ENTERTAINMENT

'Marvin's Room' to open Thursday

Andrew Mayer

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Disease and caring for the medically and socially afflicted in our families sets the conflict for the Mad Duck Repertory Theatre's upcoming production of Marvin's Room, written by Scott McPherson.

"The play is about family and community coming together and healing," said director David Wintersteen.

Bessie, the play's central character, has had her family break up at the same time she is diagnosed with leukemia. Internal and external conflicts make it difficult for her to recognize her life — and her family, which she at one time noticed as familiar but which is now made up of alienating forces trying to take over her life.

This tension should serve the play well, as it releases itself in cathartic, comical moments connoting the play's dark comedy.

The plot may remind viewers of the movie with Deborah Winger and Jack Nicholson, Terms of Endearment.

The play stands on its own, as a New York Times critic described it as "one of the funniest plays of the year as well as one of the wisest and most moving."

The cast of Marvin's Room consists of Sonya Miller as Bessie; Justin Devanzo, a junior theater arts major, as Dr. Wally; Mame Pelletier, a senior theater arts major, as Bessie's 70-year-old aunt, Ruth; Leonardo A. Baquero, a master's degree student in theater arts, as Bob; Tether Alba of Eugene as Lee; Lonny Lozar of Cottage Grove as



Paul M. Rubenstein, as Hank, and Sonya Miller, as Bessie, perform a

scene from "Marvin's Room," directed by David Wintersteen.

Dr. Charles; Paul M. Rebecca M. Foster, grad

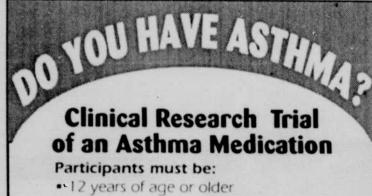
Dr. Charles; Paul M. Rubenstein, a senior English major, as Hank; and junior high school student Griffin Crafts of Eugene as Charlie.

Crafts and Pelletier are making their debut in the Mad Duck Repertory Theatre with this production, but they both have experience acting in other University productions.

The production staff includes David Hess, a senior theater arts major, designing scenery; Ryan Webber, a senior theater arts major, designing lights; and Rebecca M. Foster, graduate student, designing costumes.

The University's Arena Theatre, 1109 Old Campus Lane, will house this second production of the Mad Duck repertory season. The play opens tonight at 8 p.m. and continues with 8 p.m. showings Friday and Saturday of this week as well as July 22, 27-28 and Aug. 5. The run includes matinees at 2 p.m. on July 16, 23 and Aug. 6. Ticket prices are \$7 for general admission and \$5 for students. For ticket informa-





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