

Arts

Strict fire codes hamper theater set construction

By Mike Rose
Of the Print

"Inadequate" is the most liberal term to describe the College's theater facilities.

"I've never seen a theater that has quite as many problems as this one", said Jack Shields, theatre arts chairperson.

The problems include poor lighting and acoustics, lack of storage space and concrete floors that are tiring to stand on for long periods, he said. However, the biggest bug is there is no indoor area for constructing sets.

If new facilities are not found, drama students will spend another year sawing and hammering sets together in the cold, wet, Oregon sunshine, Shields said.

The drama department was forced out on the sidewalk three years ago when the fire marshal closed the shop area and prohibited the use of power tools inside the theater. The theater shop violates fire codes because it does not have a three-hour explosion proof fire wall.

"The College administration has been very sympathetic to our problems", Shields said, "But, it would cost an enormous amount of money to bring the shop up to fire code." The drama department hasn't

found a satisfactory work area since the closure of the shop. "There was a lot of shouting at first that we couldn't go on without the shop, but somehow we've managed", Shields said.

"I don't think that working outside in the cold affected the

quality of our productions, but I am sure that it caused a rise in the illness rate of students" Shields said. Kermit Shafer, director last year, described the outdoor experience as "cold as hell".

Shields questioned the safety of working on a wet, crowded sidewalk with power tools. "There is the possibility of being hit by flying materials or of an electrical short in the power tools," Shields said. "I don't think the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OOSHA) would have put up with a situation like this a few years ago. However, OOSHA doesn't seem to have the authority they once had."

Shields and Shafer agreed that hauling tools and building materials outside and hauling them back in again is a waste of valuable time. "We do not have adequate time or space to work," Shields said. All large classes now meet in the theater instead of room CC117, which was converted to office space. This will cut further into the time available to work on drama productions, Shields added.

Smuckers complex has been suggested for workshop space, but Shields said, "I don't think this location would work because of its inaccessibility to the theater". He added, "making corrections in set construction would be difficult." A temporary structure such as a rented trailer near the theater would be a more practical solution, Shields said.

Dr. Ronald Kaiser, dean of instructional services, explained that student enrollment influences instruction priorities.

"The art department, which has had remodeling work, has a large enrollment, where the enrollment in theater hasn't been as large."

In the distant future the drama department's facility may improve, according to Dr. John Hakanson, president. A performing arts center is in the Colleges long range plans, he said. "In the area of the arts, I think the music department has the poorest facilities", Hakanson said, noting it will be given top priority for improvement funding.

It is unlikely that improvements will be made in the theater until the economy picks up and more tax levies are passed, Hakanson said. "I would like to see the drama department have better facilities, but I can't pop something out of the air."

art briefs

The College is offering a performance class in Community Choir (MUS 297). The class will be from 7-10 p.m. Tuesday nights in Randall Hall and is open to anyone interested in a large choir experience.

The emphasis of the choir is on learning music and enjoying the fun and rewards of singing in a community choir.

The class is being offered fall, winter and spring terms of 1981-82. For more information, call the Music Department at 657-8400, ext. 434.



Theatre "workshop"???

Staff photo by Jay Graham

Cast slated for fall play

The cast has been selected for the fall term production of "Monique". The play, directed by Jack Shields, was cast in what he described as a, "smashing audition of strong and experienced actors".

The cast of "Monique" consists of: Neil Hass, Laurel Cates, Amy De Vour, Becky Proulx, Jennifer Allison, Virgil Geigle, Randy Evans, Mike Doane, Tim Slater, and Laurie Frost. The assistant director and stage manager is David Harvey.

Mystery and suspense entwine the sinister plot of "Monique". The play, translated from

French, is based on the novel entitled, "Celle Qui N'Estait Plus" written for the stage by Dorothy and Michael Blankfort.

The plot revolves around the principal characters Monique, Fernand and Lucienne. Monique, a brilliant but suppressed doctor, creates a plan for the perfect murder. And, who is the likely victim but Fernand's bitter wife, Lucienne. The murder plan, seemingly a success, takes a turn for the unexpected and finishes in evil surprise.

"Monique" will be staged Dec. 3, 4, 5, 6.

"Real" history probed in movie class

By Gary Gorski
Of the Print

Students will learn about the Hollywood West in the fall-term "History-through-films" course taught at the College. "The Hollywood West: Myth and Reality" is the theme of the 3-credit class (History 299) which is being offered Thursdays at 2:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Instructors Fred Dewolfe and Richard Ramsperger will explore Hollywood's image of the old American West with films such as **J.W. Coop**, **Culpepper Cattle Company**, and **Joe Kidd**. Old West railroads are portrayed in **Union Pacific**, **Winchester 73**, and **3:10 to Yuma**. Revolutionary Mexico is the scene for movies like

Page 8

Buchanan Rides Again and **Vera Cruz**. The saga of an aging cowboy is the theme in one of John Wayne's great movies, **True Grit**. An action-drama, **A Bad Day at Black Rock**, is set during World War II in a western ghost town.

The course will take a look at the different casts, themes, and the way society looked at the films when they were first released. "What was portrayed on the screen was sometimes a completely different case than how it really was," DeWolfe commented.

One of the highlights of the class will be December 3rd when **Oregonian** film critic Ted Mahar will be at the college. Mahar will compare and contrast the styles of Bud Boettlinger (**Buchanan Rides Again**) and Anthony Mann (**Winchester 73**).

The public is invited to view the films free of charge. There is a ten dollar enrollment fee for class members. For additional information, contact the History Department at 657-8400, ext. 333.

FILM DATES

Oct. 8 **Culpepper Cattle Co.**
Oct. 15 **J.W. Coop**
Oct. 22 **Union Pacific**
Oct. 29 **3:10 to Yuma**
Nov. 5 **Bad Day at Black Rock**
Nov. 12 **True Grit**
Nov. 19 **Joe Kidd, Vera Cruz**
Dec. 3 **Buchanan Rides Again**
Dec. 10 **Winchester 73**

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