

"Secret Affairs" a must see play

By Joe Woods
For The Print

Once in a great while, all the elements of successful live theater come together at one time and place. Perfectly balanced, the actions of the actors and technicians make for an ensemble that fills the viewer with delight and satisfaction. Sunday afternoon in McLoughlin Theater, this reviewer enjoyed just such an experience during a performance of "The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild."

Jack Shields, director, has outdone himself this time by fusing the talents of a variety of people into a cohesive production which rivals the best theater available in the area. Although he would be the last to admit it, most of the credit for this wonderful production belongs to Shields himself. By supportively coaxing the best from his actors, actresses and assistants, Shields has provided the audience with a glimpse of just how good community college theater can be.

In short, "The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild" is about a fading dreamer who spends much of her time fantasizing about movie stars and the golden age of Hollywood. Barbara Bragg, a CCC theater veteran, brings Mildred to life with a flamboyancy rarely found on local stages. When she says, "Movie fantasies tell me what to do, how to work things out," we believe her.

Indeed, the fantasy sequences throughout the show are admirably staged by Roby Robinson, et. al., and provide a continual source of amusement and excitement. In one sequence, we see the hand of King Kong reach through the window of Mildred's dumpy apartment, grabbing Mildred in her fantasy disguise as "Jungle Woman."

Bragg as Mildred has an almost "star" quality that injects

her performance with energy and enthusiasm. When not raging at her would-be-unfaithful husband (adequately played by Rod Ragsdale), or cooing about her favorite stars of yesteryear, Mildred occupies her time by winning the "Hollywood Homemaker of the Week Award" from a local television station. Her delight is short-lived however, when the "prize" turns out to be a sham with taxes due.

All is not lost. She wins a screen test, of sorts, in which she portrays a pre-teen chanteuse who opens a lemonade stand on 8th Street in New York.

It's all good fun as the play flows along on a bright script written by Paul Zindell, who also wrote "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds."

Having seen all of the McLoughlin Theater productions in the last two years, I would have to rate this one at, or near, the top.

David Wilkes deserves special mention for his zany characterizations of different stars from the past. During the fantasy sequences, Wilkes captures the essence of Claude Rains as the "Invisible Man," and, believe it or not, Prissy from "Gone With the Wind." Edeena Haffner is quite sexy as the spaced-out landlady caught in a compromising situation with Mildred's bald husband.

Tracy Hamblett turns in a credible performance as Helen Wild, Mildred's business-minded sister.

"The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild" is a must see production.

The play, nearly a sell-out last weekend at the College, staged again March 29-31 at the Coaster Theater in Cannon Beach. Call 436-1242 in Cannon Beach for reservations, or just show up at the door. You'll be glad you did.

Choir class offered

Clackamas Community College is once again offering a Community Chorus class, beginning March 27, at 7:45 p.m. in Randall Hall, room 201.

The chorus will be conducted by Gene Lysinger, a former

soloist with the Seattle Symphony Chorus.

Rehearsals will be held on Tuesday evenings. For more information call the Clackamas Community college music department, 656-2631, ext. 293.

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Faculty member (right) Barbara Bragg achieves a comical level of character, when playing a day dreaming housewife in "The Secrets of Mildred Wild" last Friday night.

Students create art

art we use nature as
her. We look and we
to nature's songs.
here we create . . ."

Perhaps that is the best basis for a young art student. The Milk Creek Little School is displaying its "nature art" in the

college library until the end of this term.

Margaret Charters, librarian, says the display is "delightful." The students range in age from 5 to 15 at the alternative school, owned and financed by the students' parents.

The display includes poetry, collages, stitchery and a great number of weavings. Each art work is made from or has something to do with nature and its beauty.

Artist of the week

Artist of the Week," is a
formed idea sprouting in
College Art Department.

Lobby located in the Smuckers building.

The next artist of the week will be announced after spring term begins March 26.

The Print will be covering each artist as they receive the title.

Todd Rundgren's latest

Runt proves best of litter

Mike Koller

Print
Todd Rundgren's new
live album on Bear-
Records is titled "Back
the Bars," but a more fit
title to this record would
be "Back to the
Bars."

looks like (for the time
anyway) that the
cadet has landed back
earth. Rundgren is no
the "Runt" character
played on his early
sings or the cosmic kid he
appeared as with his group,
Utopia, on their albums,
"Todd Rundgren's Utopia"
"Ra." The entire album
has been stripped of any
musical debris which makes
a very listenable two-
disc set.

Rundgren proclaims on
opening song, "Real
"deep down inside
there's a real man,"
he's admitting that,
what he has led his
to believe in reality, he's
by much a normal guy.
admission, Todd?

The listener gets a chance to hear what the "real" Todd Rundgren sounds like, especially on "A Dream Goes on Forever," where it's just Rundgren and his piano. One can even detect a bit of emotion in his usually mechanical voice. It appears that Todd Rundgren has finally decided to be himself musically.

Rundgren's faithful Utopians are still with him on several cuts throughout the album, but their backing proves most effective on side one. Rundgren and Utopia sound crisp and clean with less of the clouded synthesizer sound which dominated their other live album, "Another Live." On the cuts, "Love of the Common Man" and "Love in Action," the bands dropped all of the spacey synthesizer which turns these songs into flowing rockers.

Rundgren's biggest success commercially was his album, "Something Anything?" with the hits, "Hello It's Me"

and "I Saw the Light," both of which are included here. "Hello It's Me" ends the album on an inspiring note with Stevie Nicks of Fleetwood Mac and Hall and Oates joining Rundgren on stage for a stunning remake of the tune.

Rundgren's only setback is on side three and four where he performs "Eastern Intrigue" and "Zen Archer," both from his album, "Initiation," which deals with Rundgren's bizarre fetish with Zen Buddhism. What Rundgren believes personally is his own business, but when he put his beliefs into music it only proves boring and above the listeners' head.

Eliminate the two religion songs and "Back to the Bars" proves to be Rundgren's strongest effort since "Something Anything?"

If you've never heard Todd Rundgren before, stay away from his early material and stick to this album which gives the listener a chance to hear Rundgren at his live best.

