

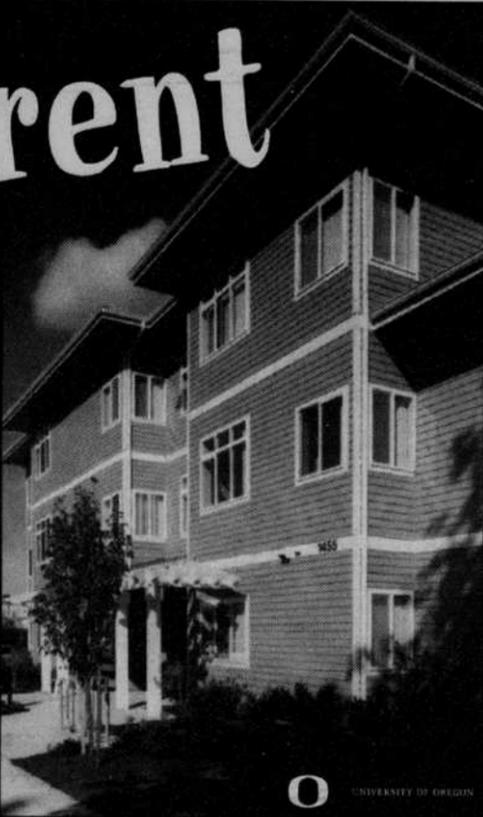
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VAGINA

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"The Vagina Monologues is a very good cause but not all women were represented in this production of the monologue," Ballard said.

After her dismissal, she said only one other woman of color remained in the show. "Plus size" and queer women were also not well-represented, she said.

"They could have had the option of having them but they chose not to," Ballard said.

Ballard said she is not sure why the directors thought she was hostile, adding that they never came to her to talk about any problems.

She added that she hoped the demonstration would help people recognize what is represented and what is not.

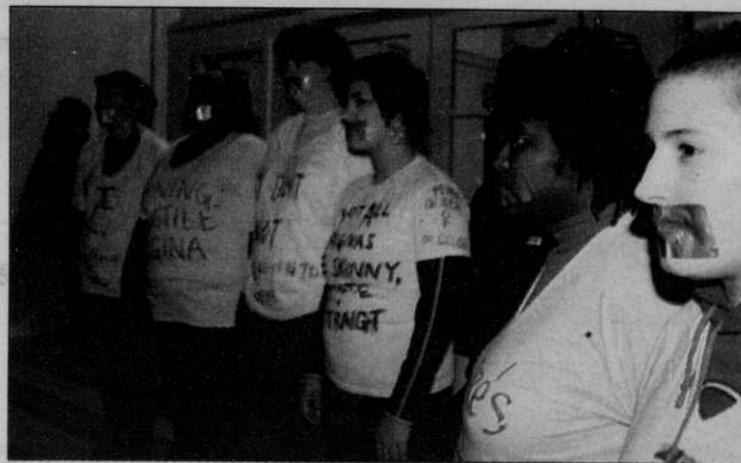
Mays, meanwhile, said she completely understands and supports the need for diversity.

"No way would I intentionally alienate anyone," she said. "It breaks my heart that different people feel alienated by this show."

Mays said about 85 people auditioned for the show and there wasn't a large pool of "visible" people of color to choose from. She said it is also not always possible to tell one's ethnicity or sexual orientation just by looking at the person, adding that she does not usually ask people what their sexual orientation is at an audition.

Mays, who is part Native American herself, said she mainly wanted strong women with passion and dedication when she made the casting decisions.

"I'm not just going to put someone in my show because of the way they



Tim Bobosky Photographer

About 10 people showed up Friday night to protest a production of "The Vagina Monologues."

look," she said, adding that to do so is in itself a form of discrimination.

Senior Katie McClatchey, the show's director, said other technical aspects, such as time commitments and conflicts, also influenced the choices of cast members.

Mays said she thought she had answered Barrett's questions but perhaps further dialogue was required at the time.

"Words can be perceived in the wrong way and apparently mine were," she said.

Both McClatchey and Mays said they do not recall calling Ballard "hostile."

"I don't believe she is a hostile person at all," Mays said.

More than 1,000 people watched the show, which sold out on all three nights.

ASUO President Maddy Melton, who helped hand out flyers at the demonstration before the show, said she was there to offer her personal support.

"Issues of multiple identity and including women of color, women of different sizes, is an issue that's pervasive, and I personally feel that we need to talk about it," Melton said.

She said the demonstration offered a chance to educate and create dialogue on these issues.

In light of concerns from different parties, "Vagina Monologues" producer Guru Simrat Khalsa said there will be a forum today at 6 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room to discuss the show. Khalsa said feedback is vital to make future projects successful, representative and a safe space for everyone.

"That's definitely something that's important to us," she said. "My only regret is that people did not come to me earlier with this issue."

Contact the news editor at ayishayahya@dailyemerald.com.

LOVE YOUR VOTE

New Voters Project member Mande Bish assists junior Dan Beyer with his voter application outside the EMU. The campaign helped 67 voters lose their "voter virginity" Friday afternoon.

Erik Bishoff Photographer