

Lord Leebrick Theatre Co. 540 Charnelton St.
THE ROAD TO MECCA
 By Athol Fugard
 Directed by Carol Horne
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 February 15
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Famous poet to visit Knight Library

By Amy Spindler
 Freelance Reporter

Award-winning poet Edward Hirsch will read from his celebrated works at the Knight Library Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

The reading, sponsored by the University creative writing department, is free and open to the public. A book signing will follow.

Garrett Hongo, a creative writing professor, is a long-time friend of Hirsch and compares Hirsch's poetry to a memorable movie.

"He's one of the most honored poets of his generation. His poetry is art whetted to life whetted to imagination. He's a poetic champion," Hongo said.

Hirsch has won almost every literary award, including the 1986 National Book Critics Circle Award for his book *Wild Gratitude*. The Critics award is one of the most prestigious awards in writing, said Jude Nutter, a graduate teaching fellow in the creative writing department.

Hongo is equally enthusiastic about Hirsch's writing, which ranges from very funny to true-life emotion to moral tales, he said.

"He writes about the loneliness and grief of American women during the Pioneer era, or garment industry workers in Massachusetts in the 19th century, and even about high school football," Hongo explained.

Jennifer State, a senior majoring in journalism, is looking forward to the reading.

"He's an inventive poet, and I want to hear the way he reads his poetry," State said. "The difference between reading and hearing his work will be



COURTESY PHOTO

Poet Edward Hirsch has received several awards, including the National Book Critics Circle Award.

interesting."

Hirsch has published four books of poetry: *For the Sleepwalkers*, *Wild Gratitude*, *The Night Parade* and *Earthly Measures*. His poems have also appeared in a wide range of literary magazines, including the *New Yorker* and *The New Republic*.

Hirsch is a native of Chicago and an alumnus of Grinnell College and the University of Pennsylvania. He currently teaches at the University of Houston.

Hongo said he believes students who attend the reading can expect a truthful poet.

"He won't bring tired wisdoms to young people, but instead fireworks, sadness, and a lot of laughs," he said.

University provides setting for Gen X novel

By Nicole Krueger
 Entertainment Editor

The University had its stint on the silver screen in *Animal House* and will have another this spring when the film *Pre* is released. Now the campus has entered the literary scene as well through former University student Thomas Fairless' novel *I'm a Freshman Not a Fortuneteller*.

The book, which was published in November, is about a Lake Oswego tennis player who decides to attend the University. He moves into Parson Hall in Bean Complex, where Fairless lived for one term during his three-year stint at the University, and has experiences similar to those of many students.

Fairless, a graduate of Portland State University, said he wrote the book as a way to address the issues of "Genera-

tion X."

"I wanted to capsule the late 80s and early 90s and what college life is like on a liberal campus in the Northwest," Fairless said.

Many writers and publishers neglect Generation X, he said, because they are afraid to take the financial risk inherent in targeting such a limited market.

"Agents in New York and Los Angeles don't feel that Generation X is a worthy market," he said. "One of the top five publishers wanted to scale [the book] down in language — it's very realistic."

The book is written for an 18- to 25-year-old audience, and the story is told in the "stream of consciousness" style, in which the narration consists of a character's thoughts as they occur. The point of view is that of a college freshman. Fairless said

he attempted to create natural and believable dialogue that college students can relate to.

"Dialogue is my forte, and the book is very dialogue-oriented," he said. Before writing the novel, Fairless worked on the scripts for movies such as *A Few Good Men* and *Carlito's Way*.

Fairless described the book as a "coming of age" novel in which the four main characters go through a variety of experiences and learn to grow from them. The book deals with both minor and major issues facing college students, including sex, drug use, suicide and stereotypes. However, the book is mainly humorous, he said.

Fairless said he is currently working on another book, which is also set at the University. *I'm a Freshman Not a Fortuneteller* is available at the University Book Store.

Theater: Production proves funny, interesting

■ Continued from Page 7

logue as an elderly man who sucks stones with great comic timing. In "Act Without Words I" he delivers another humorous monologue with great timing — but without words. Hayes uses convincing characterization and expressive body language to create vibrant characters.

Thea Hicks, Holly Thomas and Cameo Morningstar give notable performances as well in "Come and Go," in which the three women gossip about one another behind each other's backs. Their carefully modulated voices and controlled, synchronized movements are well-calculated and effective.

The set, which changes little from play to play, is intriguing and sets the mood for Beckett's melancholy themes.

Altogether, *An Evening in Beckett's* shorts is an effective, intriguing production that makes for an enjoyable evening at the theater. The play will continue Jan. 24-25, 31 and Feb. 1.

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