

International Halloween

■ To expose its international residents to a bit of American culture, Riley Hall will host its annual Halloween dance



By Mason West
Oregon Daily Emerald

Just because Halloween is the devil's night doesn't mean that one needs to partake of the devil's brew. The Riley residence hall will be hosting its annual Halloween dance party Saturday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The function, coordinated by the Riley Resident Council and the International Student Association, is designed to bring students together to have fun in a safe and legal way, said Yu Bai, co-director of the ISA.

"We want to encourage interaction between the international students and the American students," Bai said.

The ISA is involved in this event partly to expose the international students to an interesting aspect of American culture.

"In many foreign countries, they don't have Halloween," Bai said. "This is a new experience for those students."

Although Riley is officially the international residence hall, it is open to all University students. Riley resident director Carl Yeh wants to eliminate any inhibitions that domestic students have about coming to the dance.

"Students shouldn't be afraid to come into Riley and get in on the action," Yeh said.

Once students arrive at the party, however, fear becomes part of the equation. There will be a haunted



Courtesy of University Housing

Residence life got more exciting last year when costumes came into play. Again this year, Riley Hall is hosting a Halloween dance party, and all students are invited.

house in the basement designed and maintained by the Riley residents that students can enter for \$1. But there may just be enough spooks wandering around in costumes to turn students pale.

"There were some amazing costumes last year," Yeh said.

Other attractions at this year's party will be a live professional DJ, free snacks and non-alcoholic mixed drinks, fortune telling and digital photos.

The digital photographs are a new addition to the dance this year. They will work much like a photographer at a typical dance, except instead of purchasing prints, a digital image will be sent to two e-mail addresses for a \$1 charge. Pictures can be sent to additional addresses for 50 cents each.

"I'm surprised that more dances don't do more things with digital images," Yeh said.

This new twist is just one addition to the long-standing tradition of the Riley Halloween party. This tradition is something that Katie Bryant, assistant director of residence life, thinks has people coming back.

"People have gone in the past, and they come back year after year regardless of whether they live in the residence halls," Bryant said.

Although the event is not on Halloween, Yeh doesn't think it will deter students from coming.

"Most students have the time on the weekends to come," Yeh said.

Riley Hall is located at 650 E. 11th Ave. The dance is free, but University ID is required for entry.

Eccentric films to engross Bijou

■ This weekend, Troma Entertainment brings three movies to a Eugene audience

By Josh Ryneal
Oregon Daily Emerald

Troma Entertainment, most famous for its "Toxic Avenger" series about a baddie-busting mutant janitor who cleans up crime with his Supermop, has carved out a niche with its low-budget, bloody and all-around outrageous movies.

Films such as "Surf Nazis Must Die," "Fat Guy Goes Nutzoid," and "Sgt. Kabukiman, NYPD" have inspired a cult following around the world, and now, Troma is bringing a new crop of films to the Bijou Art Cinema in time for Halloween.

Michael Lamont, owner of the Bijou, said the there were two reasons behind the choice to show Troma films.

"The first was that in the past, we'd take movies from the mall theaters and rerun them, but that doesn't work anymore," he said. "The \$1.50 theaters have really undercut our audience."

So Lamont decided to try to expand into more cult-oriented films.

"We're trying stuff like kung-fu movies, and now we're bringing out these movies," he said. "It's a gore-fest, but it's also kind of a spoof. They're very hilarious."

Lloyd Kaufman, co-founder of Troma Entertainment and writer-director of many of the studio's films, said that part of his studio's appeal is that audiences get something from Troma's movies they won't find anywhere else.

"Art is an expression of heart,

and we take our movies very seriously," he said. "We're known as kind of a Cuisinart of genres."

The three movies playing at the Bijou, "Stendahl Syndrome," "Killer Condom," and "Cannibal: The Musical," are distributed by Troma but not produced or directed by the studio. However, Kaufman said that all three of these films are "definitely in the Troma style."

"They fit in with the Troma philosophy of surprise and adventure," he said.

Kaufman called "Stendahl Syndrome" perhaps the most disturbing and contemporary of the three movies and said the film is very serious and different than anything Troma has put out before.

"Stendahl syndrome is the medical condition where someone looks at piece of art and has such a strong reaction that they have a seizure," he said. "That's the first theme of the movie, and the second deals with a serial killer."

"Killer Condom," Kaufman said, is about killer mutant condoms that grow spiky teeth. One can imagine the rest.

"It was filmed in Germany and is slicker and more cerebral than the usual Troma stuff," he said.

The movie also features special effects by Swiss surrealist H.R. Giger, famous for his disturbing art and special-effects work on the movie "Alien."

"'Killer Condom' is about the rubber that rubs you out," Kaufman said. "It'll make the critics stand up with praise."

The last film, "Cannibal: The Musical," is the first film project of

Troma films at the Bijou:

(All shows begin at 11 p.m.)

"Killer Condom" Friday, Oct. 27, and Wednesday, Nov. 1

"Stendahl Syndrome" Saturday, Oct. 28, and Thursday, Nov. 2

"Cannibal: The Musical" Sunday, Oct. 29, Monday, Oct. 30, and Tuesday, Oct. 31

Trey Parker and Matt Stone, creators of Comedy Central's wildly popular "South Park" series.

"Trey freely admits that we were the very last stop on the train [of getting the movie distributed]," Kaufman said with a laugh. "But they were big fans; they used to have 'Toxic Avenger' parties in college."

Kaufman agreed that his films aren't for everyone but said "it's a cult thing — [people] know they're going to either love it or hate it, but they'll never forget it."

"People want to go to movies and have strong emotions, and I think the stuff out there today in the mainstream just makes people feel kind of hollow," Kaufman said. "They want to go on a real cinematic adventure, and Troma gives it to them."

Aaron Sarnoff-Wood, an employee at Silver Screen Video, said that people come in and ask for Troma films by name and called the Bijou's decision a "neat idea."

"Those movies are cheesy as hell, but still fun," he said. "It's a great idea for the holiday."

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