

'Woman in Mind' remarkable

By Anne Moser-Kornfeld
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The cast of *Woman In Mind*, which began its run at the Arena Theatre Wednesday night, was overwhelmed by opening-night jitters.

It's an ambitious production by the cast, Director John Rustan and even the playwright, Alan Ayckbourn. The story is about an English housewife who has hit her head with a garden rake.

The accident makes Susan, played by Janet Gup-

REVIEW

ton, queasy, and her mental state begins to deteriorate. *Woman In Mind* is a dark comedy. The cast is challenged to use English accents and mannerisms true to their characters.

Bill, played by Dave Sikula, is profuse at grasping the language and nuances of his character. He has come to check on Susan after the accident. He delivers some of the funniest lines of the play about animals and people in a dry, unbeknown way.

Janet Gupton acts her part well but here is where nervousness clearly caused her to run over some of Sikula's lines. Susan hallucinates and imagines a perfect family for herself. They're rich, beautiful, loving and everything she could ever hope for.

The costumes designed by Deanna Sorenson are a balance of bright, light, clean colors associated with the family. Sorenson juxtaposes that with the drab and dreary tones of Susan's actual family.

Gerald, Susan's husband, played by Kevin Trudeau, is a minister who has been working on a 70-page history of their parish since 1395. To Susan, it feels as though he's been working on the book since 1395. Trudeau plays Gerald prudish, unfeeling in as keenly a manner as possible.

WOMAN IN MIND

WHEN: Feb. 4-5, 10-12
WHERE: Arena Theater
COST: \$3, \$4, \$5

The actors stand out with their own unique takes, it's just that the large comic elements necessary to move *Woman In Mind* forward makes it difficult to believe the actors were actually settled into their roles.

Eric Lammerman, who plays Andy, the world's most wonderful husband, comes across quite strong in the first act. By the second half of the play, he's not nearly as believable by having to project a good guy/bad guy image.

Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" sets the pace as Susan's madness becomes more pronounced. The play's setting is a small, outdoor garden with brick prints along the walk, English ivy and concrete benches during a two-day period.

Lighting designers Theresa Mason and David Hess have created believable effects, bringing out the ambiance of a sunset. Their ability to present the impact of a thunderstorm and finally the strobe of an ambulance light is quick, but captivating.

The montage of insanity as Susan begins to slip away from the reality of her world is striking. The maniacal, intense activity on stage is symbolic of Susan's mind falling apart. This climax was a remarkable accomplishment to portray.

Woman In Mind is scheduled for Feb. 2-5 and 10-12 at 8 p.m. in the Arena Theatre. There is no late seating for this production. For more information or to reserve tickets, call the Robinson Box Office at 346-4191.

'Tomorrow Leaves' readers wanting more

Eugene author Carlus B. Harris will be at the University Bookstore Saturday between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. to sign copies of his first collection of short stories titled *Tomorrow Leaves*.

Harris grew up in a small college town in Ohio and moved to South Central Los Angeles, the inspiration for his stories comes from his background.

Tomorrow Leaves is filled with stories trace the modern human experience through very vivid and real characters.

KWWA TOP 20

1	SNAP YOUR FINGERS	PRONG
2	STRUMPET	LOIS
3	FORE	PEGBY
4	ON	APHEX TWIN
5	STRAIGHT UP SEASIDE	DAS EFX
6	ACID EATERS	RAMONES
7	MANOS	THE SPINANES
8	DOGGYSTYLE	SNOOP DOGGY DOGG
9	BROWN MUSHROOMS	SHONEN KNIFE
10	PUSSY WHIPPED	BIKINI KILL
11	ACTION PACKED ADVENTURE	YAGGFU FRONT
12	SAVORY & FF-66	JAWBOX
13	MODERN LIFE IS...	BLUR
14	ADMONISHING THE...	THINKING FELLERS UNION
15	RAINBOWS FROM ATOMS	LUNGFISH
16	BLACK REIGN	QUEEN LATIFAH
17	YAP	YOUNG AMERICAN PRIMITIVE
18	MEZCAL HEAD	SWERVEDRIVER
19	ENTER WU-TANG	WU-TANG CLAN
20	MY FIELD TRIP TO...	JUSTIN WARFIELD




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