

Playstation2

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Sure enough, the fighters moved fluidly against ultra-realistic backgrounds. I could see incredible detail in flaming torches on the wall of a dark castle, and whirling helicopter blades on a military base.

I also loaded six DVD movies into the PlayStation2, including "The Matrix," a popular sci-fi adventure with special features in its

DVD version that didn't work on some DVD players. The PlayStation2 delivered a sharp picture for all the movies and had no trouble accessing their special features.

The only shortcoming: The PlayStation2's hand controller isn't laid out in a way that makes sense for watching a movie. Anyone planning to watch a lot of DVD movies on the PlayStation2 should look for an optional wireless remote control, which will be offered by several manufacturers.

For me, the bigger frustration

with PlayStation2 is that I couldn't do anything more than play games or watch DVDs. Sony hasn't made it clear when it will transform PlayStation2 into what one company executive calls "the home gateway" for electronic information and entertainment.

An interesting aspect of PlayStation2 is the presence of a 1394 port, which Sony calls by its trademarked name of i.Link and is also known as FireWire, and two USB ports. USB and 1394 are becoming nearly universal on personal com-

puters, so PlayStation 2 could easily make use of computer peripherals such as printers, scanners, mice, digital still cameras and digital camcorders.

Plug a digital camcorder into the i.Link port of a PlayStation 2 connected to a cable modem or DSL line and you've got a videophone. Adding a printer would make the PlayStation far more useful for tasks such as e-mail and online shopping.

But Sony is silent on when it will add software support for USB and

1394.

It's as if the PlayStation is a fish that's evolved legs but won't use them.

What does all this mean to potential PlayStation 2 buyers?

If you're eager to experience the latest games and you can afford \$299, nothing I can say will stop you from buying the PlayStation 2 as soon as you can get your hands on one.

Everyone else should wait.

TMS Campus

'Mousetrap'

continued from page 5B talent every year."

This delay meant that rehearsal time was cut short. The play's first rehearsal was in the beginning of October, giving the cast just a month to pull things together.

Luckily, there was some seasoned talent to ease the process. Patrick Torelle, LCC theater professor for 14 years, joins the cast as the mysterious Mr. Paravicini. Although faculty performances are not unheard of, it is a rare treat for both the faculty

and the students.

"The idea is that when you get out there with the students and demonstrate what you've been talking about in class, it reinforces the knowledge," Torelle said.

Torelle's talent is even more tuned to this particular play, considering he played the same role 30 years ago at another community college.

"I think I'm much better now," Torelle said. "And I'm closer to the right age for the part."

One might think that acting with a teacher could be intimidating, but Torelle does his best to blend in.

"My approach always remains the same as an actor," Torelle said. "I'm out there as a servant of the play. My fellow actors are my colleagues, and I treat them with respect."

Another man who deserves credit for this production won't be on the stage; he made it. Scene designer and technical director Skip Hubbard recreated the original London set of the play for the LCC stage. Aside from minor necessary modifications because of the stage size and house shape, it is a perfect reproduction.

Because of such physical disparities among theaters, a set reproduc-

tion is rarely undertaken by designers. But Hubbard thought that he could make an exception.

"In this case, we thought it would be an honor to that designer and the play to just copy the set that was so synonymous with the show," Hubbard said.

Another reproduction in the show is not seen but heard. Kearney decided to have the actors use authentic English dialect and accents in their roles. While learning an accent is a difficult job for the cast, it was necessary to create the 1948 period that Kearney wanted. She also noted that it makes it much easier to pull off the

dry British humor in the script.

The humor is very subtle, and American audiences must expect it, or else they might miss it.

"Like all murder mysteries, it has to use tongue and cheek," Kearney said. "It doesn't take itself very seriously."

People who are ready to dig for clues can see the play Fridays and Saturdays, Nov. 3-18 at 8 p.m. There will also be a Sunday matinee Nov. 12 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. They can be purchased at the Lane Ticket Office (726-2202) or at the EMU ticket office.

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Bands

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comes from performing for high school students," she said.

Julie Bounds, the OMB Council president and a music major, said Festival of Bands puts the focus on the band itself — a change from a typical performance at a football game.

"This is our chance to be in the spotlight," she said.

The OMB will perform its latest show, music from the recent movie "Gladiator," in two exhibition performances: after the preliminary round, which will conclude about 4:30 p.m., and after finals, which will wrap up around 10 p.m. Oregon's drum line will perform and

offer a clinic during the lunch break.

Gates will open about 7 a.m. for the preliminary round. The 14 highest-scoring bands will compete in finals, which will begin about 6 p.m. Presentation of the grand championship trophy will conclude the event.

Tickets will be available at stadium Gate B on Saturday. All-day tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for students and senior citizens. Children 5 years old and younger will be admitted for free.

"It's simple, really," Zimelman said. "If a person likes live theater, live music, sporting events, competitive events, dance performances, then they will appreciate and enjoy the Festival of Bands."

Theater

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sation. During rehearsals, Watson would let the cast know what he thought worked with the play and what didn't, Barnhart said.

But the acting isn't the only area where creativity is essential. The costumes complement the characters and the play's humor, costume designer Alexandra Bonds said. Bonds, a theater arts professor, either designs or oversees the design of costumes for all University Theatre productions.

I intended "to create something that was just happy and funny," Bonds said, "some sort of cartoon aspect. I was trying to create visual humor with the costumes."

Bonds said she worked with Watson to get a grasp of what the actors were adding to their characters and then designed costumes to reflect that.

"There's really a nice connection between what I designed and the acting of the characters," she said. "I think [the play] is going to achieve the humor we've been working for."

And the work has been significant, agreed Barnhart and Henderson. The cast began rehearsing on the first day of classes and has continued to do so five nights a week throughout the term — and that doesn't include the research and practice required to perfect the roles, Barnhart said.

But now she is ready for her hard work to pay off.

"This is a very, very fun piece," Barnhart said. "It's just pure comedy, pure laughing. I am extremely

New box office tactics

Ticket-buying for a University Theatre production is not what it used to be. Tickets can be purchased at the EMU ticket office, which is now the primary ticket site for the University Theatre. Tickets can still be purchased at the University Theatre Box Office, located at Robinson Theatre, but only on the day of the performance.

Soon, tickets will be available around the clock on the Internet. Buy tickets by phone at 346-4363.

EMU ticket office hours:
Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

University Theatre Box Office hours (performance days only):

Wednesday through Friday, noon to 8:15 p.m.

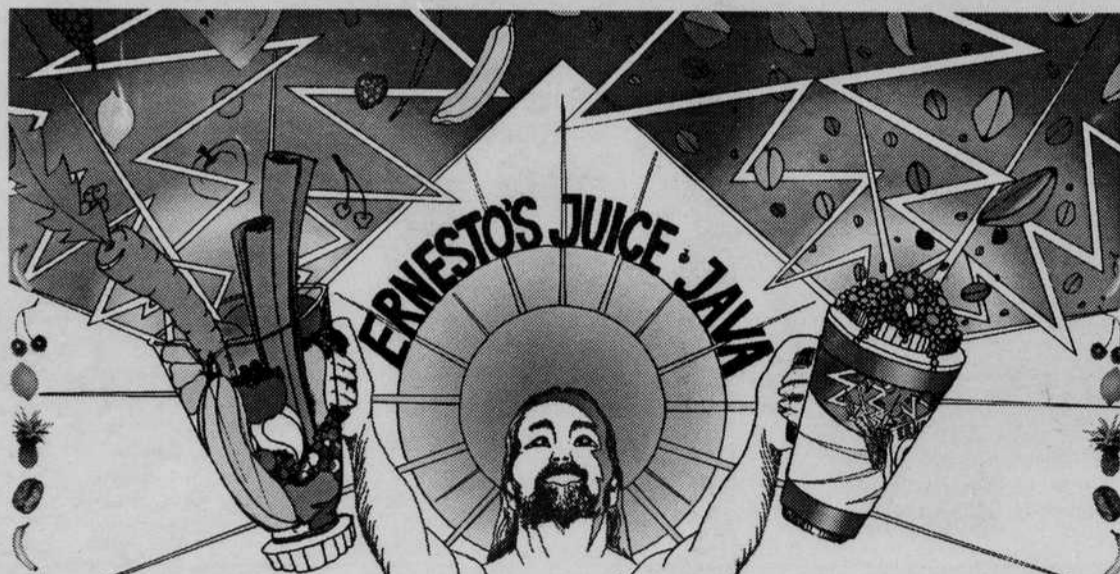
Saturday, 6 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, noon to 2 p.m. (matinee days)

excited to show this piece."

"She Stoops to Conquer" will run Nov. 3-4, Nov. 9-11 and Nov. 17-18 at Robinson Theatre in Villard Hall. Curtain call for each performance is 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for University students; \$8 for University faculty and staff, senior citizens and non-University students; and \$10 for the general public.

An additional matinee performance will be held Sunday, Nov. 12, at 2 p.m. to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Tickets are \$15 for the special performance and can be reserved by calling Habitat for Humanity at 741-1707.



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