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ENTERTAINMENT

'The Chest of Dreams' liberates imagination

Andrew Mayer
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Audiences who experience Max Bush's play, *The Chest of Dreams*, could leave the theater believing in themselves and the powers they possess.

The Chest of Dreams, directed by Rebecca Foster, opens the University's Mad Duck Repertory Theater season on the south lawn in front of Villard Hall, at 1109 Old Campus Lane.

The play begins Friday at 2 p.m. and continues through July 8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29, and Aug. 4-5.

Lily is the central character of the play. She faces the death of her grandmother and her desire to realize her dreams. Her grandmother left a chest that possesses the power to allow Lily and her friends to momentarily visualize a glimpse of their dreams.

René Ragan describes her character, Lily, as "like popcorn at the point of popping." Ragan is an incoming freshman from Marist High School in Eugene. While at Marist, she was in the school's production of *Godspell* and other plays.

Lily's friends are played by Tether Alba of Eugene as the Gypsy Ghost who protects Lily's home from the evil Karkino; Lonny Lozar of Cottage Grove, who plays Karkino; and Sonya Miller of Eugene, who is Lily's mother, June. "I've always played mature women's roles," Miller said.

The cast also includes University senior and English major Paul Rubenstein of Coos Bay, who plays Buckley, the aspiring guitar player.

University business major Sandy Lowe of Creswell, plays a debutante dancer named



Gypsy Ghost Tether Alba shares stories with Lily, played by René Ragan, in "The Chest of Dreams." The play, written by Max Bush, is directed by Rebecca Foster.

Meena and theater arts major Justin Devanzo of Eugene, who starred in the University's 1994 Second Season production of *Lion in the Streets*, plays the future rock singer named David.

Imagination fills the hearts and minds of the children. They spend endless hours playing in their grandmother's old room with hopes of refining the techniques that will help them become the person they most aspire to be.

The chest gives them the power to open up their minds, but only in the beginning. The children learn to rely on their own powers after the Gypsy

Ghost helps them rid their lives of Karkino, who is the embodiment of failure and self doubt.

The play may prove to be entertaining, as the audience is invited to interact with the actors in song. The song brings the downfall of Karkino, and everyone in the audience will experience the overriding theme of believing in ourselves and the powers we possess.

Foster, a University masters student of theater arts, said, "I believe that every child should be encouraged to follow his or her dreams, and everyone should believe in their own power as a human being, with

an imagination to dream with, and to figure out how to make your dreams come true."

Lozar and Devanzo designed the set. Company members of the Mad Duck Repertory helped build the set and Foster created the costumes.

Each performance seats at 1:30 p.m. and the play begins at 2 p.m. The play is performed outdoors on the open lawn, so bring your picnic stuff.

Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for the general public. For more information about tickets and upcoming summer theater events, call the University Box Office at 346-4191.

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Mad Duck Repertory hits the stage

The Mad Duck Repertory Theatre opens July 7 with *The Chest of Dreams* and performs three shows in repertory throughout the summer.

The company follows up with the productions of a comedy titled *Marvin's Room*, and a musical titled *A...My Name is Alice*, from mid-July until mid-August.

Marvin's Room opens Thursday, July 13, in the Arena Theatre. The play is about Bessie, who takes care of her bed-bound father, sharing her home with a 70-year-old aunt. The dark comedy explores painful issues centering on family values.

A...My Name is Alice opens Thursday, July 20,

in the Arena Theatre and dramatizes women as friends, rivals, sisters, mothers, daughters and businesswomen. Twenty musical numbers encapsulate the humor and fun of this contemporary revue.

The Mad Duck Repertory is a credit-based theater company that involves company members in all aspects of theater production. The cast constructs the sets, paints the stage, sews the costumes and acts in the shows.

The University Theatre box office hours are Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. until 6 p.m.

— compiled by Anne Moser-Kornfeld

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