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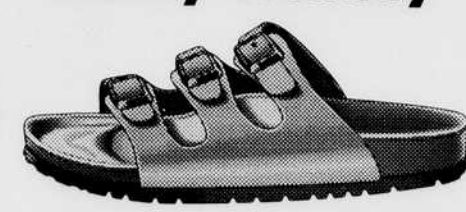
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Theatre: Season has happy ending

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that meant something to me. It is beautiful poetry — it has mystery.” Love and death are entwined again in “Machinal,” written by Sophie Treadwell and directed by doctoral student Robin Aronson. After directing the feminist play “Vinegar Tom” in the Arena Theatre last season, Aronson is setting a trend of directing shows about women’s issues. “Machinal” is an episodic drama that presents a woman’s perspective on love through her unhappy marriage, an affair and the trial for the murder of her husband.

There is, however, a glimmer of hope for the “Season of Love” to have a happy ending. The season finale is Shakespeare’s comedy “Two Gentlemen of Verona.” The play, which director and acting Professor Bob Barton hopes will create more Shakespeare devotees, follows four young lovers through a spirited journey of disguises and betrayals. It’s a comedy, but Barton wants to bring out the relationship issues with which a college audience will identify.

“There’s an exuberance, a joy of living, magnificent poetic language, some of the best clowning in all of Shakespeare,” Barton said. “There’s a sense of festival.



WENDY FULLER/Emerald

Leo, Otto and Gloria create the ‘Design for Living’ love triangle.

But the characters are leaving home for the first time, which has a real resonance in what our audience is going through.”

Tickets can be purchased at the University Theatre Box Office. University student tickets are

\$4.50; senior citizen, non-University student and University faculty and staff tickets are \$7; general admission tickets are \$9. Season tickets are available for additional savings. Call 346-4191 for more information.

Coffee People goes ‘unplugged’

Coffee People opens its mic to the public on alternate Tuesday nights

Thomas Valinoti
Freelance Reporter

The mics will be plugged in and the sound system turned up for a broad range of local entertainment at Coffee People on Nov. 4. The venue is Open Mic Night, which has quickly obtained a cult following. Every other Tuesday, the stage is open to anyone who wants to demonstrate their talent. Acts range from acoustical performances to comedy and poetry. Indeed, anything can happen.

This is the brainchild of Gus Baum, who co-hosts along with Coffee People employee Lael Alderman. The primary purpose of the event is to serve as a kind of jumping-off point for up-and-coming local artists, while the creators wanted to get as much music out to the public as possible.

Previous Open Mic Nights have included a slew of local acts, as well as friends from the dorms who have a great time. Bands such

as Drive (formerly the Betmars), The American Girls and the recently formed dorm-band the Fugitive Nutz, have given a show that could be described as “Coffee People Unplugged.” The band Marigold is rumored to be dropping by this Tuesday as well.

Getting involved with Open Mic Night is simple. Come in to Coffee People between 7:30 and 8 p.m. to sign up. The first act will hit the mics around 8 p.m., and the show will run until closing. Musical acts are usually allowed two or three songs, with the limit dictated by the number of sign-ups.

The history of Coffee People is interesting. About twenty-five years ago, Jim and Patty Roberts began selling coffee at the Saturday Market in Eugene. (They can currently be seen on the sign outside of every Coffee People.) Things went so well for them that they decided to open a store in Portland called Coffee Man, which simply sold whole bean coffee. This, however, was long before the rampaging coffee scene, and the store eventually closed.

From there, they regrouped and

in 1983 opened the first of many Coffee People stores in Portland. Now they own a total of 42 stores up and down the West Coast and nationwide.

The Eugene location was opened about two years ago. At the time it was the Roberts’ farthest shop from the base of operation in Portland. Eugene was seen as a chance to “loosen the apron strings and let Coffee People grow,” said Ann Solseng, who works at the Portland location.

Although Coffee People is now becoming more commercial, Jim and Patty Roberts have tried to remain true to their roots. Solseng describes Coffee People as having “great respect for the individual.”

It is a comfortable environment for people from all walks of life and is dedicated to being connected with the community while serving their needs, she said.

Eugene manager Kevin Schmidt followed in this path and changed Coffee People to fit in a college environment. The main goal of Coffee People nationwide is to “cater the environment to the customer,” he said.

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