

Theater's 90-year-old namesake still acting

■ Horace Robinson built the University's theater department into a top-notch program

By Rory Carroll
Oregon Daily Emerald

For many students, Robinson Theatre is just the name of another campus building. What they may not realize is that Horace Robinson, the man who built the University's theater program, still lives in Eugene and continues to be active in the theater.

Joseph Gilg, development director of University Theatre, said that today's program is a reflection of Horace's values.

"He's the man for our program," Gilg said, who has known Robinson since 1973. "The program was built by him."

Robinson first arrived here in 1933, accepting the considerable challenge of being one of the founding teachers at the university and later taking on the task of designing the theater.

Born in Apache, Okla., Robinson's interest in theater began in

junior high. Robinson graduated from the University of Iowa and later went on to receive a graduate degree.

When he arrived, the theater department consisted of only one other faculty member. Robinson began as the technical director and scene designer. He said that the theater program has changed considerably since then.

"It has increased, of course, considerably in size," Robinson said. "We had a very active program at the time. We did six shows a year. It was, I guess, easier, because there wasn't any TV competition and very little of the theater in Eugene. So the University Theater was the main dramatic outlet of the town at the time."

The theater began with a lot of public interest.

"We had very good audiences. I would say, much more town participation than student," he

said.

Robinson said that, over time, the theater has become a predominantly student-oriented place.

Before the theater took Robinson's name, the theater was named the University Theater. There was a move to change the theater's name when Robinson retired in 1975.

Robinson said that the University's theater was once the major theater in the Northwest and excellent by 1949 standards, but that it has not progressed to meet 20th-century standards.

"At the time, it was the best in the country," Robinson said. "Things have progressed, changed considerably both in terms of plays and material and methods and technology and so

forth and unfortunately the present theater hasn't kept up with those. It is, shall we say, rapidly

becoming an outmoded theater."

The same can not be said for Robinson the man. Married for 76 years and having celebrated his 90th birthday last October, Robinson is still active in the theater community. He still finds time to do a little directing, acting and writing.

"But the opportunities for that are decreasing," Robinson said with a laugh.

He added that he never misses a campus performance.

His "pet project" is a ten-year-old Readers Theater Group. Robinson said that they perform four or five shows a week, and that helps him stay active. They have performed over 900 performances and will reach 1,000 sometime in July, according to Robinson.

"It's a welcome outlet for me because it still keeps me going," he said.

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The week in Entertainment

■ Thursday, May 18

7 p.m. — Cynthia Beal with the Bleu Tie Affaire (torch ballads), Chez Ray's, 30 W. 10th. Free.

7 p.m. — Campus Orchestra, Room 198 Music School. Free.

8 p.m. — The Red Elvies and The Brainwashers (surf swing), WOW Hall, 291 W. Eighth Ave. \$7.

8 p.m. — Tony Rae Group (jazz), Foxfire Restaurant and Bar, 4740 Main St., Springfield. Free.

8 p.m. — "Ground Zero: Reinventing Dance in the Year 2000" Spring student dance concert, Dougherty Dance Theater, Gerlinger Annex. Tickets \$3 for students, \$6 general admission. Also runs at 8 p.m. Friday.

8 p.m. — Middle Eastern Dance Guild, Café Paradiso, 115 W. Broadway. \$3.

9 p.m. — The Lazy Eights (funk), Sam Bond's Garage, 407 Blair Blvd. \$3-5 cover.

9 p.m. — Grooveyard (funk and rock), Good Times Cafe and Bar, 375 E 7th Ave. \$4.

9:30 p.m. — Jazz Jam Session, Jo Federigo's Restaurant and Jazz Club, 259 E. Fifth Ave. Free.

9:30 p.m. — Georgette Dashiell, The Buzz Coffeehouse. Free. Ends at 11:30 p.m.

9:30 p.m. — Fritz & The Poor Boys (rock), Blackforest Tavern, 2657 Willamette. Free.

10 p.m. — 80s Night (dance), John Henry's, 136 E. 11th Ave. No cover charge for women, men \$2.

■ Friday, May 19

8 p.m. — "Point Blank" (film), 180 PLC. \$2-3.

8:30 p.m. — Madison & McCoy (acoustic), Café Paradiso. \$2-5.

9 p.m. — Lazoo (acid funk), Good Times Cafe and Bar. \$5.

9 p.m. — Groove Juice Special! Wild Duck Music Hall, 169 W. 6th. \$7 at the door.

9 p.m. — Easy Target, The Varicoasters, Lando Calrissian (punk, ska), WOW Hall, \$6.

9:30 p.m. — Stone Cold Jazz, Chez Ray's. Free.

9:30 p.m. — Johnny Angel and the

Hell Cats (rock and roll), Foxfire Restaurant. Two-drink minimum.

9:30 p.m. — Three Bricks Shy (psychedelic rock), Blackforest Tavern. Free.

9:30 p.m. — Alan Charing & Ben Gilde (acoustic), Sam Bond's Garage. \$3-5 cover.

9:30 p.m. — Freedom Funk Ensemble, Jo Federigo's. \$2 cover.

10 p.m. — Who Flung Pooh?, DMR, System 13 (alternative rock), John Henry's. \$3 cover.

10 p.m. — Kerosene Dream (rock), Taylor's Bar and Grill, 894 E 13th. \$4.

■ Saturday, May 20

7:30 p.m. — Young Women's Theater Collective with Guys (drama, comedy), WOW Hall. \$5-15. Also Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

9 p.m. — Joni Rodgers and Rich Marks (stand-up), Kowloon's, 2222 Centennial Blvd. \$6

9 p.m. — Workman Project (groove rock), Good Times Cafe and Bar. \$5.

9:30 p.m. — Jubal, Jo Federigo's Restaurant and Jazz Club, \$2 cover.

9:30 p.m. — Aiko Shimada and J.R. (acoustic), Sam Bond's Garage. \$3-5 cover.

9:30 p.m. — Marianne Pearl, Chez Ray's. Free.

9:30 p.m. — Johnny Angel and the Hell Cats (rock and roll), Foxfire Restaurant and Bar. Two-drink minimum.

9:30 p.m. — Jubal (jazz rock), Blackforest Tavern. Free.

10 p.m. — Spread Eagle, Pass Out Kings, Shapeshifter, Dim Fabian (punk rock), John Henry's. \$4 cover.

10 p.m. — Norma Fraser (Reggae), Taylor's Bar and Grill. \$5.

■ Sunday, May 21

3 p.m. — University Gospel Ensemble, Beall Hall. \$3-5.

9 p.m. — Open Mic, Blackforest Tavern. Free.

9 p.m. — Laura Kemp, Peter Wilde & Casey Neill, Sam Bond's Garage. \$3-5 cover.

9 p.m. — Mark Alan (acoustic guitar and vocals), Jo Federigo's Restaurant and Jazz Club. \$3 cover.

10 p.m. — Lysistrata, Inverted

Nines, The Pawns (punk rock), John Henry's. \$3 cover.

■ Monday, May 22

6:30 p.m. — Open Mic sign up (show begins at 9 p.m.), Jo Federigo's Restaurant and Jazz Club. Free.

8 p.m. — Open Mic, Chez Ray's. Free.

8 p.m. — Open Mic, Foxfire Restaurant and Bar. Free.

8:30 p.m. — Open Mic Night, Café Paradiso. Free.

9 p.m. — Open poetry night, The Buzz Coffeehouse. Free. Ends at 11:30 p.m.

9 p.m. — Ty Connor, Sam Bond's Garage. \$2.

10 p.m. — Mixology 101 (house, jungle, trip-hop), John Henry's. No cover charge for women, men \$2.

■ Tuesday, May 23

8 p.m. — Emerald Valley Music Sessions (rock and roll), Foxfire Restaurant and Bar. Free.

8 p.m. — UO Campus Band, Beall Hall. Free.

8:30 p.m. — Barbara Dzuro Jazz Piano, Jo Federigo's. Free.

8:30 p.m. — Fred Van Vactor (acoustic), Café Paradiso. Free.

9:30 p.m. — In the Dead of the Night, Chez Ray's. Free.

9 p.m. — The Original P. Funkadelic/Parliament (funk), WOW Hall. \$18-20.

10 p.m. — Justice League of America Night at the House (house), John Henry's. No cover charge for women, men \$2.

■ Wednesday, May 24

7 p.m. — John Barley, Chez Ray's. Free.

8 p.m. — University Symphony, Beall Hall. \$5-6.

8 p.m. — "La Jetée" (film with live percussion score), 180 PLC. Free.

8:30 p.m. — John Shipe Band (acoustic rock), Café Paradiso. Free.

9 p.m. — Nicole Barrett, The Buzz Coffeehouse. Free. Ends at 11 p.m.

9 p.m. — Big Hippy (funk and rock), Good Times Cafe and Bar. \$3.

9:30 p.m. — Paul Paydos Jam Session (variety), Jo Federigo's. Free.

all events are FREE



<p>thu • may 18th 9:30-11:30pm</p>	<p>georgette dashiell acoustic folk/rock</p>
<p>fri • may 19th through sun • may 21st</p>	<p>willamette valley folk festival</p>
<p>mon • may 22nd 9-11:30pm</p>	<p>poetry open mic <small>Sign-up to perform at The Break (located next to The Buzz) For more info call Melanie at 346-3725</small></p>
<p>wed • may 17th 9-11pm</p>	<p>nicole barrett acoustic</p>
<p>thu • may 25th 9:30-11:30pm</p>	<p>seth samuels duo rock band</p>
<p>wed • may 31st 9-11pm</p>	<p>tom patterson acoustic</p>

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