

'Totally Weird'

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teens. He said the youths refer to Rigel as "the quad," an elevated blend of actor, writer, producer and director. But underneath Rigel's glitzy veneer, Lord said his character is little more than a former art-film director who has sold out his integrity for the big bucks that come with irresponsible and bloody film making.

"He's now after the almighty buck, and he's been totally corrupted," Lord added. "He's a weasel. He's slimy. He's sleazy."

Both Jimmy and Kenny are awestruck by the Hollywood pair and are seemingly normal "Hollywood valley-guys," Lord said. He noted that the kids break into the mansion out of little more than curiosity. But the tables turn as hidden dangers in Kenny's personality surface. These dangers — and the gun Kenny secretly brings into the mansion — prove to add heaping spoonfuls of tension to the continuous, 1 hr. and 45 min. stage drama.

Brian Henderson, who plays Jimmy, said his character idolizes the older Kenny and wound up in the predicament at the urging of that character.

"[Jimmy] thinks life is a whole-big action flick," he said.

But he added that things change when Kenny exhibits dark tendencies inside the house.

"The irony of the whole thing is

Play information

"Like Totally Weird"

Jan. 22, Opening Night Gala; Jan. 23, 28, 29, 30; Feb. 4-6, 11-13; All showings at 8 p.m.
Jan. 31 and Feb. 7, Sunday Matinees; Both shows at 2 p.m.
Tickets are \$15 on Fridays and Saturdays, \$11 on Thursdays and Sundays, available at the LLTC Box Office at 465-1506.

"Bang Bang You're Dead"

Feb. 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets available through the THS Drama Department at 744-5140.

that Jimmy has second thoughts of doing violent things," he said. "The only way he can deal with it is by acting out the characters. It eventually gets to the point that he wants to get out of there."

Henderson said that Kenny turns dark when he meets Rigel in person and sees that he is not the movie icon but "this Hollywood sleaze-bag."

But Lord added that the boys do not always have the upper hand in the play, as Rigel shows his manipulative puppetry in playing the characters' fears off one another.

And although Lord would not divulge the who triumphs in this battle, he alluded that the thick soup of manipulation and frustration eventually reaches a tragic

boiling point.

The play makes its showing as a precursor to Mastrosimone's "Bang Bang You're Dead," which will make its World Premiere at Thurston High School. The latter play was created following a May shooting incident in which a student opened gunfire in the high school's crowded cafeteria, killing two students and injuring 22.

According to Lord, after the shooting incident, Thurston's theater director Mike Fisher was inundated with phone calls from people interested in doing a theater project.

"[Fisher] chose this one because it had the most integrity," Lord said.

He said "Bang Bang's" plot will deal with a fictional high school shooting suspect as he sits in a dark jail cell. The character, also played by Nick Smith, will be visited by the ghosts of his victims.

Melanie Moseley, who plays Jennifer Barton's character in the LLTC production, said both plays reflect the problems the local as well as national communities are experiencing. She noted that both plays do a "really good job of reflecting who we are."

"Kids today seem to have a level of not knowing themselves ... maybe because they don't feel," she said. "This play will hit close to home."

Mark Alan bakes up new album

The musician's new release stirs in a broad mix of social themes

By Jennifer Bomar
for the Emerald

For the sweet-toothed musical listeners with hungry heads, Mark Alan has prepared the perfect treat. In Alan's third musical release, "Brown Sugar Biscuits," he combines a mature sound with smacking social commentary.

The singer/songwriter, who has been performing in Eugene for more than a decade, called the album his most "radio-friendly." But the term has a rich irony, as Alan has quietly established himself as one of the area's most popu-

'Brown Sugar Biscuits'

Mark Alan
TYPE: Acoustic Rock
PRODUCED BY:
Yellowbox Records
RATING:
★★★★★

lar live performers. But whether the audience is listening to the tunes from "Biscuits" live or on the recording, Alan's new music is sure to gain ground with fans.

"Biscuits," which was released late last year on Yellowbox Records, proves to be Alan's most aggressive release thus far as he challenges listeners with an oven-full of cerebral songs.

"Get Your Love", a story about outsiders making judgments on you, is one of Alan's personal favorites. It illustrates how people we don't even know judge us. And that it's "kind of crazy" that people feel they can evaluate other's lives, said Alan in a recent interview.

Alan uses the tune "Man of Myth" to grip the listener into musical contemplation. The song is sung from the perspective of a sexual assault perpetrator. Alan said this method of song-writing was used to "get inside" the perpetrator's head in order to promote listener dialogue about sexual assault issues.

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