

**Kearns** Continued from Page 5

The show is not an easy one to watch because the topic is not an easy topic for people to deal with, but Kearns said his characters are funny and full of wit. "There's sadness and disdain and humor and joy, a little bit of everything," he said.

After all is said and done, *Intimacies* is a story about life and about an aspect of life that many choose to shut their eyes to. "I'm not interested in comforting people — if they want to be comforted they should stay home and watch Disney," Kearns explained. "I'm here to shake people up, make them aware and educate them."

The performance falls near the end of AIDS Information Month, but still fills an important niche. "We wanted people to be exposed and theater is a safe way for people to experience it," said Karen Bubba, co-coordinator of Taking AIM.

"This is the closest most people will ever get without having to deal with the actual disease," Will White, Taking AIM co-coordinator, added.

*Intimacies* has an important place in this month's activities because it exposes the lives of people with AIDS. "What Kearns is dealing with is harsh existence," Bubba said. "He doesn't try to romanticize the disease or the victims. He

points out the humanity of the people — both the beauty and the pain."

AIDS Information Month is a month of spreading information to open people's eyes and to make them aware. *Intimacies* fulfills that purpose.

"People will probably leave the show feeling touched and feeling like they've spent time with the characters — not just by watching them but by experiencing a moment in their lives," Bubba explained. "Hopefully people will reconsider any hypocrisies they have and be more compassionate."

"While it's a very emotionally charged production, it's also going to leave the audience thinking," White added.

That is exactly what Kearns, who has been called "a modern day Dickens" by *The Los Angeles Times*, is hoping for. Kearns hopes that the real life he is portraying will lead audiences to contemplate the issue he is raising. "I'm a gay man putting myself in these victims' shoes," he said, indicating that the best way to understand is to switch places with the victims.

Since understanding and awareness are the keys to this whole month, *Intimacies* is the right play for the job. Once you understand, Kearns said, "you can replace fear with love."

**Seven lodges, eateries earn honors**

SALEM (AP) — Mobil Travel Guide is going starry-eyed over Oregon.

Seven lodges and restaurants in the Beaver State have earned four-star ratings in the guide. Only 377 of 21,000 establishments in the guide competition can claim that.

"Your next-door neighbor Washington has eight, but Idaho doesn't have any," said Judy Lynn Prince, the guide's public relations director.

Salishan Lodge is the only Oregon estab-

lishment with a five-star rating, an honor it has held for 23 consecutive years.

The latest to make the four-star list is the Meadows Restaurant at Sunriver Lodge in Central Oregon. The lodge itself also received a four-star rating, as it did last year.

Also reappearing on the list are the Valley River Inn, Eugene; Heathman Hotel, Portland; RiverPlace Alexis, Portland; Tu Tu Tun Lodge, Gold Beach; and the dining room at Salishan Lodge, Cleneden Beach.

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