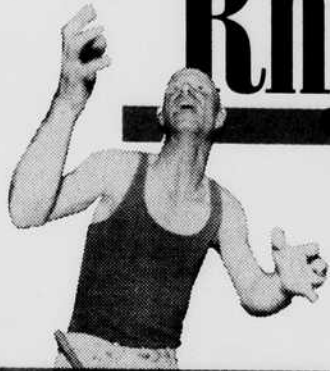


# Rhythm & Reviews

Friday, March 5, 1999

Oregon Emerald



## Traveling tricksters

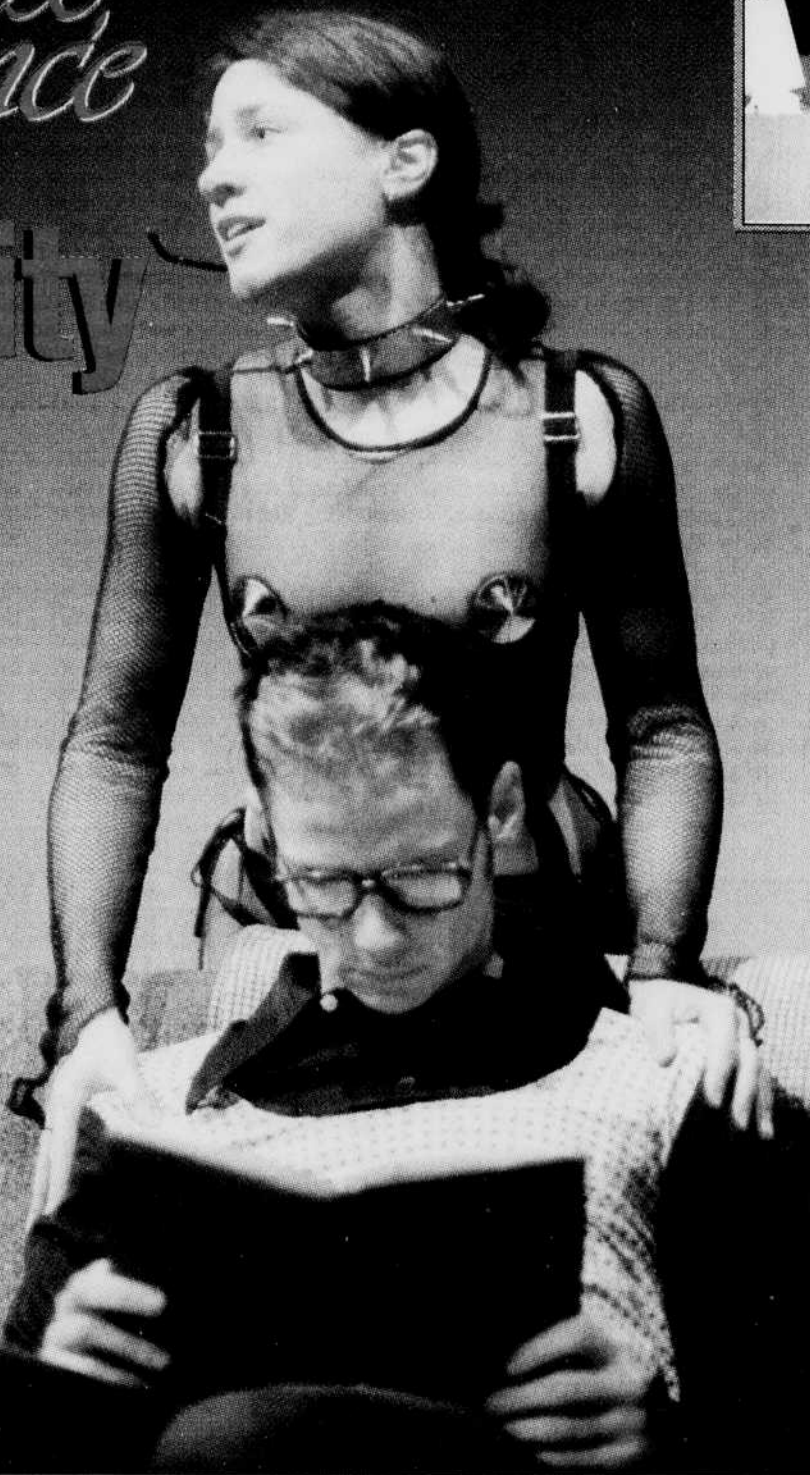
Chris Chandler and the Convenience Store Troubadours will tout their blend of poetry and music at the BUZZ/PAGE 9

## Unexpected 'Blast'

The film 'Blast From The Past' may not be an Oscar contender, but it packs a pleasant surprise: a good time/PAGE 10

Volume 100, Issue 112

See violence & reality



Paige McKinney and Joe von Appen (far left) rehearse a scene from the play 'Hot 'n' Throbbing.' Rhaetia Hanscum (left) plays Charlene, a divorced woman who writes sexually explicit novels to support her children.

Presented together at the Arena Theatre, two postmodern plays create a dark and heavy theater experience

By Allison Ross  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University Theatre opened its provocative double billing on Wednesday night, featuring two dark postmodern productions.

"The Maids," written by Jean Genet and directed by Joel Harmon, appears first and stars Sabrina Bernasconi, Shelly Swearingen and Colleen Wroblewski. The three actresses switch roles throughout the play, portraying just two characters, but a barrage of characters with in the two emerge as play progresses.

The play forces the audience to question illusion and reality as the two maids plot the murder of their Madame. Harmon does an excellent job of blurring the lines of reality, and it is difficult at times to understand who is who and what is real.

But that's the point.

"This play forces us to confront how arbitrary reality is," Harmon says. "It is a constant shifting so that things are real only as long as we allow them to be. With the actresses play-

ing two parts, it's difficult to grasp who any of the characters are."

What really carries "The Maids" is the performances of the three actresses. As each switches roles, the new characters become even more exciting than the previous. And despite the fact that the audience may have no idea what is happening, the actresses play off each other in a way that keeps the audience interested.

"The pace of this show is really unique," Wroblewski says. "It is constant surprises, and you never really know what is going on."

Following "The Maids" is "Hot 'n' Throbbing," the story of a divorced woman who writes sexually explicit novels to support her two children, who have their own deep-rooted issues with sex.

"Hot 'n' Throbbing," written by Paula Vogel, stars Rhaetia Hanscum and Quinn Mattfeld along with co-stars Joe von Appen and Jenni Hellesto. David M. Royer and Paige McKinney

Turn to THEATER, Page 10

### 'The Maids' and 'Hot 'n' Throbbing'

DIRECTED BY: Joel Harmon and Jon Cole

VENUE:

Arena Theatre

RATING:

★★★★★

### Coming up

- **WHAT:** 'The Maids' and 'Hot 'n' Throbbing'
- **WHEN:** March 4-6 and 11-13 at 8 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Arena Theatre
- **COST:** \$3 for UO students, \$5 for faculty and staff, senior citizens and non-UO students and \$6 for the general public

## Final Four: Almost as good as real thing

Matt Garton  
Oregon Daily Emerald

As March Madness once again approaches, with it comes the hope of many college basketball players of making it to the Final Four.

Final Four fever has even started to build momentum on campus as the Oregon women's team may get its own shot at the NCAA Championship.

Whether you plan on attending any of the big games or hosting a TV party, there's a way to catch some of the excitement before it even happens. Just in time for the championship, Sony has released the video game "NCAA Final Four '99" for the Playstation.

Having not played a basketball video game since the good old

days of the Nintendo Entertainment System (those old 8-bit days,) I was amazed at first, not at the graphics but at the playability. The controls allowed me to sit down and play a good solid game of hoops the first time through.

The passing from player to player is accurate and easy, and shooting three-pointers is a breeze. The game incorporates a new kind of "touch shooting" that gives the player an extra edge in shooting control. When a player goes to make a shot, instead of the game randomly picking whether your player could have made it, you see a shot gauge start to fill that lets you see the player's ability to shoot. With the right timing (it takes some practice) you can make nearly every shot.

Turn to FINAL FOUR, Page 8

### Breaking it down

### NCAA Final Four '99

Graphics	4 1/2
Music/sound	4
Game play/control	5
Difficulty	3 1/2

Quick game loading. Easy player control and total control over passing options. A 6th-man meter can excite the spectators, affecting both teams' performances. Instant replays occur too often — turn them off! Computer opponent fouls out too often and ruins your best plays. When ball is loose, it's hard to pick up.

Final score:

