

## There's hope for quality TV drama

By Jay Sharbutt  
AP Television Writer

This Thursday, a new weekly series original drama for TV kicks off on public television. It is called *Visions*, is produced by KCET here and is intended to:

- Offer far more mental sustenance than, say, *Hawaii Five-O*.
- Encourage new dramatic works for TV and give new American playwrights a chance to work in the medium of commercial television's constant quest for ratings.

It'll have 13 original dramas and four repeats this season. The premier show, *Two Brothers*, is a study of a mentally ill doctor David Spielberg and the inability of his brother Judd Hirsch (of the *Delvecchio* series) to help him. This show plays tonight at 9 p.m. on OEPBS, Channel 17.

The prime mover and artistic director of *Visions* is Barbara Schultz, a former executive producer of *CBS Playhouse* when there was one, and former East Coast program development director for CBS.

She says *Visions* goes back to 1972, when Fred Friendly, TV guru at the Ford Foundation, a major funder of public TV, and officials at the National Endowment for the Arts, got to worrying about the paucity of American dramatic works on the American public tube.

"It seemed to them everything in drama was coming from England," she said. "And of course, this was true. . . ."

The upshot of the worrying was the selection of KCET as producer of a home-grown dramatic series originally calling for 36 dramas to be made over a three-year period under a \$10.2 million budget.

Of that sum, \$3.2 million was to come from benefactors others than the Ford Foundation and the National Endowment, whom Schultz says kicked in a total of \$5 million, or the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which provided \$2 million.

It was a bad year for finding benefactors and thus, she says, *Visions* had to cut back to a two-season, 24-show schedule with the \$7 million provided by Ford, the Endowment and CPB.

Still, she says, she stayed with her original vision of making *Visions* a weekly show, not only to build an audience but to sustain the new writers scribbling new works for the series.

"The pressure to hit it big in a dramatic special is just too great for a rookie television dramatist," she adds. Only three of 13 first-season *Visions* authors have any kind of television experience.

"On a weekly basis, it's possible to fail and you can't really succeed unless you fail," she says. "To have new people participate in the medium, there has to be that allowance that they can fail."

## German beer on tap in 'de Frisco's'

If you've been looking for a tavern with some class and style where you can get good food and great beer, carry on a conversation in comfortable surroundings, play a game of pool on a good table with straight cues or even read a book, try de Frisco's in the Atrium building on tenth and Olive.

Stepping from the Atrium into the custom finished, solid oak interior is a trip in itself. The first thing that catches your eye is the book corner. It's a time-capsule that takes you back to the Victorian era when society's leisure time was spent in comfortable drawing room conversation. Pleasantly furnished with antique easy chairs and soft-light reading lamps, surrounded by an impressive collection of readable books, the book corner invites conversation and relaxes atmosphere.

Separated from the conversation area by a partition of narrow paned windows, the game area exudes a rich plushness that is more likely to bring out the sporting instinct

in one than the roudy competitive atmosphere found in most taverns.

The custom built pool tables are two-inch solid oak with rare Brazilian rosewood rails, leather pockets and English felt. A black-velvet clad hostess will find you when it's

By Eric S. Lee

your turn to play. It also sports the newest model fooball tables and the hottest flapper games in town—Captain Fantastic, the Pinball Wizard and Seventeen Seventy Six.

The food at de Frisco's is comparable to any restaurant in town. Soups and sandwiches are compliments of Pat Helmers, once the cook for the New World coffee house. Don't be surprised if you find your

beer — Lowenbrau and Millers on tap — being served by the manager, Derrick Otterstedt or the owner, Dick Meigs.

Meigs describes himself as a "rabid Oregonian." He came to Eugene 10 years ago as a student at the University. "At the time it was either graduate school or Canada," he recalls. "I was the first long-haired freak in the business department. I spent most of my time playing the guitar."

Upon graduation, Meigs found himself over-qualified for most jobs. "I didn't like the idea of driving a gray state car or moving to Salem to be a state economist or something, so I had to create my own job."

Meigs' interest in music led him to open a small record store on 13th Avenue. Starting with records and gradually expanding into music instruments and electronic equipment, the Sun Shop soon became known as the musician's music store.

With the business well under way, Meigs had more time for his hobbies, but somehow he couldn't separate business from pleasure. An expert fooball player and flapper (pinball) enthusiast, he found a real demand for tavern games that wasn't being filled. So he and some friends got together a company and wound up owning half the tables between Eugene and Salem.

Through promotional efforts for the company, Meigs gained a great deal of exposure to taverns throughout Oregon. "The Northwest is unique for it's tavern atmosphere," says Meigs. "Washington, Oregon and maybe Wisconsin are the only states with a large group of people that are beer and wine oriented."

Although he says Eugene is the biggest tavern town in Oregon, Meigs doesn't feel that it is adequately served. "There are some good taverns in Oregon. Mothers Mattress Factory in Corvallis is a highly imaginative tavern that works well. We wanted to build a tavern that fit Eugene's style. A lot of the taverns are good for certain aspects but most of them were built before music became a factor."

Meigs visualized a tavern as having three separate areas that don't intrude on each other. People who just want to sit and talk shouldn't have to pay a cover charge for music they don't want to listen to and they shouldn't have to worry about getting a pool cue in the back of the head. Conversely, those who want to listen to good music and boogies need a large area with good acoustics.

Meigs hopes to open the music section sometime around the first of the year. It's in the basement of the Atrium and has an area about twice that of the tavern itself—by far the largest dance floor in Eugene—"and the acoustics will be excellent," Meigs says. Through the Sun Shop Meigs has solid connections with most of the local musicians. He also hopes to bring big name groups to town.

de Frisco's was built with the style and philosophy of Eugene in mind, portraying the quality of life with which we have become accustomed and heralding a new era in entertainment and leisure time activities. All in all it looks as though de Frisco's is going to be what's happening in Eugene this winter.

### Could You Reduce Proust?

Could you reduce Proust  
So that he looks as though  
He were staring at us  
Behind a window  
With a little black moon  
Above him?

With his elongated arm  
Reaching back—  
Resting  
Contemplating an attack  
On insects

Reduce Proust  
With a little black moon  
Above him  
As though he were looking out a  
Dark window . . . black moon  
His reflection  
His own face

Morrison Weed



## Master violinist opens concert series

Eugene Fodor, "the Mick Jagger of classical music" *People Magazine*, will be the first artist to appear in the current concert series of the Eugene and University Music Association. The concert, at 8:30 p.m. tomorrow night in Mac Court, is open only to holders of season tickets. A few of these are still left at the Main Desk at \$6 for students.

In only a single season Eugene Fodor has won the admiration of music lovers around the world with his virtuosic performance and charismatic personality.

The 25-year old violinist, who lives in Turkey Creek, Colorado, achieved international fame when he captured the highest prize awarded by the 1974 Tchaikovsky International Violin Competition in Moscow. No American violinist, or any musician from the Western world, had ever done so well in a part of this prestigious event which confers celebrity status upon its victors.

Although Fodor's success seems to have happened overnight, he has actually been a student of the violin since age seven. After his father, an amateur violinist, introduced him to the fiddle he studied for ten years with Harold Whippler, the former concert master of the Denver Symphony. During this time he won four first prize honors in local competitions and at age 11 made his debut with the Denver Symphony.

Later Fodor studied at the University of Southern California, Juilliard, Meadowmount, and Indiana University. He collected further awards, including in 1972 first prize in the International Paganini Violin Competition. During this period his teachers included the legendary Jascha Heifetz.

On his return to America following his victory at the Tchaikovsky Competition, he played for New York's Mayor Beame, who

in turn presented him with the key to the city. Afterwards he flew west to Denver, to rejoin his family, where the governor welcomed him at the State Capitol and proclaimed Eugene Fodor Day. That same night he played with the Denver Symphony at the 15,000-seat Redrock Amphitheater at the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

Since his victory in Moscow his career has grown rapidly. He has already been heard in North America, South America, Europe, the Soviet Union and New Zealand. He has played at the Caramoor Festival and with such leading American orchestras as the National Symphony of Washington, D.C., Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, London Symphony, and Buffalo Philharmonic.

During the summer of 1975 he performed

in many of the nation's major summer festivals including the Saratoga Festival where he was soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

In the 1975-76 season he will make a coast to coast tour of the United States, during which he will be soloist with leading orchestras and play numerous recitals. His foreign engagements will include a tour of Europe. In New York he will return for the prestigious Great Performers series at Avery Fisher Hall in December.

Despite his busy concert schedule, Fodor will cut his fourth album for RCA Records this season.

While not jetting around the world and playing in its major concert halls, Eugene enjoys an outdoor life on his father's 80 acre ranch in Turkey Creek, Colorado, where he is an avid motorcyclist, scuba diver, jogger and horseback enthusiast.

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