

# ON STAGE



Sigi (Gail Hranka) interrogates Mentin (Kirk Adams) in *Voll auf der Rolle*, a play about stereotypes and xenophobia among German youth.

## Youth culture examines German play's stereotypes

By Abe Estimada  
Community Reporter

Maybe, just maybe, among the University students in German 425, the next Laurence Olivier or Vanessa Redgrave could emerge from the woodwork.

The University students could get their shot at future stardom if they do well enough with *Voll auf der Rolle* or *Perfect for the Part* by Leonie Ossowski, a play examining the stereotypes and xenophobia among contemporary German youth.

The play is unique in that all of the actors are non-drama students in German 425, taught by Karla Schultz, an associate professor of Germanic languages and literature.

It is the second year that Schultz is producing a play with the German department, and she said she hopes the audience will stay after the performance to discuss its themes.

*Voll auf der Rolle* will be performed twice, tonight and Saturday, with both shows starting at 8 p.m. at the Arena Theatre in Villard Hall. Tickets are free, but donations of a minimum of \$2.50 are also welcome.

*Voll auf der Rolle* takes place in 1980s Germany when a cast of students is rehearsing for a play about German youths who struggle with the choice of turning in a runaway Jew to the Nazis in late World War II.

*Voll auf der Rolle*, then, is actually a play within a play, and the students in German 425 are acting two roles. The characters are forced to take a look at their own stereotypes of people, particularly when Metin, a Turk played by University student Kirk Adams, is cast as the Jew.

"The play's topic concerns us all," producer Schultz said. "It's incredibly pertinent to us."

### THEATER PREVIEW

#### Voll auf der Rolle

Arena Theatre

Written by: Leonie Ossowski  
Playing until Dec. 2

If the plot of *Voll auf der Rolle* is not enough to twist and turn the audience, then the dialogue might. The entire play is in German. Not only must the actors remember their lines, but they must remember them in a foreign language.

"It's challenging, but as far as German classes go, this is the best the University of Oregon can offer," said Adams, who has spent time in Germany. "As far as diction goes, you learn a lot. It's the only class that when you are finished, you want to continue to work because you are learning so much."

Although the actors sometimes stumble through their parts or forget a prop or two, Schultz said the drama experience allows her students to have fun and surprise themselves.

But director Rebecca Foster, a University graduate student in theater directing, said that the message of the play is serious and speaks to Americans as well as Germans.

"This play is real life," she said. "It looks at how we treat each other, how cruel we are to each other and how kind we can be to each other. I think it's wonderful that through the actors, we can find feelings of hate and love within us. The play is very timely, though it is 10 years old."

And maybe, just maybe, one of the actors in German 425 could be accepting a Tony award 15 years from now.

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