

Powerful spring play features humor, heartfelt moments

■ SYDNEY MACNAUGHTON

Staff Reporter

"The Diviners," the poignant story of a small

farming community during the depression era, will debut in the black box on March 7. Nick Altishin and Troy Spivey,

juniors, play the lead parts of Buddy and CC Showers along with Rosie Dickson, senior, who plays Buddy's caring sister, Jennie May.

According to Jessica Murray, Theatre Arts Program Director, the play showcases a cast of many talented students. The play will open after three months of rehearsal, on March 7, with additional shows on March 8, 9, 13, 14 and 15.

Written by James Leonard, the play is a story of a common bond between Showers, a back-sliding preacher, and Buddy, a "simple" boy who has the gift of water-witching. Set in the depression in the drought-stricken town of Zion, Ill., the play follows the relationship between the two

and the way their bond changes the course of the lives of those around them.

"The process has been really great," Corbin Wescott, junior, said. "The small ensemble gets to know each other and really bond as a cast. It makes the intimate performance in the black box so much better."

Many students work behind the scenes, helping with props, costumes, sound and lighting. Mimi d'Autremont, junior, is the Production Stage Manager who runs rehearsals, takes notes during rehearsal and makes sure the actors say their lines correctly.

Jessica Johnson, senior, is assisting Barb Murray, English teacher, with costumes and Katherine Millage, junior, is

assisting with props. Corbin Wescott, junior, is the Sound Designer in addition to acting in the play.

Plays in the black box are much more personal than those in the auditorium according to Jessica Murray because the small venue gives audience members views on almost all four sides. She encourages students to come see the work the students are doing.

"The play speaks to my heart. I have been wanting to do it for years and was waiting for the right time and the right kids. This is a beautiful and powerful show; a wonderful opportunity for our actors," Murray said.



Nick Altishin, junior, and Rosie Dickson, senior, rehearse in preparation for the spring black box play "The Diviners". It opens March 7 and continues March 8, 9, 13, 14 and 15.

Photo by Sydney MacNaughton

Students nominated for presidential-sized honor

■ CALLEY LATHROP

Staff Reporter

Washington D.C. holds many attractions such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument and the White House. Elise Biancardi and Marisa Peralta, seniors, have been nominated to go beyond tourist snapshots and tours, and could end up on the inside looking out at the President's residence.

The pair was recently nominated for the US Presidential Scholars Program, nominations are awarded on a basis of SAT/ACT scores, leadership, involvement in community and school activities and character.

"They send you a letter saying that you qualify to apply. Then you fill out the application. It's really long, with essays and three pages of basic information," Biancardi said.

After the initial applications are filed, the selection of students is narrowed down until 141 remain. They receive the top honor of travelling to Washington D.C., meeting the president and getting a commemorative medal. Two years ago, Matthew Ronglie, 2006 graduate, won that honor. There is no monetary compensation, but, according to Carrie Guy, Curriculum Secretary, colleges weigh the win when looking at applications.

"She's top notch," Andrew West, English teacher, said, regarding Peralta. The senior has focused on academics, maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. Outside of school, she enjoys Highland Dancing, along with teaching dance classes to children.

Peralta credits her parents for helping her achieve all that she has. "They don't pressure me, which is great. If I mess up, I'm not raked over the coals, and that gives me a sense of personal responsibility," Peralta said.

According to Peralta, the nomination came as a surprise. "I was surprised when I got the letter because I know it's a small pool of people. But I'm really excited and pleased with it," she said.

What does Biancardi think? "It's pretty cool, I think it would be a lot of fun to go to Washington and everything," she said. Biancardi also partakes in fine arts, singing and acting being her 'specialty.' She performed in "Once Upon A Mattress," and sings in Symphonic Choir. According to Biancardi, the persistence and dedication shown by Barbara Fontana, choir teacher, has played a role in her success.

"She cares about her music, but she cares more about the students and has helped me a lot in the last few years," she said. Biancardi also has analytical side, as she enjoys Mock Trial and Honors Humanities.

"It makes me think a lot. There's not so much bulk work. It's more about learning and understanding," she said.

"Both girls are incredibly intelligent and their talent goes beyond academics. They're hard workers and watching them grow over the last few years has been great. The nomination is very well deserved," Tana Dearborn, chemistry teacher, said.

Mold problems found in 700 building

■ KAITLYN RAGAN

Staff Reporter

Mold and mildew caused a smelly, green, fuzzy dilemma all over the ceiling tiles in the entry way of the 700 building in late January. A leaky heating pipe prompted the growth of mold which posed a health hazard to the students and teachers with classes in the building.

The mold grew surprisingly fast and spread throughout several ceiling tiles within a matter of days. Some students were worried that this was an unsafe environment in which to have class, but the problem was quickly addressed.

"It was safe for students. The maintenance crew does a wonderful job putting students' health first," Geoffrey Bingham, science teacher, said.

Although mold is usually not a cause of major health issues for those affected by ailments like asthma and allergies, they can be potentially dangerous. They can cause things such as flu-like symptoms and rashes. Most of the time, however, these are temporary and quickly fixed with the removal of the mold.

"An environmental control company oversaw the work completed and took test samples. In the interim, they deemed the building safe to occupy," Rob Holstrom, Assistant Principal, said.

The problem caused few, if any, disruptions in the learning environment, as the tiles were replaced and the leak fixed by the end of the week. Before and during the repair, fans were put in the hallway to minimize

the leaky pipe as well as the ceiling, and installed new lighting in the process.

The building has previously experienced leaking pipes, and plans to remodel the building have been addressed. The



Dave Baer and Jeff Chambers, maintenance workers for the West Linn-Wilsonville School District, hang new ceiling tiles in the 700 building. Many of the old ones were infected with asbestos and had to be replaced.

Photo by Mallia Chong

moisture in the air and keep the room dry.

"There haven't been any problems in my classes. [The students] have been quiet and efficient. The biggest inconvenience was not being able to access the building over the weekend," Bingham said.

The building was closed between Jan. 18 and Jan. 22 to make the necessary repairs. A team came in to fix

district office has set a time for its renovation in the near future, starting this upcoming fall.

"The building is getting old. We will be adding the remodel of the 700 building to next fall's bond for the school district, but we will still need to utilize the building for this year and next year, prior to any remodeling taking place," Holstrom said.

Rejuvenation includes nap time, massages, green tea

Rejuvenation Week

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Students and teachers seemed to enjoy the week. "The tea in the morning [was my favorite part], it was a nice way to start the day. It overall seemed like a very

good idea. Students seemed to be interested and to gain something from it," Tina LaFerriere, math teacher, said.

ASB members plan to have more schoolwide activities this semester, including an Environmental Week during the week of Earth Day, and the

traditional May Day celebration week in May.

"We hope things like Rejuvenation Week, Environmental Week and other upcoming weeks will help students get more excited about things at school and our impact on the community," Kiely said.