

Former'Star Trek' captain Patrick Stewart exhibits his various acting talents in 'King of Texas.' Courtesy photo

Patrick Stewart visits old West

Stewart's versatility shines in 'King of Texas,' an old west reinterpretiation of Shakespeare's 'King Lear'

Movie review

Aaron Shakra Pulse Reporter

Unlike most actors who gained notoriety through "Star Trek," Patrick Stewart — or "P-Stew" has transcended and gained numerous interesting roles beyond Captain Jean-Luc Picard on "The Next Generation."

The latest example of Stewart's versatility is "King of Texas," recently released on VHS and DVD. The film is a reinterpretation of the William Shakespeare play "King Lear," but the twist is that it is set in old western times, circa late 1800s. Stewart plays the title role of John Lear, a land magnate who bequeaths his empire to two of his daughters while ignoring the one who truly loves him. This story is perpetually familiar.

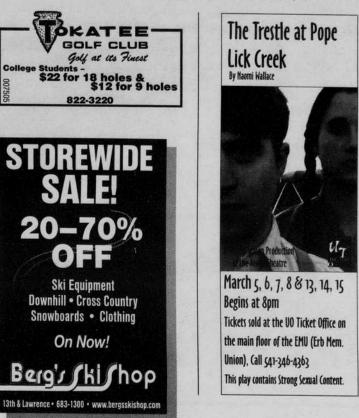
Wisely, the movie does not coopt Shakespeare's dialogue, á la recent films "O" and "10 Things I Hate About You." Adapting Shakespeare's dialogue onto such an expansive medium such as film is a difficult task to accomplish, and with a running time of 95 minutes, "King of Texas" works better by avoiding this effort.

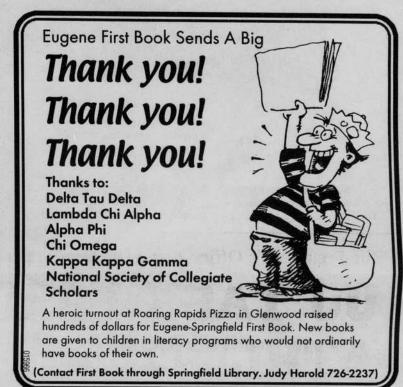
What's striking about "King of Texas" is its feature-film quality and cast of actors. The movie originally aired on Showtime, which usually connotes slipshod or rushed production values. The film was shot in Mexico, which lends it to vividly shot, authentic locations. And Stewart, a Royal Shakespeare Company-trained actor, also served as executive producer with wife Wendy Neuss-Stewart, so he clearly had a personal stake in the production.

While there are no magazine cover regulars here, most of the main roles in the film are filled with solid actors who probably should have more face recognition. Colm Meaney (another "Star Trek" veteran, from both the "Next Generation" and "Deep Space Nine" series), delivers a solid performance in the role of Mr. Tumlinson, who provides the moral conscience for the characters in the film. David Alan Grier, known usually for his comedic roles, gets to show off his dramatic chops, playing the character Rip. Finally, Roy Scheider, another veteran actor whose career has spanned decade upon decade, plays Lear's friend Henry Westover. A note about the DVD release of the film: It's presented in wide-screen, but the back of the box ambiguously says it's "matted," which means it's likely the film wasn't originally shot in widescreen, but rather, "pan and scan," which is designed to fill most television screens.

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Daddies swing into Eugene theatre

The Cherry Poppin' Daddies swung into the McDonald Theatre this weekend with animated tunes and moves

Concert review

Jennifer Snyder Copy Chief

The Cherry Poppin' Daddies shook McDonald Theatre on Saturday night with their swing and ska rhythms. They took the stage at 10:30 p.m. — after the audience waited for what seemed like an eternity — after Tympanic opened at 9 p.m.

The Daddies' lively music covers a wide range of sounds including people stood ready to dance in a large area between the back seats and the stage.

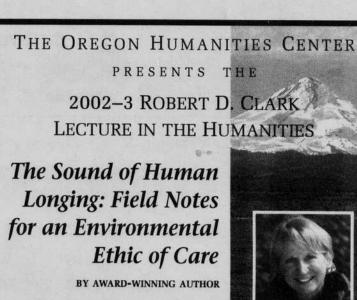
The eight-member band, which originated in Eugene, has played since 1989. Perry is lead singer and plays guitar; Jason Moss plays guitar; Daniel Schmid plays bass; Tim Donahue plays drums; Dana Heitman plays trumpet; Sean Flannery plays tenor saxophone; Ian Early plays baritone and alto saxophone; and Dustin Lanker plays

Swanky lead singer Steve Perry gyrated all over the stage, struttin' his stuff and shakin' like he was spasmodic. Lanker, wearing a furry shirt, had huge, animated expressions on his face as he pounded out harmonies. Schmid, in an orange jump suit, had fun expressions as well, as he created dramatic reverberations on his bass.

"A real man wears a pink shirt," Perry said. He sported a pink button-up shirt and tight white jeans.

The Daddies ended at midnight, but the audience was so enthused that the band came out and played a three-song encore.

Tympanic, the opening group, is a four-person original, eclectic altjam-rock band from Eugene that actually improvises some of its music on-stage, according to the band's Web site. The lead singer is John Craig, who also plays bass and key-



jazz, rock and soul.

Swanky lead singer Steve Perry gyrated all over the stage, struttin' his stuff and shakin' like he was spasmodic. He and the band kept their high energy throughout the concert.

The lighting, energy, rhythms, dancing, music and vibrations of the bass combined to make a swingin' atmosphere and an awesome experience.

The concert attracted an audience of all ages, from elementary school kids to senior citizens. Seating was available, but most keyboards and piano.

All the music was danceable, and people swing-danced, tapped their feet, bounced to the beat and jumped along with Perry.

The music varied in intensity and rhythm. The song "Soul Cadillac" had a bluesy feel and was slow and sentimental. "Trapped on a planet of rollerskating bumblebees" contrasted with a fast hardrock sound.

The climax came when the Daddies played "Zoot Suit Riot," the song that put them on the map in 1997. board; Harvey Rogers sings and plays guitar and keyboard; Austin Jones plays guitar; and Ryan Dobrowski is the percussionist.

Most of Tympanic's music was instrumental, easy-going and relaxed with a catchy, bluesy sound. Each song had cool variations, from soft and slow to fast and loud. Some songs used syncopated guitar bridges and innovative echoes.

The concert was fun, energetic and entertaining, and I didn't stop dancing.

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Wednesday, March 5 8:00 P.M. Gerlinger Alumni Lounge

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON



This lecture is free and open to the public, and will be followed by a reception, book signing, and sale. For more information, or for disability accommodations, please call (541) 346-3934.