

Natale-A shining talent beyond compare

By Amy De Vour
Of the Print

The stage is darkened, the audience sits tittering quietly. The sound of a growing thunderstorm envelopes the room; an ever-increasing staccato rhythm of a jungle drum filters in. Then, there is a fleeting fan fare. "Ladies and

gentlemen, having no choice we present to you tonight, at our own risk, the fantastically funny, the unbelievably talented, the incredibly sexy, ha ha ha, excuse me, Natale!

What exactly is a Natale? Natale, pronounced Nah-tah-lee is the current entertainer at Mama Lena's Italian Restaurant and Lounge. This one-man act brings the appeal

of great music, the mystery of magic, and the fun of comedy to Oregon City in a Las Vegas style show.

The Italian Stallion towers at an unbelievable 6'5", this is documented by a wooden plaque hanging on the wall of his set. Natale is the epitome of clean fun. He leads his "dirty-minded" audience to the very edge of the gutter and lets them decide whether or not to jump in; usually they plunge in.

Says Natale, "I've got the cleanest show in the West and the dirtiest audience, I love 'em!"

The audience is constantly having their "leg" pulled in some way or another, and they love it.

On one occasion, Natale, seemingly oblivious to his audience picked out a twangy country tune. He stops abruptly, much to the chagrin of a lady exiting on the sly to the bathroom, and yells, "Lady, where do you think you are going? You come back here and raise your hand."

More often than not, the victim of Natale's teasing will shuffle back to their seat. It's hard to escape without everyone being notified of your attempted departure. Then, after what seems to be an eternity, Natale says mercifully, "Okay, lady, you can go now."

Donning a black felt cowboy hat, and "strapping" on his "gee-tare," Natale becomes an amazingly-real Johnny Cash, making the

female section of the audience squeal with anticipation.

Just as easily, he sports a thick black moustache and a "wop" hat and croons a sweet "Return to Sorento."

Not neglecting the male sector, he dedicates a love song to a man in his audience. Thoroughly embarrassed, the man seems to melt into the floor. Says Natale with sheepish femininity, "That doesn't make him a bad person." But poking fun at everybody is all in fun, which according to Natale, is the way it should be.

Natale's magic is more than a mystery, for he performs mind illusions that leave the audience wondering. How did he do that? or as Natale puts it "Why did he do that?"

Proving that Italians can turn "anything" on, Natale entertains as the great Elvis Presley, an impression that reflects the gyrating King. "Elvis used to throw scarves, I can't afford that so I throw what I've got the most of." He says, laughing, picking up a roll of Natale embossed toilet tissue, complete with his picture and he says, "Here's looking at you."

In all fairness, Natale gives the audience what is called a "practice" scream when he does Elvis. "Don't scream until you see my body," Natale teases. He jumps out from behind his organ and the screams echo throughout the lounge.

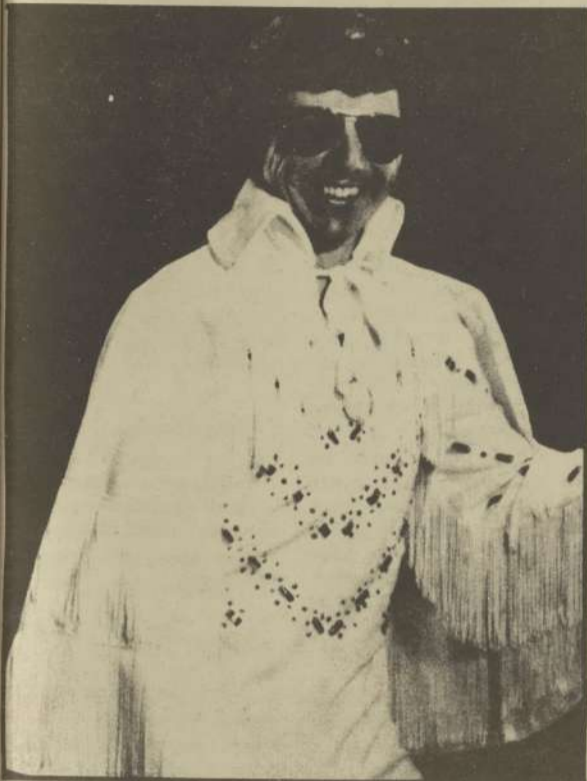
"Can you imagine a grown man doing this for a living?" he questions his audience.

Everyone laughs, but what many don't realize is that there is a real heart-felt reason for Natale's 26-year involvement in show business. "I wanted to help people; I was going to be a doctor, but there was too much pressure involved. So, I entertain, and in a way I help people, I make them happy," he says.

Natale's music is so full, one hardly remembers he is an individual, not a group of musicians. With the aid of an electric drummer and an instrument called a "vocoder" (which provides one or many voices) Natale sings his way into your heart.

His costumes are sequenced and sparkled, and his lighting and prop manipulation are fantastic. Natale entertains at Mama Lena's, 895 Molalla Ave., in Oregon City, Tuesday through Saturday with two shows per evening, the first of which begins at 9 p.m. Natale will continue through the end of July with a vacation from Dec. 19 - Jan. 19.

Natale closes his show with a love song to his audience entitled, "A Magic Mystery." He thanks the Lord for his talents. Natale is truly amazing and talented. Come in and see him, he'll make you smile and more importantly, he'll leave you feeling good!



NATALE

Foreign students adapt to new religion and beliefs

By Tracy Tieglund
Of the Print

There are many students at Clackamas that people refer coldly to as "boat people." Not many people really know much about them or take the time to find out. They just acknowledge the fact that they are from another place with a different background.

These people have gone through many changes since coming to America and for some Indochinese, they have even undergone a change in their religious beliefs.

Most East Asian countries believe in Buddhism, where in America, Christianity is the leading religion.

Of the three people from different parts of Indochina interviewed, each represented a unique lifestyle, although with some parallels.

Kao Son Saechao from Mein has been particularly interested in finding out about the difference in religious beliefs between Mein and the United States.

Kao talked vaguely about his old beliefs. He respectfully believed in the religion that his parents taught him as a child. When asked exactly what he believed in when he lived in

Mein, he got a puzzled look on his face and commented, "My religions confused me, I never knew what to believe."

The name of his religion is Annimist. Kao could not really explain his religion, but remarked, "to know the religion you must study many years."

The Oregon City First Baptist Church sponsored Kao and his family to come to America. That was the first time Kao was introduced to God, the Father of Christianity.

Kao had never been around Christianity before and it overwhelmed him and today Kao is happy to tell people that he and his family are Christians.

For Kao it was an easy decision to become a Christian and give up his family's traditional beliefs of Annimist, because he never understood them fully.

Kao stated happily, "It is so evident that God brought me to this country."

Kao was asked about his children, and what he would raise them to believe. He stated logically, "My children will believe in God, because I do."

Savat Keo from Cambodia, shared how he combined his old and new beliefs, to

get that happy medium.

Savat was a Buddhist monk for three years when he lived in Cambodia. He studied Buddhism faithfully and dedicated his life to it. When Savat came to Oregon in August of 1980, he started attending the Hilltop Community Friends Church. Now Savat considers himself a Christian. However, he stated, a bit concerned, "We keep a part of Buddah. The part that is good for us. We threw some of it away so we wouldn't get in trouble with American laws."

Savat doesn't seem completely satisfied with what the Western World's "Christianity" has to offer. Therefore, Buddah remains a small part of his life. Savat is anxious to learn all about Christianity. He is amazed at how much there is to learn. Savat was asked, "how will you raise your daughter, Christian or Buddah?" Savat did not seem concerned about the fact that he had mixed two religions, and he doesn't think it will be confusing to his daughter. He stated confidently, "my child will be a Christian."

Finally, Hung Nguyn of Viet Nam expressed a totally different view from Kao and Savat.

In Viet Nam, Buddah reigns, just as it does in Mein and Cambodia, with a scattering of Christians. Hung did not follow either Buddah or Christianity in Viet Nam, and he hasn't decided to now that he is in the States. It has never been an "important part" of his life.

These are not just "boat

people," they are not just Indochinese. They are many varieties of people with a new, sometimes scary life ahead of them in this new country. Some of those people might find a comfort in believing in God while still others prefer to bring with them their own traditions.



THIS LITTLE ONE will be raised with the newly adapted tradition and beliefs of his mother; a student here at the college.

