

Bijou theater debuts Woody Guthrie documentary

■ Several faculty members have spent the last two years producing the story of Woody Guthrie's time in Oregon

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

One month of work by Woody Guthrie in May 1941 has turned

out to be a two-year project for several faculty members at the University who are documenting the legendary folk musician's ex-

periences. "Roll On Columbia: Woody Guthrie and the Bonneville Power Administration" made its public debut Sunday at the Bijou Art Cinemas in front of "a nearly full house," said Lynette Boone, who helped produce the film.

"There have been extremely positive responses," said journalism Professor Denise Matthews, co-creator of the documentary. "It's a thrill to see when they laugh at moments you thought were funny."

Matthews and media services director Mike Majdic spent countless hours and some of their own money on production.

"It has been quite an investment of time and emotions," Majdic said.

The documentary will be used as part of the Smithsonian Institution's exhibit on Guthrie this summer in Washington, D.C. as well as the annual Guthrie Folk Music Festival in Oklahoma, Matthews said. Additionally, the producers are in contact with several TV programs, including the History Channel and Oregon Public Broadcasting. Matthews said it is likely that the documentary will be shown on at least one of those stations this summer.

The relationship between Guthrie and the Bonneville Dam is the focus of the film, with an emphasis on the month that

Guthrie was hired by the Bonneville Power Administration to create a song each day. By the end of the 1941 project, Guthrie had assembled 26 songs in 30 days.

"There are a lot of lessons we can learn from this," Majdic said. Folk musician Arlo Guthrie, the son of Woody, and Pete

Seeger, also a folk artist, are two of the 14 people interviewed for the documentary. "It was amazing for all of those people to be in such solid condition," Matthews said of the interview subjects, most of whom are in their 80s. "The timeliness was superb."

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grave site seven months after her murder and planted a microphone and hidden camera, hoping to hear a confession.

Steve Thomas, who resigned from the case in 1998 after accusing District Attorney Alex Hunter of not being aggressive enough, revealed the move in a Time magazine story to be published Monday.

Thomas said John and Patsy Ramsey, who did not visit the grave during the stakeout, were the primary targets. They have denied any involvement in their daughter's death.

Thomas said Boulder detectives flew to Atlanta, where the Ramseys moved after JonBenet's slaying, in August 1997 on the eve of what would have been her seventh birthday.

Investigators broke into St. James Episcopal Cemetery with the help of a Georgia state trooper who picked the lock, Thomas told the magazine.

The detectives planted a microphone and hidden camera a few feet from JonBenet's grave and listened in vain for three days from a nearby high school.

The only things they observed were curiosity seekers and a salesman selling a burial plot to an elderly couple.

Thomas recounts the graveyard stakeout in his new book "JonBenet: Inside the Ramsey Murder Investigation," due out Tuesday.

The Associated Press

News briefs

35 Cuban migrants reach Florida Keys

PEMBROKE PINES, Fla. — A group of 35 Cubans were taken into custody after making it to shore near a state park in the Florida Keys on Sunday.

Nearly all the migrants were detained by U.S. Border Patrol agents early Sunday, according to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The group told agents they left Villa Clara, Cuba, in a 30-foot wooden boat Thursday after each paid a smuggler 2,000 pesos, equivalent to about \$215.

All were in good health, according to Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Joseph Mellia. The 14 men, 10 women and 11 children were taken to an INS detention center west of Miami.

Under current U.S. immigration policy, Cuban refugees who reach land usually are allowed to remain in the country. Those intercepted before setting foot on U.S. soil usually are returned to Cuba.

According to Border Patrol statistics, 722 Cubans have come ashore since Oct. 1.

Investigator: detectives tried to get graveyard confession

DENVER — One of the former lead investigators in the JonBenet Ramsey case claims Boulder detectives staked out the child's

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