

By J. Dana Haynes

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Stephanie Feldman: a woman of all trades

The question is asked, Stephanie Feldman turns away, adds a pin to the cuff of a nearby pair of pants, motions for one of the actresses to turn a full circle, asks the interviewer to step out of her light, makes a suggestion to the director, then turns and answers the original question. Charming.

Finding a spare moment in Stephanie Feldman's day seems to be the impossible dream. She is the costumes mistress for the College production of Agatha Christie's "Appointment With Death." She is also doing costumes for Wilson High School's Fall show, "You Can't Take it With You." Both shows open Dec. 2, and both are "period pieces," or plays which take place in a specific time other than the ever-nebulous "present."

When she's not involved with school shows, Feldman 33, designs lighting and costumes for Portland based rock bands, including Johnnie and the Distractions and Go 99, the new band organized by popular Oregon musician Craig Caruthers. As if that's not enough, she designs clothing for herself and her friends, and arranges weddings, from clothes, to the flowers, to the cake. She also worked with a company called Balloons, Unlimited, designing inflated bouquets.

"This is a very tough show to costume," Feldman said of "Appointment With Death." "Everybody in it is such a character in his or her own right. They're either totally in period, or totally out."

The show, with a cast of 19, takes place in Jerusalem and the settlement of Petra, Israel. It includes titled Englishmen, rich Americans, a French psychiatrist, various villagers, a proper British Colonel (a favorite stand-by of the authors') and one Dragoman, or native guide.

"This show has been definitely... different," Feldman diplomatically admits.

This is her first show at the College, and her first production with Jack Shields, the theater director who is in his tenth year at Clackamas Community.

"I've known Jack for years, but never had the chance to work with him," she said. "When it comes to costumes and lighting and that sort of thing, it's amazing how many directors don't give a damn. Jack cares. And he expects a lot from everybody, especially himself."

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Photos by Rick Obritschkewitsch

local guide and expert on architecture. "I've enjoyed this show so far," Toman said. "But in the future, I'm going to strive for a variety of roles." Toman's last three roles have all been "character" roles, including a drug-crazed guru in "Not Any More" and an asylum inmate who fancied himself to be Albert Einstein in "The Psychiatrists."

"Appointment With Death" opens in the McLoughlin Theater, and runs on Dec. 2, 3, 4, 10, and 11 at 8 p.m., and on Dec. 12 at 2:30 p.m.

