

"Hot" year predicted for speech, debate teams

"Hot" is how Coaches Frank Harlow and Connie Connor describe this year's Speech and Debate teams.

The Speech team, to date, includes Carolyn Adamson, Melanie Wright, Gina Van Cleave, Kym Day, Susan Liston, Alice Storme and Judy Smith. Of the group, only Adamson and Wright are returnees.

The Debate team has not been chosen as yet, Connor

said. She expects several of the Speech team participants to try out.

"We have a lot of what I like to call 'untapped talent' right now," Harlow said, in reference to the lack of experience. "However, I think we're going to have a hot year."

The first test for the all-female Speech team will be at Lower Columbia Community College in Kelso/Longview,

Wash., Nov. 12. The following weekend, Nov. 17-19, the team will stake a claim at Clark College of Vancouver, Wash.

Between then and now, Harlow and Connor hope to put in 40 hours of practice. "That's the minimum needed to be competitive," Harlow said. Practice for the Speech team includes mock competitions, writing assignments and watching video tapes of

themselves speaking, which allows the competitors to see and hear their strengths and weaknesses.

Harlow puts his people through an admittedly rigorous program. However, "I can just about assure people that if they do what I tell them, they will 'trophy' at a tournament," he said.

The workouts for the Debate team are equally tough, Connor said, adding

"It's all strategy, blood, sweat and tears." Connor is in charge of the Debate team, while Harlow spearheads Speech.

The national topic for debate this term is "Resolved: That United States higher education has sacrificed quality for institutional survival."

Connor said she is happy with the topic selection. It will be used by debate teams across the nation for Winter 1983.



CONNIE CONNOR:
"It's all strategy, blood, sweat and tears."

FRANK HARLOW: "I can just about assure people that . . . they will 'trophy' at a tournament."

Photos by Joel Miller



Review Moore, Steenburgen save so-so "Romantic Comedy"

By J. Dana Haynes
Of The Print

Dudley Moore and Mary Steenburgen's new romantic comedy, "Romantic Comedy," is not bad. With that kind of talent, it should be great.

"Romantic Comedy" is the story of Jason Carmichael (Moore), a rich and successful Broadway playwright. The show begins at his wedding, where he meets would-be playwright Phoebe Craddock (Steenburgen).

Instantly: Deep stares, awkward silences and subdued sparks pass between the two. Ah well, Carmichael agrees to take Craddock on as his new writing collaborator, but marries the rich, beautiful fiancée (played by Janet Eilber) anyway.

Time passes. Nine years, in fact. Throughout that time, the team of Carmichael and Craddock write several smash hits and a few flops. Steenburgen is still in love with Moore, who is still in love with Steenburgen and married (faithfully) to Eilber.

Enter Ron Leibman as a nice, down-to-earth journalist (a contradiction in terms, perhaps) named Leo who wants to marry Phoebe.

And so Director Walter Hill gives us the eternal-triangle-plus-one. It's the stuff that good romantic comedies are made from.

Unfortunately, that's all there is to this movie. For an hour and 45 minutes, the characters exist. Nothing much else happens. Not that light comedy should do any more than make one smile and make one's disposition sunnier. Still, there should be some meat on even the thinnest plot. Here, the audience is left wanting more.

Part of the problem comes from Bernard Slade's script. As good as the cast is (and they are good), they have nothing in particular to do. Moreover, this is one of the least original scripts ever written.

Another major fault, also chalked up to the lack of originality, is the similarities between "Romantic Comedy" and "Arthur," Dudley Moore's smash hit from a few years ago. In both, he plays a very rich, Americanized Englishman for the bottle,

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the curse of the marriage to the wrong (through no fault of her own) woman and a true-love with whom propriety forbids he fool around.

The third big flaw is in Walter Hill's direction. The movie seems flummoxed with mistakes in a way that a professionally-made Hollywood film shouldn't be. The pacing is off, the editing questionable, and the actors confined throughout the movie to one or two claustrophobic sets.

There are also flat-out flubs here. Francis Sternhagen, who plays Carmichael and Craddock's manager, drives a spotless, brand new car throughout the show. Nine years go by but it's still the same shiny-new car. Also, throughout one deep, romantic scene, a boom microphone appears and disappears from the top of the screen. How any director or editor could miss that is beyond me.

The really weird thing is: I liked this show. Not because of the rather boring script or mediocre direction, but because of the actors. Moore is the embodiment of easy charm and is always a pleasure to watch. He is, in every way save height, the modern-day Cary Grant. Jason Carmichael is not an interesting character, but somehow Moore has fun playing him and passes that feeling of fun on to the audience.

Steenburgen is also wonderful to behold. This is, unfortunately, another stock "Steenburgen" role for her: The pretty, intelligent, but slightly daffy liberated woman. She played this same person, with a different name, in "Time After Time" and "Going South."

Francis Sternhagen is terrific. She played the tired, dead-ended doctor in "Outland" and was completely overlooked by reviewers and audiences alike. Agony, the role of Blanche and the manager, is a low-key, supporting role and not that many people will take notice of her. Pity: She's a top flight character actress.

In the end, "Romantic" comedy is just not bad. It is fluffy and forgetful, yet appealing. Like so many romantic comedies ("Arthur, Author" and "Only When I Laugh," as examples), in a year or two we'll have a tough time remembering its title.

"Romantic Comedy" is playing at the Clackamas Town Center, Washington Square, Hollywood and Rose Moyer theaters.

RHAPSODY! '1st Place' nationally

Rhapsody magazine is only two-years-old. It is not, however, without experience. This week, it received a national rating of "First Place With Special Merit" from the American Scholastic Press Association.

Rhapsody, *The Print's* sister publication, is Clackamas Community College's magazine of art and literature. At the end of the 1982-83 school year, Editor-in-Chief Steve Lundgren sent all three issues (the magazine is published once per term) to the American Scholastic Press Association in Wheatly, N.Y.

Rhapsody received a rating of 350 points out of 400 for content coverage, 150 out of 150 for design, 170 out of 200 for organization, 180 out of 180 for presentation and 60 out of 70 for creativity, for a total rating of 910 out of 1,000.

"I'm humbly ecstatic," Lundgren, 19, said. The

strong showing for the magazine was especially welcome when considering the lack of experience in last year's staff. That was Lundgren's first year at the College, having graduated from Colton High School the previous year.

The only other full time employee for *Rhapsody* was Troy Maben, associate/photographic editor. "Obviously, the people who helped get a major portion of the credit," Lundgren said, making special note of Maben's contribution.

This year also promises to be good for *Rhapsody*. Both Lundgren and Maben have returned to their respective roles, but with a year's experience under their belts.

Lundgren's plans for the magazine? "I'm just going to try to improve the sucker," he said. "This year, we're shooting for 990 out of 1,000!"

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