vignettes which represent the thoughts of the artist. Each episode is preceeded by a film clip of the artist in various settings: at the beach, on his front porch, climbing monkey bars, writing a story. The film introductions fade into elaborations of the artist's "thoughts" through mime. Each of the routines is distinct and well-executed, but two are especially outstanding.

Ross does an hilarious mime of a man trying to commit suicide, who finally succeeds by hanging himself with his own intestines. Ross' awareness of his body and each small movement are no more apparent than in this episode. Reynders joins Ross in a mime about two men climbing a mountain. His fall from this summit is a masterpiece of muscle control and facial expression.

Reynders has done an excellent job of writing these seemingly unrelated episodes into the plot of the play, by presenting them as individual thoughts of the artist. It is a perfect vehicle for demonstrating the classic techniques of mime, in classic situations, and is the only act in which the players are dressed in the traditional mime costume of black and white, with white greasepaint on their faces.

The technicalities of the production are equally well executed. The sets and costumes are imaginative, and the film and music are used tastefully and effectively.

After the Portland premiere, Reynders will tour the play throughout Oregon. It is being funded through a grant from the Oregon Arts Commission in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Arts.

Nancy Hay

"How The Other Half Loves"

The Very Little Theatre took on a very big task with the production of "How The Other Half Loves." The VLT has met with success. The lighthearted comedy, under the direction of Ed Chambers, was much enjoyed by all who were present opening night.

There were multiple ingredients working to make the production a success. The set (designed by Terry Warner) is laid out in such a manner as to afford the players limited space to work with. Needless to say timing is very important.

During one scene there is a dinner party at two homes taking place on two different nights. The Detweilers, (Jere Rosemeyer and Meg Hicks) are the guests at both parties. The dinner parties, for the sake of staging, take place simultaneously and every time a bell goes off back stage the Detweilers have to change from one dinner to the other. The actors pulled that scene off quite well.

Mr. Detweiler is a sort of meek man who tries very hard to make a good impression with both families. But poor Mr. Detweiler is not all that bright. Mary Detweiler is similar to her husband in meekness but she is extremely shy and quiet. Every time Mr. Detweiler cracks his whip Mary jumps and she only speaks when spoken to.

The two families occupying the homes and giving the dinner parties are the Fosters and the Phillips. The Fosters are played by Wanda Grabau and Paul Meier. Fiona Foster is very elegant and beautiful, definitely upper middle class. Frank Foster, logical and big hearted, also fits well in upper middle class. He even refers to toilet paper as "bath room stationery."

The Phillips are played by Marcia Callis and Daniel Nye. The Phillips are not at all like the Fosters or the Detweilers. Bob Phillips is a fast talking beer drinker and Theresa Phillips is a lazy housewife. Both have great interest in the gossip column of the newspaper.

All the cast works well together, and there were very few noticeable mistakes. The plot also aids in making the play enjoyable.

Bob Phillips is having an affair with Fiona Foster but mild mannered Frank Foster has no idea of his wife's activities. Frank, who is the employer of Bob Phillips and William Detweiler, thinks that everyone else but his wife is having an affair and he tries to set things right but only makes them worse.

"How The Other Half Loves" is a funny play. Add that to a functional set, and precise lighting with some very fine acting and you have a very Big play from the Very Little Theatre... bravo.

David Jinings