



WHERE LAND, SKY & WATER MEET

McKENZIE
OUTFITTERS

Downtown Eugene
79 West Broadway • 541-485-5946

Valley River Center
Up The Escalator • 541-343-2300

Neil Simon play opens at Leebrick

The theater company takes on a 1960s flavor with 'Red Hot Lovers'

By Amy Jennaro
for the Emerald

The year is 1969. Students are rallying against the Vietnam War, feminism has caught on like wildfire, and the sexual revolution is overtaking America.

Among all this confusion, Barney Cashman, a 47-year-old straight-laced fish salesman, decides to give up his conventional life and join in the fun with three other women — besides his wife.

The first is Elaine, a Marilyn Monroe-type seductress, played by Kathy James La Montagne. Next, Barney tries with Bobbie (Lyn Burg), a crazy, offbeat actress. Finally, he turns to Jeanette (Marla Norton), his wife's best friend and a Bible-thumping moralist.

Together, they are "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers" in Neil Simon's popular comedy, playing Nov. 1 through 25 at the Lord Leebrick Theatre Co.

This marks the first time the theater company has staged a Simon production.

"Our reputation is more on the

edge," theater owner Randy Lord said. "We do more daring and new works that people haven't seen before."

But while Barney's love life is doomed to failure, this production isn't.

"Lovers" has already struck a chord with theatergoers, selling out several shows before its run has even started. Lord credits the play's popularity to its famous playwright.

"Simon sells," he said.

Lead actor Achilles Masehos, who is appearing in a Simon play for the first time, was drawn to the production for more than name recognition. Masehos said he believes the play is a reflection of the no-holds-barred values of the era.

"Barney is doing what so many people of that time did in terms of massive exploration," he said.

But Director Reva Kaufman says the show's appeal lies more in Masehos' acting. "The values of the play come out because of the way Achilles is," Kaufman said. "He is a very honest actor."

Masehos, like most of the cast and crew, is a Eugene native. The theater company often recruits local talent, including members

The Last of the Red Hot Lovers

by Neil Simon

■ TYPE: Play

■ WHEN: Nov. 1-25

■ WHERE: Lord Leebrick Theatre Co.

of the University's Robinson Theatre.

Because the show's focus is on intimacy, the set is not elaborate and relies on low-key furnishings and few special effects. Costumes will be relevant to the play's era but not exaggerated.

The most unusual touch is the seating, which will be placed directly on the stage.

"It's definitely in-your-face," Lord said.

The play will be performed Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$11 on Thursdays and Sundays and \$15 Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets are available at the Lord Leebrick box office, 540 Charnelton Street.

Nowhere to run to. Nowhere to hide.

The Oregon Daily Emerald on the world wide web.

www.uoregon.edu/~ode



Twice the Coffee, Half the Money

Show your U of O Student ID and get any 2 Coffee People drinks for the price of 1.

Offer good on all Coffee People smoothies, shakes, and coffee drinks.

This offer is good until October 5th, to help you stabilize your vibe during your first week in class.

"Coffee People"

Drop by for some Coffee Culture.

Address: 840 E. 13 (across the street from the University Bookstore)

Phone: 302-1771