

# HK2K will offer skits, food and Jackie Chan

■ Hong Kong Night this Sunday in the EMU presents culture in an entertaining and nourishing fashion

By Lisa Toth  
Oregon Daily Emerald

A night featuring action-film hero Jackie Chan along with a taste of authentic Chinese cuisine will add a little diversity to the weekend.

The University's Hong Kong Student Association is hosting its fifth annual Hong Kong Night on April 2. The event, known as HK2K, will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room.

There are two sessions incorporated in the event. The first session will include a skit performed by 12 volunteers from the HKSA. Sophomore business major Chuck Wong, one of the HKSA program team executives, said the show is about the history of Hong Kong and a scientist who invents a time machine.

"The time machine brings the scientist through the decades of the 1970s, '80s and '90s until the present," Wong said. The skit will demonstrate how from past to present the culture, fashions and behaviors of the Chinese people have changed.

The HKSA put together video clips that demonstrate the six weeks of preparation that went into Hong Kong Night. Following the video clips, the program will include a modern pop dance performed by three members of the HKSA.

The feature performer is coordinator Gary Yeung, a sophomore and visual design major. He will appear later in the first section of the program in a

singing performance.

HKSA's President Gary Wong said the opening welcome will be made by Genny Stark, the assistant director of the Office of International Education and Exchange.

In addition to the performances, brochures from the Hong Kong Tourist Association will display the most desirable tourist spots to visit in Hong Kong. The audience will also be able to participate in HK2K through games.

"The audience will have a chance to try to write the Chinese characters, and then we will translate them," said Wong, a sophomore majoring in architecture. Prizes will include key chains, posters and calendars, which represent the current year of the dragon.

The first session will conclude with a fashion show emphasizing clothing from the skit. Fashions will start in the early '70s and end with modern fashions.

HKSA will also prepare an informal, buffet-style meal.

"Last year, we had traditional dishes such as fish bowl, dim sum and Hong Kong style drinks like tea," Wong said. He explained that dim sum is prepared and tastes like dumplings. The food will be similar this year.

Following the skit, the second session, which starts at 9 p.m., will feature Jackie Chan's newest movie, "Thunderbolt."

"We want to let Hong Kong people know we are here if they have problems, and we want to promote culture here at the University of Oregon and Eugene," said Bonnie Nei, an HKSA program team executive.

The cost of Hong Kong Night is \$5, and the proceeds go to the HKSA.

## Theater

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themselves can participate in fully without any supervision."

The crusade began, however, with a much narrower idea. Musacchia was originally seeking a place to present a play he had recently completed, so he went to the theater arts department with his one-act work entitled "School of Life."

Musacchia hoped that he would be able to produce it in the Pocket Theater, which presents plays directed by and starring University students every weekend throughout the school year.

There was a slight problem, however. His play was set in a Greek amphitheater. The Pocket, which is a tiny theater in Villard Hall, would not be substantial enough to accommodate Musacchia's creation.

While walking through the EMU after discovering the disappointing news, Musacchia spotted a solution. Where else to hold a play set in an amphitheater but in the University's very own EMU Amphitheater?

"It was like, you know, 'idea' — a little light bulb went on," Musacchia said.

As Musacchia began contacting people to get the process started, and his vision began to grow. He decided that he not only wanted to perform his own play, but allow other students to do the same.

A festival of several plays quickly became a festival of artistic renditions ranging from poetry readings to dances, all with the focus on paganistic concepts. Although still in the planning stage, Musacchia envisions such additions to these festivities as fortune tellers, tarot card readers and vendor concessions.

Musacchia has made fliers to generate interest in his idea. He has also listed such uncommon solicitations as eight virgins to represent the Oracle of Delphi and people to depict ritual marriages. Musacchia insisted that paganistic beliefs are not that strange.

"I think it's gotten a bad rap," he said. "It's the worship of nature and not some kind of weird thing."

One person Musacchia has already recruited is Darren Reiley, a graduate folklore student

who is writing his thesis on paganism. Reiley explained his own interest in the religious practice as a "personal, spiritual pursuit."

"It's really a big movement, now," he said. "People are kind of trying to revive old, pre-Christianity [beliefs] ... recognizing divinity in nature."

Musacchia started preparations early and plans to hold the festival this October. Helping him set the ball rolling has been ASUO President Wylie Chen.

"I think an open theater would just be fantastic," Chen said.

While Chen has assisted Musacchia in initiating the festival, there are still a few roadblocks that must be cleared. Chen has expressed hesitation in booking the festival right away because by the time it will happen, a new ASUO Executive team will be in place. He doesn't want to push something onto the new president that perhaps he or she would not want to sponsor.

There is yet another obstacle Musacchia faces.

In order to utilize the amphitheater, those desiring to use its space must be a recognized student group. For that to happen, three organizational meetings need to be held. Musacchia arranged the first one during finals week of winter term, but turnout was fairly low.

That doesn't kill hope, he said, that the next meeting will bring a few more people. Several people have expressed interest to Musacchia in either attending the April 4 meeting in the Coquille Room or being involved with the event in some degree. Many see merit in the idea of allowing students from all over campus to gather together and showcase their abilities.

"He's really trying to put together an open forum for student talent and for amateur actors and writers and directors to get together," Reiley said. "That's one of the things that grabbed me."

Musacchia said he would eventually like to see a student repertory group established on campus that would perform various plays throughout the year. In what could be considered a twist of irony, Musacchia has become so devoted to the idea of allowing students to run the entire festival that there is even a possibility his play will not make the cut.

The students will accept it or reject it "democratically," and whether it is performed will be up to those arranging the event.

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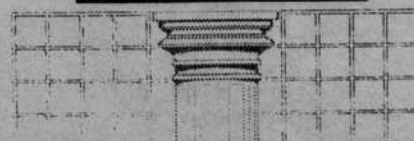
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