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THEATRE

'Extremities' doesn't mix right

By David Bates
Emerald Contributor

You really have to wonder what kind of a theatrical experience you're in for when you decide to see a play with a title like "Extremities," especially if you already know it's about rape. As you might imagine, the experience is unsettling.

The Oregon Repertory Theatre's first production of the season is a controversial one, indeed. Yet the cause is a worthy one. "Extremities," which is playing at the Soreng Theater in the Hult Center, has been supported by a number of Eugene groups, including Men Against Rape.

ORT's production of William

Mastrosimone's play is at best a mixed bag, but worth taking a look at. The play simply doesn't have the power the title and subject matter seem to promise, and yet this is no fault of the

Review

fine cast or Joseph Gilg's skilled direction. The problem is with Mastrosimone's script, which uncomfortably mixes psychological suspense with humor.

"Extremities" tells the story of a woman who is nearly raped, but instead manages to overcome her attacker and imprison him in her fireplace. A scenario like this would ideally

explode with energy on stage, but it doesn't.

Complications naturally arise when her two roommates come home and see her handiwork. At this point the story starts to sag under inane dialogue. The idiotic roommate, a social worker says "Let's define our terms," in complete seriousness. This cute dialogue that saturates the middle portion of the play diminishes the potential power of "Extremities," instead of providing comic relief.

Despite these lapses into humor, "Extremities" does have some intense moments. Aside from its entertainment value however, "Extremities" succeeds admirably in conveying the ugliness of rape, and is recommended for this reason.

'Flats' combines conflict, humor

By David Bates
Emerald Contributor

Conflict and humor are two key elements inherent in Preston Jones' final play, "A Place on the Magdalena Flats," which opens tonight at 8:15 p.m. at the Very Little Theatre.

The story is set on the desolate Magdalena Flats in southwestern New Mexico during the 1950's. Rancher Carl Grey is struggling to make his life dream come true despite a

severe drought that is threatening to turn the Flats into another dust bowl. Carl's attention is divided between his work, his pregnant wife Charlene, and the arrival of his younger brother Frank.

Personalities and priorities soon conflict, however, and the struggle between the two brothers becomes the story's primary focus.

"A Place on Magdalena Flats" is being directed by Maurice Gauthier, who is both a student and teacher at the

University. Gauthier completed his master's degree in English at the University this year.

The cast includes Don Nau as Carl, and University students Bonnie Harris and Emil Wilson as Charlene and Frank.

Audience members are invited to meet the cast in the Green Room following each performance. The production is scheduled to run through Saturday, and again Nov. 19-22 and 27-29, with 2 p.m. matinees on Nov. 22 and 29. Tickets are available by calling 344-7751.

Et al.

MEETINGS

Alcoholics Anonymous will meet today in the Koinonia Center Library at 12:30.

The Public Relations Students Society of America will have a business meeting tonight in Room 214 Allen Hall at 7.

The EMU Board House Committee will meet today in EMU Century Room F at 4 p.m. Topic of discussion will be the elimination of the smoking area adjacent to the Fountain Court Cafe.

Circle K will meet tonight in EMU Century Room F at 6.

Alpha Phi Omega will have a chapter meeting tonight in the

EMU Forum Room at 6.

MISCELLANEOUS

A workshop on applying to Architecture and Interior Architecture programs will cover portfolio preparation and suggested courses. The workshop will be in Room 164 Oregon Hall today at 3:30 p.m.

Stress Reduction through Exercise will be the topic of presentation tonight at 8:30 in the Tingle/McClain dining room.

Student Campaign for Disarmament is sponsoring a slide show on "Citizen Diplomacy — U.S./U.S.S.R." today at 12:30 p.m. in the EMU Forum Room.

"Who are the Russians?" is

the topic of a panel discussion tonight in the EMU Cedar Room C at 8.

Rally to support University President Paul Olum is today in the EMU Courtyard at 12:30 p.m.

"Why is 'Crocodile Dundee' the most popular foreign film in American history?" is the topic of a brown bag forum at 12 noon today in Room 164 Oregon Hall.

Correction: Randy Shilts will autograph copies of his book "And the Band Played On: Politics, People and the AIDS Epidemic," on Nov. 19, not Tuesday, Nov. 10 as reported in the Et al column. The Emerald regrets any confusion this may have caused.

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