

Comedian Russell 'plays' the College



"My favorite comedians . . . are Woody Allen, Robin Williams, Jonathon Winters and Lilly Tomlin."

In the royal tradition of a Renaissance traveling player, comedian/magician Steve Russell brought his one-man show to the College last Friday.

Russell, 25, is a Seattle-based, self-taught performer who takes his roadshow, via a dilapidated van, around Oregon, Washington and Idaho, for junior highs, high schools and colleges.

"I look at this as building a background," Russell said. "It's training for the 'big time'."

The 'big time' may be a ways off yet. Russell says he enjoys what he's doing now and doesn't plan to leave the Northwest for some time. Also, "The demand for originality is incredibly high," in places such as Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco. "The competition is extraordinary," Russell said, adding that he doesn't feel ready for the big step yet.

Russell is a comedian/magician, not a magician/comedian. "The comedy's the focal point. That's what sells the thing," he said.

The magic is simply a tool to produce the laughs. "It's a good way to hang your personality on something. It's a way to showcase myself."

His act involves gags, stage magic and balloon sculptures, which is similar to a routine made famous by actor Steve Martin. "I get asked about that a lot," Russell said. "Actually, I was doing this act before Steve Martin got big, so I wasn't influenced by him."

What did influence Russell's career was his mother Rosemary, a legal secretary in Seattle. "Mom's always been funny," Russell said. She was also cooperative and supportive of her sons' need to perform. Consequently, Steve takes his act on the road while his younger brother dances with the San Francisco ballet.

Russell is currently moving away from the magic, trying to "purify" the comedy. His focus has changed toward "acting in the act," he said. In his show at the College, he portrayed the balloon-man, a totally different character than "Steve Russell."



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World of Crime uncovered in movie class



By Kristen Tonole
Of The Print

"The Godfather," "The Maltese Falcon," "Chinatown," "Dial M for Murder." All these film classics have two important things in common. They deal with crime and they are featured in the film class, "The World of Crime."

The above mentioned are only a handful of the thrillers which will be presented every Tuesday at 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. for 3 credits of History 199 at the College this term.

Instructor Fred DeWolfe has been teaching the class for eight years now, in the past focusing on such topics as science fiction, horror, politics, and colonialism. This term's "World of Crime" allows the students to study the different aspects of crime from the 1930's to the present day and to examine the different detectives and police-

men who have made cinematic history.

Students who enroll in the class will be expected to view the films. Then they have a choice of either preparing two in-depth reviews on the films of their choice, or reading the book version of one of the movies and writing a report on it. If no books on the movie are available a student may do a report on any book which deals with crime.

Besides watching films, the students will also be able to hear several guest speakers, such as Ted Mahar, senior film critic for *The Oregonian*. DeWolfe feels that one of the best ways to teach is through the medium of film because "people get a certain image of our American hero through cinema," he said.

One of the disappointments in this particular class is

the low number of students enrolled. While in the past the number of students has ranked in the seventies, this term has brought in less than 20. The low numbers are due in part to a typo in the class schedule which has the class listed as History 199: Historical Themes. "It killed me," was DeWolfe's reaction to the schedule misprint, "If I was looking for a class and saw that, I'd run."

The low turnout hasn't discouraged DeWolfe, however, as he already has plans underway for his "Films of (director) John Huston" class which he plans to offer Winter term, and come Spring term students can look forward to "The Depression: The 1930's."

Required is a pad of paper, a good note-taking pen . . . and, by all means, don't forget the popcorn!

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Cast, crew selected for "The Hollow"

Agatha Christie's play, "The Hollow," has been selected as the Fall theater production at Clackamas Community College. Director Jack Shields chose the cast last weekend.

The cast includes: Jeanine Kryza as Henrietta, David Harvey as Sir Henry, Maggie Bragg as Lady Lucy, Vonnice Davis as Midge, Neil Hass as

Gudgeon, Patrick Sterling as Edward, Cindy Brown as Doris, Lynn Myers as Gerda, Joel Hladacek as John, Julia Troyer as Veronica, J. Dana Haynes as Inspector Colquhoun and Chris Parrish as Sgt. Penny.

Behind the scenes will be: Joe Schenck, stage manager; Loren Wilson, assistant stage

manager; Lynn Myers, costumer; Charisse Smith and Dianna Hardy, costume assistants; Donald Williams, properties; Roberta Ellsworth, Lisa Ensworth, and Gordon Tallman, properties assistants; John Kevin Bradford, sound and make-up; Jeannie Kalmbach, make-up assistant; Roger Nuffer, lights; and Linda Kuntz, publicity.

