

Southern Discomfort

Values from the past and present clash in Southern comedy

Andrew Mayer
Freelance Reporter

Coup/Clucks, a comedy written by Jane Martin, will open the Arena Theater's 1995-96 season at 8 p.m. next Wednesday in Villard Hall.

Theater Arts doctoral student and director of the play Jim Utz said, "I chose this play because it is a great, funny comedy — one of the best American comedies in the last 10-15 years."

"It is also socially relevant because it talks about changing race relations in the South. 'The humor is adult. I mean I wouldn't take my 6-year-old to the play.'"

The play is a farce of *Gone With the Wind* and life in the South. The audience will see actors playing actors, which Utz said requires a more skilled actor to play the part.

Steven Grant, who plays Dr. Kennedy, said his character grants the audience an exposition of the racism present in the town, "and ridicules it."

Senior theater arts student Justin Guadagni, who plays the part of Travis, said, "The play is a comedy with deep racial under-tones."

Guadagni's character usually plays the character of Rhett Butler in the town's annual parade in the play. But, the characters in the play cannot decide who will play the roles for a float that will be entered in the parade.

"Some of the characters are striving for the days of old, and some of the characters are striving for the future," Utz said. "And that creates a lot of comical tension."

Utz thinks the play will probably not appeal to a racist or a person whose distaste for "taboo" topics gets in the way of having fun.

"Be prepared," he said. "This play features people running around in black face and Ku Klux Klan robes. While the play mercilessly ridicules this type of behavior, I suppose that some people might be a bit uncomfortable by seeing these things actually represented on stage."

Martin has gained national acclaim through her plays' premieres at festivals, such as the Actors

THEATER PREVIEW

Coup/Clucks

Lord Leebrick Theatre Co.

Written by: Jane Martin

Opens Nov. 8



Miz Ziff (Stacia Jensen) and Don Savannah (Eric Larson) talk about Yankees in *Coup/Clucks*. The play runs November 8-11 and 16-18 and all shows begin at 8p.m. Tickets are \$3-\$5.

Theater of Louisville and the Humana Festival of New Plays. Her other plays include *Talking With* and *Keely and Du*.

The cast consists of Michael Bieker, Chris H. Curtis, Troy Fischnaller, Sydney Folts, Steven Grant, Justin Guadagni, Shanisse Howard, Stacia

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String quartet to perform at Beall

The Petersen String Quartet of Germany will play music from Haydn, Beethoven and "String Quartet No. 1" by Erwin Schulhoff as part of the Chamber Music Series concert at 8 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall Nov. 9.

Student rush tickets will be sold at the door and are \$5 and \$9. A free lecture precedes the concert in Room 198 of the School of Music.

For more information call the Music Hotline at 346-3764 or the Hult Center at 687-5000 to reserve tickets.



Jerry's Dead! Go home! Wash! Get a job!

The number of Volkswagen vans and converted school buses with flowers and peace signs has increased on the streets of Eugene these days.

Some can be seen putting about on routine errands to the natural foods' store or the head shop, but most just sit at the edge of the street, like ghost ships on the highways. Their crews of Deadheads are uncharacteristically stationary as well.

They wait for one more trip to set sail across the U.S. Interstate. They wait for news of a rendez-vous from their ghost leader, but the word never comes from his cold grave.

Jerry Garcia is really dead. Worm food. How grateful is a matter of debate.

One thing is for sure, however, and that is, many fans still have no idea what to do with themselves or the peace van parked out front.

ON THE SCENE



The Hinds

Emerald. In fact, I kinda liked the Dead. I went to four of their concerts and actually bought tickets to go inside on two of those occasions.

OK, so I never dropped acid at a Dead show. But, in 1987, I did hang out in the parking lot at Long Beach Arena with people who were frying. I even got ferociously stoned at the Silver Bowl in Las Vegas back in 1992. The last time the Grateful Dead played at Autzen Stadium, two years ago, I went so far as to drink a beer.

I'm not bashing the Grateful Dead, like many conservatives who are no doubt grateful that Jerry is actually dead. I'm actually about the farthest thing away from a conservative that there is at the

Point is, I can relate, man! But what better time than the Friday following Halloween and All Soul's Day to make fun of Deadheads? So, I took it upon myself to come up with the top ten answers to every Deadhead's most vexing question these days:

What are we going to do now that Jerry Garcia is dead?

10. Fatten up Bob Weir and take his razor away.

9. Take the van to Guyana and join with Jerry via an arsenic-spiked Kool-Aid party.

8. Tie a bag of heroin to a string and drag it across Jerry's grave until he pops out to grab it.

7. All Deadheads unite in voodoo ritual to bring back Jerry as an evil, rotting ghoul.

6. Exhume Jerry's grave and quickly rush him into a cryogenics

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