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A brassy cabaret Brass Rail is host to local acts

Eugene doesn't have a resident professional theatre. It does, however, have The Brass Rail

Since its debut as a cabaret last winter, the Brass Rail has offered a variety of off-the-wall comedies. In August the first serious drama was staged and the tavern hosted afternoon matinees of The Neighborhood Players' "Alice in

Wonderland" as well.

The theatre is the home for two main companies - "On the Edge" and The Cascade Balzac Company.

"On the Edge" opened the cabaret in December with an original comedy revue, and will

"The groups who put shows on here are very serious about theatre," says McKinlay. "They come in six weeks before their show opens and rehearse eight hours a day, five days a week, knowing they'll walk out of here at the end of their 3-4 week run with barely enough money to live on for a month.

"Their devotion has paid off. We used to put on shows two nights a week. We've expanded to four, and if audience demand continues to grow we might consider running shows five nights a week.'

McKinlay says he knows little about theatre. He does, however,

McKinlay believes people in the arts community should work together to generate new ideas and improve their medium.

OLD TOWN PIZZA COMPANY

Everyday we bake fresh bread at Old Town Pizza Co. We then proudly serve the world's finest pizza on this light, crusty dough! **OUR BASIC PIZZA** nsists of lightly seasoned tomato uce, Mozzarella cheese and our

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SODA . . . 7-Up, Dr. Pepper, Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Root Be Apple Juice

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OLD TOWN PIZZA COMPANY

return in October with new material.

The Cascade Balzac Company's comedy is contemporary. Its most recent production at the Brass Rail, entitled "SEX ON THE SE-COND FLOOR - two one-act plays about the subject on everyone's mind," took a lighthearted look at sex roles in modern America. Wednesday the company opens "Murder at the Howard Johnson's," a three-act comedy about a woman and her lover plotting to kill the woman's husband, the woman and her husband plotting to kill the lover, and the husband and the lover plotting to kill the woman. The company also is scheduled to appear in December. Tentative plans call for a production of "P.S. Your Cat is Dead."

The second-floor theatre seats 60-75, and shows regularly sell

"People like the intimacy and informality here," says Lloyd McKinlay, owner of The Brass Rail, "and they like our performances."

The performers earn very little money for their work, but they are dedicated to maintaining high quality entertainment.

believe that people in the arts community should work together to generate new ideas and improve their medium. His theatre provides local artists an opportunity to do just that.

Rebecca Proctor, who has appeared three times at the Brass Rail and acted as stage manager once, says, "Lloyd doesn't charge us rent on the theatre. We get all of the money from ticket sales. That frees us from a lot of hassles that might have bad effects on our performances."

The theatre is located at 453 Willamette Street. Evening Cabaret Theatre curtain is at 9 p.m. Daytime Children's theatre matinee times vary. Tickets are \$3. Early reservations are recommended. Reserved tickets not paid for by the day before the performance will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Imported and domestic beers and wines are available at theatre tables prior to performance, during intermission, and following the show. Free popcorn is provided at each table. Hors d'oeuvres are available, as are pre-show dinners.

Lisa Siegle



TO GO ITEMS - add 25e