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Hitting the right 'Keys'  
Alicia Keys takes home five Grammys —  
and so does 'O Brother, Where Art Thou?'  
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Thursday, February 28, 2002

## Arena Theatre brings 'Reckless' satire to campus



Nathan Loveless (left) and Kirsten Schmieding star in the Arena Theatre play 'Reckless,' a dark comedy about a woman whose husband hires an assassin to kill her.

Jonathan House Emerald

"Reckless," the satirical play by Craig Lucas — best known for "Prelude to a Kiss" — and directed by Rich Brown, opens March 6 in the Arena Theatre.

The play follows the bizarre journey of Rachel Fitzsimmons, played by Kirsten Schmieding, Brown said. On Christmas Eve, Rachel discovers that her husband has hired an assassin to kill her, and from that moment her life erupts into chaos, Brown said.

"It's a realistic play that quickly spins into the surreal as Rachel's life gets more and more out of control," Brown said.

He said the play is a dark comedy that focuses on the main character's journey from domestic bliss and through her battle to put her life back together. Brown said a kind psychiatrist meets Rachel, takes her home and helps her through her ordeal.

Performances begin at 8 p.m. and will be held March 6-9 and March 14-16. Tickets are \$6 for the general public, \$5 for faculty and staff members, senior citizens and non-University students and \$4 for University students at the EMU Ticket Office. The Arena Theatre is located in Villard Hall. Free parking is located in the University parking lot at East 11th Avenue and Kincaid Street.

— Jen West

## sometimes A GREAT author

■ A new program aims to unite the community while celebrating Ken Kesey's life and accomplishments

By Jen West  
Oregon Daily Emerald

A citywide reading program may offer singles a place to meet each other while discussing one of the most famous books to originate from the Northwest.

The Friendly Area Neighborhood instituted a citywide program called "Readin' in the Rain" that began Feb.



KESEY

11 and will continue through April 2. The goal of the program is to encourage community members to read local author Ken Kesey's "Sometimes a Great Notion" and take part in the events and discussions that are held for the book.

James Cunningham, co-chairman of the Friendly Area Neighborhood and a program founder, said he heard about a similar program in Chicago using Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Bringing community members together is the theme of the program, especially in the wake of Sept. 11, said Scott Landfield, program co-founder and owner of Tsunami Books. "If we're all going to be banding together, let's get to know each other," he said.

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## New Pocket Playhouse production pokes fun at today's pop culture

■ 'Life and How to Live It' may offend audiences, but it might also get people to laugh and think

By Lisa Toth  
Oregon Daily Emerald

This week's Pocket Playhouse production "Life and How to Live It" was titled based on an R.E.M. song from the early 1980s. But the play's writer and director, Matt Chorpenning, said he chose to name his play after the "Fables of the Reconstruction" track for the opposite reason that the title suggests.

"It's called 'Life and House to Live It,' but the lyrics make no sense," Chorpenning said.

He said this "sketch comedy show" he wrote more than a year ago might appeal to Saturday Night Live lovers because the live scenes are both brief and funny.

"It's different for a sketch comedy show, and it's different for a Pocket Playhouse show," he said. "It's a comedic jab at life and society."

Chorpenning, a junior majoring in theater arts, said the sarcastic play

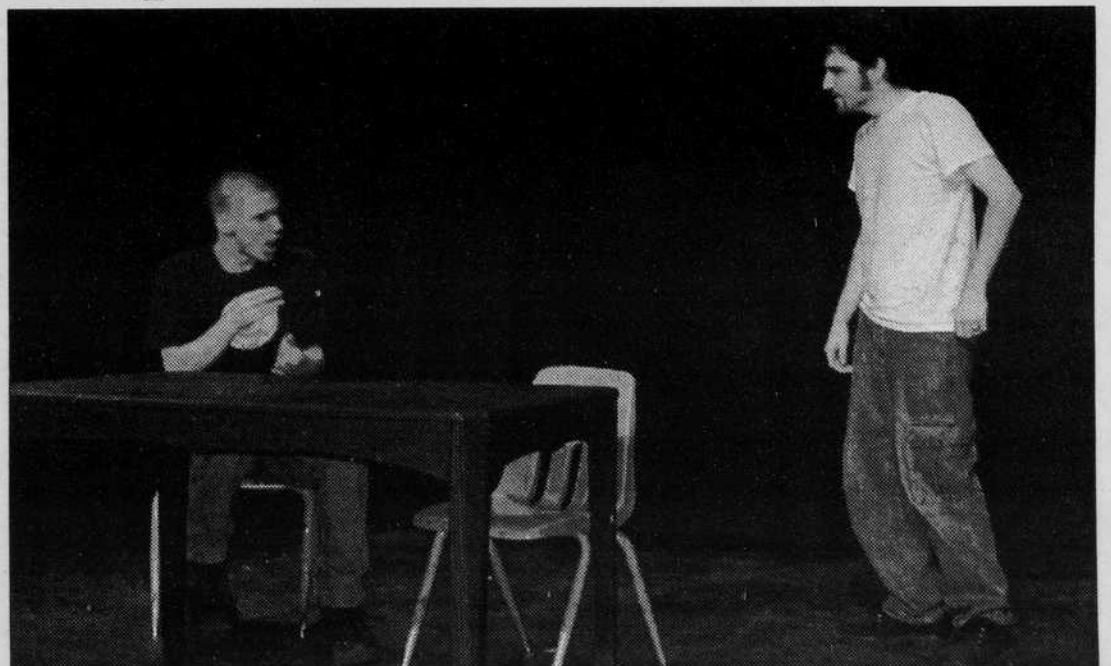
pokes fun at everything from Cosmopolitan magazine to "The 700 Club." But the script has undergone a few rewrites, including one after Sept. 11, as Chorpenning explained, "to remind our nation that their president is still a dick weed."

But targeting public figures such as actor Gary Coleman, President George W. Bush, Attorney General John Ashcroft, pop princess Britney Spears and the starlets of Hollywood comes second nature to Chorpenning, and he said he hopes the audience enjoys the play's messages.

"It might push their button, and it might offend them," Chorpenning said. "But it might also make them laugh and think."

He added that the 98 seats in Room 102 — home of the student-run Pocket Playhouse — are expected to be filled for each performance, which runs Thursday through Saturday beginning at 5 p.m. A \$1 admission is the suggested donation.

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Jonathan House Emerald

Matt Chorpenning (left) yells at Joe Shirley in 'Life and How to Live It.' The Chorpenning-directed Pocket Playhouse production runs from today through Saturday starting at 5 p.m. with a \$1 suggested donation.