

Art museum gets new director

University alumnus David G. Turner will assume his duties this spring as director of operations

Bryce Morrow
Freelance Reporter

The University of Oregon Museum of Art, four months into a \$12.72 million overhaul, continued its ongoing facelift with the hiring of David G. Turner, who will serve as director of operations. Physically, the museum will be drastically transformed. The hiring of Turner signals a likewise internal transformation.

Turner, who graduated from the University in 1974, will assume the director position April 14. As a stu-

dent, Turner made the most of his master's degree, regularly volunteering for the museum.

As far as knowing what he's getting into, Turner said he is "anxious to work hard for the fine museum."

He said he's also excited about the opportunity to work at what will be a virtually new facility; the museum's renovation will modernize and nearly triple its exhibit space by the winter 2004 completion date.

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Turner is dually familiar with Eugene and how to direct a museum. After earning his degree, Turner went on to direct the Museum of

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Fine Arts in Santa Fe, N.M., and the Art Center of Amarillo, Texas. For the past seven years, he has directed the Colorado Springs Fine Art Center, which features some 22,000 art collections to the UOMA's 12,500. As part of his former job,

Turner oversaw the Bemis School of Art, the performing arts center and the fine arts library.

Turner is excited to work for the UOMA because he said it will allow him "to focus more on art" than his most recent job did. In the past, he has frequently lectured and curated expositions on the history of photography and American art.

The UOMA opened in 1932 and was built during the Great Depression. Economic pressures caused the museum to be built smaller than its original design. With its imminent reopening, the museum will finally be able to fulfill its intended plan.

Bryce Morrow is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Theater

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resident company of the Hult Center, the Willamette Repertory Theatre will present "To Kill A Mockingbird" from Jan. 29 to Feb. 16. The play offers a unique experience for local theater-goers.

Boyd said the stage version of Harper Lee's classic novel was approved by the author in 1971. However, she stipulated the production not be staged in New York — the reclusive author lives in the city and wanted to avoid attention. Boyd said the limited exposure ultimately hurt the otherwise well-received production.

In addition, the company will offer "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)," a popular comedy that started as a small production on the fair circuit and eventually reached London and New York stages. This show will run from May 14 to June 1.

Very Little Theatre publicity director Scott Barkhurst is preparing for the celebration of the theater's landmark 75th anniversary season. The season officially begins this fall, and Barkhurst refers to it as a "retrospective year" — a series of successful productions from the theater's past.

Until then, Barkhurst, who describes the venue as primarily mainstream, said he is looking forward to the edgier plays planned for the coming months.

"The next few shows reach a a lit-

tle further out of our comfort zone," Barkhurst said.

The schedule includes "The House of Blue Leaves," a dark comedy set in the 1960s that won the New York and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Award for the Best American Play in 1971. The show begins its run Friday and continues through Jan. 25.

For theater-goers craving higher profile productions with national touring companies, the Hult Center usually delivers. The coming year includes productions of "Fosse," a dance celebration of the legendary choreographer/director and "Saturday Night Fever," a stage version of the 1977 film featuring the music of the Bee-Gees.

Check out Ingmar Bergman's "Nora" at the Lord Leebrick Theatre for a more cerebral experience. This modern version of Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House" runs from Feb. 5 to March 6.

Finally, in its 24th year, the Actor's Cabaret of Eugene continues its popularity with the upcoming "Ruthless! The Musical," a dark comedy about a child star wannabe who unleashes her anger after failing to land the part of Pippi Longstocking in a school play. The show begins Jan. 24.

These listings only skim the surface, of course, but they offer a glimpse of the possibilities. Reserve those front row seats while you can.

Contact the senior pulse reporter at ryanbornheimer@dailyemerald.com.



Danielle Hickey Emerald

Actresses Amanda Fackrell (front) and Sue Schroeder-White (background) rehearse for the play "Ruthless" at the Actors Cabaret of Eugene Tuesday night. The comedy is about a young girl who murders a fellow actor for the lead role in the school play.

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