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PRODUCTIONS

IN BRIEF

A pocketful of plays

University actors and actresses are preparing for a five-play season of entirely student-produced performances at the Pocket Playhouse winter term. Pocket Playhouse Co-chairman Greg Heaton said the upcoming season is "the most diverse and the most supported" the department has had in years.

"Each show is going to have an enormous amount of effort put into it, and you'll see that on stage," he said.

The lineup of plays for this year includes "Down the Road" during week four, written by Lee Blessing and directed by Derek Johnson; "Modern Dance for Beginners" in week five, written by Sarah Hughes and directed by Margie Kent; "Seven Pieces of Hope" in week six, directed by Eric Dodson; "Ghost Sonata" in week eight, written by August Strindberg and directed by Mike Miranda; and "India Burn" in week nine, devised by Jana Schmeiding.

In "Seven Pieces of Hope," Dodson

will present seven monologues from different literary works.

"(Dodson) is a big reader and he took pieces from novels he liked, so it was a semi-scripted process for him," Heaton said.

Heaton said "India Burn" will be a one-woman show for Schmeiding, who is starring in, directing and arranging music for her show. He described "Ghost Sonata" as a "semi-surreal take on reality."

The season will end with the "One-Page Play Festival," an event conceived by Heaton that involves casual presentations of scripts that are one page in length or shorter.

"It's purpose is to inspire wackiness and instantaneous creativity," Heaton said.

All shows will take place in the Pocket Playhouse in Villard Hall Room 102 at 5 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the performance week, with the exception of "Ghost Sonata," which will not be performed Friday. Tickets are free with a suggested \$1 donation.

—Natasha Chilengerian

WOW: Subcommittee will justify recommendations at public hearing

Continued from page 8

"Are we going to hand the WOW Hall a blank check? No. But will we work together with the WOW Hall and community throughout the whole thing to make sure everyone's best interests are served? Of course," Jennings said.

The CCPA is most concerned by the proposal from Private Public Partnerships, Inc., which includes plans to utilize a portion of tax lot 13500 and deed the remaining 45-by-68-foot portion to the WOW Hall. Abe Nielson, Program Director for the WOW Hall, said that the 66.8-by-90-foot space is already barely large enough to fit the sometimes 45-foot tour buses that arrive almost every week, and that

cutting into it would probably make it impossible. He added that bigger acts are playing at the WOW Hall more often than they used to, which means the ability to accommodate large tour buses is more important to them than ever.

The Urban Services Manager for the City of Eugene, Richie Weinman, said that Private Public Partnerships' plan to develop on tax lot 13500 will not disqualify them since the amount of the lot reserved for the WOW Hall was not specified. But he added that the subcommittee will probably require them to justify developing that area at the hearing.

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Elvis: Amateur impersonations stray from typical Las-Vegas-style lineups

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Contest participants, who signed up to appear in advance, will compete for a \$100 cash prize. Barley, who has organized the show since the beginning, said he gets a wide range of performers, including women and children. A past winner, "Transelvstite," stretched the limits of Elvis portrayals by performing in drag.

Barley said the show's aura is partially serious and partially silly — expect for a mix of hard-core Elvis freaks and goofballs who like to poke fun at the King.

"It's kind of the joke. Some people come and hand out peanut butter and banana sandwiches," Barley said. "We've had people come as Elvis the Clown and Leprechaun Elvis. But some people are really serious about impersonating."

He added that "Night of the Living Elvis" doesn't reflect a typical Las Vegas-style impersonation lineup.

"It's not a total Las Vegas impersonator show with the white jumpsuits," he said. "It's definitely respectful

toward Elvis, but there are a lot of different takes on him, and many are funny and oddball."

Christie, an impersonator at "Night of the Living Elvis" since its first show, said he enjoys bringing Elvis to life on-stage. He used to don a traditional white jumpsuit, but now he wears a black one.

"I'm reminiscent of his style and voice," Christie said. "He has one of the most recognizable voices in the world. I re-create some of the dance moves and try to put a little pizzazz into it."

Although Christie often slips into the role of Elvis, he admits he has not been a lifelong fan.

"I wasn't really into Elvis until I got into this," he said. "Then I started reading about him and listening to clips, and I realized he was really a terrific singer, besides being an icon. I became a fan later on."

WOW Hall is at 291 W. 8th Ave. Doors open for "Night of the Living Elvis" at 9 p.m., and the show begins at 9:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$7 at the door.

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