

arts

Curtain rises on 'Androcles and the Lion'



Curtain at Clackamas Community College's Theater Department's Winter term production, "Androcles and the Lion," will be at 8 p.m. this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and next week March 11 and 12 in the McLoughlin Theater. There will also be a special 2:30 p.m. matinee on Sunday, March 13.

Tickets are now available at 50 cents for College students holding a current ASB card. Gold card holders are free. General Admission is \$3 and students \$2. For ticket information or reservations call the College at 657-8400, ext. 356 or 283.

Photos by Duane Hiersche

Acting, direction prove a plus for bad 'Jimmy Dean'

By F.T. Morris
For The Print

Chaplin's movies are considered classic examples of content over form, in that the onscreen action makes the flat direction forgivable. Robert Altman's "Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean" is perhaps a classic example of just the opposite. Here is a movie filmed and acted with such beauty that one keeps forgetting that the script is *truly awful*.

Altman directed the stage version late last year on Broadway, and it bombed with amazing swiftness. No matter how it may have looked on stage, Ed Graczyk's play just isn't any good. Altman then reconstructed the single set in a Manhattan loft and shot it with his Broadway cast very quickly and on a low budget. The hurriedness of the project is what makes one so unprepared for the loveliness of the movie.

Altman is unequaled as a director when it comes to filming a long dialogue scene; and this movie, a long afternoon of conversation, is right up his alley. The plot concerns a reu-

nion of a James Dean fan club twenty years after his death in 1955. That premise has a lot of possibilities, but Graczyk continually apes Eugene O'Neill's "The Iceman Cometh." The characters, which at the beginning promise to be funny and entertaining, are brought down to their knees and their pretensions and deep, dark secrets are made public. This isn't exactly what I look for by way of fun. Yet Altman is a fabulous director, and his sly camera movements during this long afternoon are graceful and seamless; this movie is all of a piece.

And he has assembled a cast that is almost letter-perfect. In the past, Altman has specialized in unusual casting, often using performers against type. But here he uses his actors in ways that bring our opinions of them to the surface. Cher, for example, is cast as Sissy, a good-time-gal, and it works not only because she proves to be an accomplished actress, but because of her slightly checkered past. Cher is quite a surprise here, but Sandy Dennis and Karen Black are

just as good. At times it's difficult to figure out who steals the show.

Sandy Dennis has more mannerisms than even Katherine Hepburn, but they really fit her character, Mona, a woman of great pretensions. Mona is sickly and has delusions of grandeur because she was an "extra" in the James Dean movie "Giant," which was filmed a short distance from the setting of this movie.

Karen Black is talented enough, but she has been so consistently misused that to think of her only recalls junky movies. But she is presented here in the best possible way, even though her part is too reminiscent of "Iceman" (she is brought into the story in order to strip the other characters bare).

The smaller parts are capably handled, also. Kathy Bates and Marta Heflin are two other members of the fan club, and they are a real Laurel and Hardy, one hefty and crude, the other mousey and hilariously nervous. Susie Bond isn't very likeable as Juanita, the owner of the five

and dime, but her character isn't meant to be likeable. Still, Bond *could* have managed to be both irritating and watchable, but she isn't. Newcomer Mark Patton, as Joe, an important character seen only in the flashbacks, is wonderful and achieves greatness by the simplest means.

"Jimmy Dean" certainly

Cougar speakers place at tourney

The College's speech team, under the command of Coaches Frank Harlow and Connie Connors, sallied forth to the Idaho panhandle last weekend to compete in the North Idaho Invitational.

The Cougar Grammarians took second place at the 11-team tournament, which was held in Couer D'Alene, Idaho. The event took place on Feb. 25-26, and drew two and four-year colleges from throughout the Northwest.

Placing high for the College's team was Julie Van Orman, who took third place in the Open Division-Oratory

won't have viewers holding their breath to find out what happens next, because its so simpleminded. There is never any real suspense or tension in the women's problems, because we can always guess what the outcome will be. But, with the help of a talented director and cast, getting their is more fun than one would imagine.

competition. Sue Dumolt grabbed a second in the Open Division-Expository, and Linda Perkins brought home the gold with a first place performance in the Open Division-Expository.

Other participants included Lisa Baller, Scott Van Cleeve, Harvey Wells, Melanie Wright, and Ward Moore.

Coach Harlow recently requested traveling money from the Associated Student Government to send at least five of his competitors to the Nationals tourney, which will be April 6-12 in San Antonio, Texas.

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