

\*It was an act of protest even to dance the

# Tango

A black comedy by noted Polish playwright Slawomir Mrozek

**October 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23**  
**Robinson Theatre** 8 p.m.  
 (Tickets: \$3.25 U of Q. Students \$5.00 General)  
 Call 686-4191  
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## 'Gracious' comic Red Skelton performs at Hult Center tonight

By Robert Webb  
 Of the Emerald

He ambles into the sterile conference room from the rear and before you know what's going on, the man is strolling down the aisle making sure to shake the hand of every person there. No bodyguards here, no smartly dressed P.R. types are running around over-anxiously trying to make us feel comfortable, there's just this tall, warm, amiable sexagenarian with a broad smile which seems to have bubbled up from a genuinely warm place rather than something he just slapped on for the occasion.

Red Skelton has graciously entered the room.

Skelton, who performs tonight in the Hult Center for the Performing Arts, has packed a lot of laughter and creativity into his years. Known the world over

as one of the greatest clowns America has produced, he has appeared in more than 40 motion pictures, as well as written nearly 5,000 musical selections, more than 4,000 short stories and several full-length books.

He began his entertainment career at age 10 when he joined a medicine show. He went on to perform in tent shows, minstrels, circuses, burlesques, Mississippi showboats, vaudeville, radio, films, and television. It is through his appearances in the latter medium that most have come to know him.

"I've been coming into your homes for 40 years," says Skelton, "Your family doesn't even come by that often."

As for comedy on television today, Skelton quips, "I haven't seen any lately."

He eschews the use of

canned laughter ("My show never had a laugh track") and feels that most television comedians have become the victims of programming executives who are only interested in upping the prices of their commercial times, writers who might come up with one good joke and spend the rest of their time just revising it, and the Big Laugh.

The Big Laugh is seductive, Skelton says, because "comedians live with the laughter they've heard the night before and they try to take short cuts to get only the Big Laughs again. They forget that they have to build.

"Audiences will tell you what's funny," Skelton continues, "they really write the pieces. People laugh at themselves mainly."

Although Skelton's show went off the air 12 years ago, he can still pack the house in every one of the 120-plus concerts he's done so far this year. Tonight's show is no exception. It has been sold out for over a month.

However, those who would still like to see his show are advised to go early and wait around the ticket office for people to come by with tickets they decide they can't use.

For those who will miss the show, take heart, Skelton smiles and tells us that he feels it's his job "to try and make people laugh" and he will continue to do so on tour "until they nail the lid down."

At the end of the conference, reporters thanked Skelton and applauded him. He applauded them in return.

## Workshop topic forests' future

The Wilderness Society and 10 other environmental organizations are co-sponsoring an all-day workshop on "The Future of Oregon's Forests" Sunday.

Peter Sorenson, Eugene attorney and conference coordinator, says the workshop is designed to "get the public some information on some of the regional conflicts that go on in the federal forests and the Bureau of Land Management."

Keynote speakers at the 9:15 a.m. workshop will be Fourth District Congressman Jim Weaver, his Republican challenger Ross Anthony, Willamette National Forest supervisor Michael Kerrick and Siuslaw National Forest supervisor Larry Fellows.

A morning and an afternoon session of small group panels will be formed to discuss seven topics: forest planning, wilderness, fish and wildlife habitat, timber harvesting and herbicides, sustained yield and jobs, old growth and virgin forests and geothermal, oil and gas development.

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