

Philosopher offers lifestyle designs

If you're a college student and you "really" know what you want, you're in very select company.

That's the contention of philosopher Mark Richmond, a native Oregonian who has traveled through 60 countries in the past generation and claims tenure as a medicine man, Zen monk, lecturer, swim instructor, anthropologist, playwright and groom to a ceremonial virgin.

"Ninety-nine percent of the students in this school don't really know what they want," says Richmond, who has returned to the University to finish a play and to begin his own philosophical school.

"People are afraid in this country. And what they're afraid of is their own shadow in the (Carl) Jung sense. The shadow is a person's dark side, and they are quick to project their shadow onto another person. I call this 'casting your shadow.'"

Richmond advertises himself as a "lifestyle designer" and founder of the Creative Survival Institute.

What is creative survival?

"It is a lifestyle that I developed that is designed to give me a lot of freedom of different things to do, different places to be," says Richmond.

Meanwhile, he will give a lecture on "Passion, The Great Human Liberator," Tuesday at the Eugene Hilton. Admission is \$3.

The type of people who come to hear him speak are "people who want to change their life, to earn a living doing what they want to do," says Richmond.

What will \$3 buy in the way of self improvement?

"Nothing they don't already have," he says. "They may come out with a clearer sense of what they want, and what they've got."

A turning point in his life came in 1968, when he fell from a cliff into the bottom of Copper Canyon in Mexico and lay injured for three days before being rescued by Tarahumara Indians.

"I noticed that I had been wasting a lot of time and energy," says Richmond. "By falling into the canyon, I was given the opportunity to stop for a couple of days and realize the futility of what I was doing. I came close enough to death to become interested in life. It changed

my way of living."

Lest anyone believe that Richmond doesn't have a capacity for the creativity he preaches, consider the plot to the "rock-ballet" play he is trying to get staged. Richmond says the play lends insight to his philosophy.

"In the play, humanity has explored the entire universe and mapped every planet and every star. Adam, who is the intergalactic businessman, has financed the Frankenstein project," says Richmond.

"Frankenstein is going to be the first person to jump out of the universe. He's going to be the first man to go beyond God. Frankenstein, who is not the Hollywood version of the monster with a baby's arm coming out of its mouth, but the original out of Mary Shelley's novel, decides he doesn't want to do it

"So Adam realizes that his life has been a waste. There has been no fulfillment or meaning in any of his business ventures. And Eve arrives to tell him that it was her intention in the beginning to get out of the garden of Eden. She tells him that she picked any old fruit and that snakes don't talk and that she invented good and evil in order to bring humanity to this point — the point at which man is no longer limited by God or the universe.

"Dorothy from Oz arrives to announce in her song 'I Am the Lips of the Apocalypse,' that the world is coming to an end at last.

"So Black Hole, who is God disguised as a cosmic janitor from New Jersey, agrees to bring Christ back in order to get Frankenstein back and be present at the last judgement. Christ returns and brings Frankenstein, but does not agree to sit at the last judgement. Because, as he explains, the last judgement really means the end of people judging one another and he's going to be the first one not to do it.

"Christ becomes transformed from a cripple who can only take blessing and suffering poses to a real human being, who can say four-letter words and actually dance ballet."

What Christ does with his newly discovered talent remains a mystery. Richmond says he doesn't want to give away the play's ending just yet.

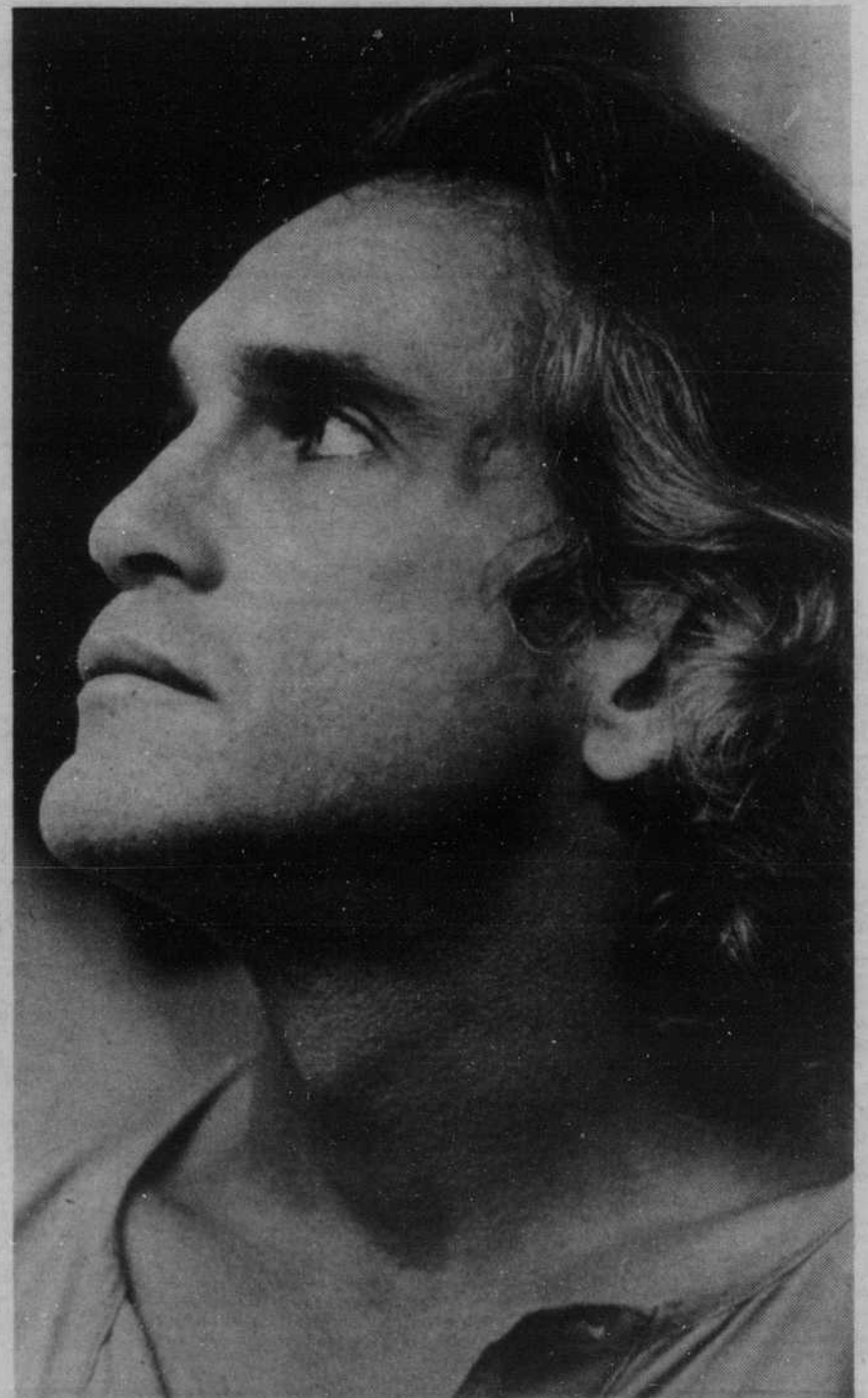


Photo by Bob Baker

Philosopher Mark Richmond offers 'freedom' to people through his Creative Survival Institute.

By Sean Meyers



Photo by Mark Pynes

The theater of Iggy Pop

Eclectic rock'n'rollers were afforded a rare theatrical treat Sunday night when the inimitable Iggy Pop played the EMU Ballroom.

Long-hairs mingled with mohawks as Pop bounded on stage and leaped into "I'm Loose."

He crouched in front of the bass drum, writhed on the stage, ricocheted left and right as he frenetically sang "Conquering Tribe."

Pop taunted the EMU crowd, singing "Gloria/Diarrhea" for the white girls. But the "street theater" became deadly serious as he sang the psychedelic "Street Crazy." He stopped the song in the middle — cocked his leg with his hand on his waist and turned his back on the crowd. "Looks like it's our energy against their sloth," he said to the band. He held the audience spellbound.

Pop burned through "I'm Bored" and halted another song so the audience could "feel the futility of rock'n'roll," as he hit a cymbal with the microphone.

Blondie's Frank Infante backed Pop on guitar with stylistically precise power chords. On another song Pop twice stopped it in the middle saying he couldn't be heard over Infante's guitar. By this time the awed audience wasn't sure if it was true or part of the theater.

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