



MAFIA: Plays you can't refuse

What does MAFIA mean to you? To the Oregon Repertory Theatre (ORT), and a number of its patrons, it means Midnight-Affair-For-Intelligent-Audiences. "The Mafia productions allow our actors, directors and technicians an opportunity to stretch artistic muscles that often are not used for mainstage shows," said Bob Webb, director of "A Woman Alone," the next Mafia production. "They are aimed at audiences who are interested in experimental, off-beat and/or outrageous forms of theatre."

The series began in 1976 and did well financially for several years, although the ORT's recent move from the Atrium to the old Eugene Hotel has since slowed audience attendance.

While on the second floor of the Atrium, the Mafia performances, showing at 9:00 and midnight, attracted various groups from de Frisco's, Cinema 7, and other nearby haunts, a fortunate situation which couldn't be duplicated in the more remote Eugene Hotel. But the ORT is now exploring new ways of making up for this loss of audience, Webb said.

Next season the Mafia productions will run for one week only at 9 p.m. with 11 p.m. performances added onto the Friday and Saturday of the run, as opposed to the two weekend schedule they are now on. "This will better enable us to keep our publicity budget down by concentrating our drive into one week instead of spreading it out over two or three weeks," said Webb. He added that casts and crews would also be smaller than in



photos by mark pynes and erich bockelheide

the past, thereby cutting down on production costs as well.

Webb is optimistic about the opening of "A Woman Alone," and about its star, Jane Van Boskirk.

Van Boskirk, who is known throughout Oregon for her performances with University professor Edwin Bingham in "The Northwest Woman," is the sole performer onstage in "A Woman Alone." The play was written by Dario Fo, whom Webb calls, "a somewhat crazed Italian anarchist."

The play concerns a woman who must deal with being locked up in her own home by her husband, groped by her brother-in-law (who is in a full body cast), tormented by an old lover and verbally abused by an obscene phone caller.

"A Woman Alone" will play tonight at 9, Thursday at 11 p.m., and Friday and Saturday at 9 and 11 p.m. Tickets are \$3.50. Reservations may be made by calling 485-1946.

by gerine sandall

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