

## 'Marvin's Room' catches reality

**REVIEW**

**MARVIN'S ROOM**

★★★★

■ **Where:** The Arena Theatre at Villard Hall, 1109 Old Campus Lane

■ **When:** July 27-28 and Aug. 5 at 8 p.m. and on Aug. 6 at 2 p.m.

■ **Tickets:** \$5 for students and children, \$7 for the general public

■ **Where to call:** The box office can be reached at 346-4192 Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 and 3:30-6 p.m.

By Andrew Mayer  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The University's Mad Duck Theatre performance of *Marvin's Room*, which opened on the evening of July 13 at the Arena Theatre, was a play that reached a comfortable medium of realism and kept the audience attentive with delightful doses of humor.

David Wintersteen brought his group of summer stock actors to an interpretation of Scott McPherson's play that suggested both the director and the actors were catching a glimpse of the playwright's vision of reality. That vision is that our world, however difficult the road ahead may seem, is always enjoyable if one lives for the moment.

Mame Pelletier, 24, played the 70-80-year-old Aunt Ruth with an outstanding tempered fervor that proved to support the cast who will develop its scope and vision of the story in its ensuing performances.

The stage was split to represent a business office on stage left, and various rooms of a house left and right. From the arena's house left and right, an audience member was occasionally blocked off from an actor by their on-stage counterpart; moreover, from house center some of the many set pieces blocked actors at times as well.

Ryan Webber, therefore, proved to show his skill in light-

ing by compensating for the cluttered set through effectively designing his light plan to aid the audience in locating the specific room the actors were intended to be placed in the story (i.e., the garage, or the bedroom). Also, a much less informal set change during intermission would be desirable if the high drama of the second act is to be contrasted with the casual atmosphere of the first act.

The cast all showed well, and I look forward to seeing *Marvin's Room* again toward the end of its run. The cast includes Sonya Miller, as Bessie, the middle-aged mom diagnosed with leukemia; Justin Devanzo, as the detached diagnostic dolt, Dr. Wally; Pelletier, as the old iron-horse, Aunt Ruth; Leonardo A. Baquero, as the comedic clinical aid, Bob; Tether Alba, as the sinister bleeding-heart sister, Lee; Lonny Lozar, as the lizard-like psychiatrist, Dr. Charles; Paul M. Rubenstein, as the hormone-hounded son of Lee, Hank; and Griffin Crafts, as Charlie, the intelligent inner portrait of the family.

The show will be performed in the Arena Theatre located at the University of Oregon's Villard Hall, 1109 Old Campus Lane, on July 27-28 and Aug. 5 at 8 p.m. and on Aug. 6 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and children, and \$7 for general public. The box office can be reached at 346-4192 Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 and 3:30-6 p.m.



BRIAN HENDRICKSON/Emerald

Hank (Paul Rubenstein) and Bessie (Sonya Miller) talk in 'Marvin's Room.'

**MUSIC REVIEW**

## Instrumental sounds Nashville's newest music

By Kim Weiss  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Do not let the Mexican wrestling masks these musicians wear frighten you away; they enhance the image of one of Nashville's newest music sensations, Los Straitjackets. If the band's name does not appear country-sounding, that could be because the band is rock 'n' roll, not country western. Los Straitjackets are currently on tour, promoting their debut CD on Upstart Records, *The Utterly Fantastic and Totally Unbelievable Sound of Los Straitjackets*.

Los Straitjackets have been together for slightly more than a year and feature Danny Amis on guitar, Eddie Angel on guitar, Scott Esbeck on bass and L.J. Lester on drums.

Not to be misleading, they do produce a rock 'n' roll sound, but not in the heavy, head-banging way. This rock 'n' roll has a touch of what the late '50s rock legends created with a rocking lowdown edge, plus the feeling of surf and spy instrumental music.

Primary writers Amis and Angel combine the musical influences of Link Wray, The Shadows, Dick Dale and Ray Coniff in developing their own sound and style. The initial response to the album is this mix creates a musical feel reminiscent of American rock 'n' roll greats, such as Duane Eddy



The Utterly  
Fantastic and  
Totally  
Unbelievable  
Sound of Los  
Straitjackets

★★★★

or the Chantays. The band stands out partially due to the Mexican masks and its musical talents. It is one of few of the latest rock sensations to put out

an album that contains no lyrics, with the exception of a couple words uttered in a beckoning voice on a couple selections.

But a lack of lyrics is by no means a hindrance to this album. The instrumentals are strong enough to support the songs without feeling a need to latch onto words.

My favorites are "Carhop" and "Calhoun Surf" because I like the particular arrangements of the guitar sounds matched with the drums. The guitar sounds generate interesting and funky melodies, sort of mellow but upbeat enough to keep me invigorated.

*The Utterly Fantastic and Totally Unbelievable Sound of Los Straitjackets* is a pretty good CD. And if you dig a really groovy instrumental sound, this is a CD for you.

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