

The Arts

'The Interview,' 'Infancy' plays in the works

By DeAnn Dietrich
Of The Print

The Projects in Theater class is now in production of two one-act plays. "Interview" by Jean-Claude Van Itallie and "Infancy" by Thornton Wilder are the two plays chosen for the term projects.

Joel Hladecek is directing "Interview," a play he says is a "study of the social behavior and interest in America. It sort of sums up American behaviorism—quite abstractly." Termed "avante-garde" by cast member David Harvey, "Interview" is a very visual play with unusual blocking.

Acting in a high school production of "Interview," Hladecek was impressed with the play but not with the directing of it. Now he has a chance to incorporate his own ideas. "With this play you can be very interpretive. The dialogue leaves a lot of room to work with," Hladecek said.

In a surrealistic presentation, "Interview" is "humorous in the way it presents the situation but it has a serious message. It allows you to make your own conclusions," he said.

Hladecek's personal interpretation will be evident in the important role that costuming and make-up will take. The feeling portrayed will be one of external similarities and will emphasize internal differences in people.

Past experience has speeded up the general production of both plays.

Previous mistakes are being ironed out and Hladecek estimates progress is twice as fast as last term. There are eight roles in this 30 minute play.

The cast includes: Maggie Bragg, David Harvey, Lynn Myers, Mike Jarmer, Neil Hass, Don Anderson, Tina Sirianni and Eric Steinhauser.

"Infancy" is directed by Patrick Sterling and has a far-sical note to its plot. It takes place in Central Park in the 1920's.

The play was suggested by Barbara Bragg, secretary of the theater department, after Sterling expressed an "itching to get involved with other aspects." Because Sterling respects Bragg's professional opinion, he agreed to direct the play before he read the script.

The plot involves two Mothers, Bragg and Lynn Myers, who take their infant sons, Joel Hladecek and Neil Hass, to the park. One mother explains to the other that children are really much more intelligent than they are given credit. Therefore, the way to get them to quiet down is to relate to them as adults. Consequently they will become introspective as they contemplate what has been said to them. The dramatic flair comes out when the audience is exposed to the fact that the children can speak, and quite proficiently as well. This fact, however, is not revealed to the mothers.

Mike Jarmer portrays a keystone cop who dislikes babies because he believes that they do know everything. The combination of insight and ignorance lays the grounding for an exchange of witty dialogue.

Sterling's comment on his first directing job is a positive one. "I'm just glad I'm able to direct such a strong cast," he said. The set design will be assisted by Dennis Poore and includes two oversized baby strollers. The play is approximately 30 minutes long. Both "Interview" and "Infancy" will be performed at the end of the term.



CAST AND CREW—College thespians Joel Hladecek, Barbara Bragg, Michael Jarmer, Lynn Myers, Pat Sterling and Neil Hass.
Photo by Duane Hiersche

Review Kenny Rogers charms crowd for good cause

By Troy Maben
Of The Print

His hits include "Lady," "Lucille," "The Gambler," "Love Will Turn You Around," and a string of other such pop/country favorites. Of course, this list of hits has come from the resounding voice of country singer Kenny Rogers.

Rogers and his production crew put together and performed a country music extravaganza last Friday night at the Portland Memorial Coliseum. The two and a half-hour-long show opened with the 1960's duo, The Righteous Brothers (their only real hit was the ever-popular "You've Lost That Loving Feeling") followed by the enthusiastic Oak Ridge Boys (whose harmonized hits on the pop and country charts have included "Bobby Sue," and "Elvira"). In the final hour of the show Kenny Rogers delighted and captivated the sellout crowd.

Rogers has an enjoyable manner to him when he's on stage that gives each member of his audience a feeling of personal friendship. He used a combination of jokes and memorable songs that gave him standing ovations continuously throughout the show.

Rogers' production included a mist machine, laser lights and an overhead speaker and light system that resembled a craft from a science fiction film. This, along with Rogers' personal charm and presence, made for a very enjoyable concert.

Aside from the regular concert dialogue that generally accompanies a show of this nature, Rogers did a couple of things differently that set him

apart from other popular entertainers.

Two days before his two scheduled appearances, he placed an open letter in the Oregonian expressing his views and concern over world hunger. He urged each person who was to be attending his concerts to bring along with them a can of food that would be donated to the Portland Interagency Food Bank.

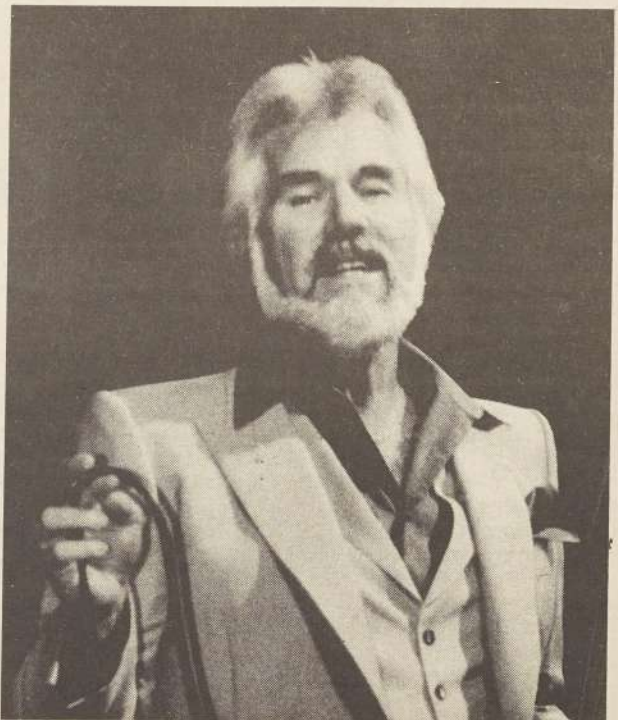
On his Thursday night concert, Rogers collected more than 12,000 pounds of food for Portland's hungry. On his Friday night sellout concert, he netted 15,000 pounds more.

The other thing that Rogers does in his concerts is throw out tambourines to a few lucky people in the audience. On Thursday night he

tossed one to a fellow and made a joke about how the fellow caught it. The fellow was embarrassed and later gave him back the tambourine. On Friday night, looking out over the crowd from the heavily-lighted stage, Rogers recognized the gentleman from the night before and apologized to him for embarrassing him and gave him another tambourine.

The way Kenny Rogers handles himself and his audience, it would not be surprising if he stayed just as popular over the years by just doing

concerts without any chart hits. However, with his style, grace, and familiar voice, we're bound to see a lot more hits from this popular singer.



Kenny Rogers
Photo by Troy Maben
Clackamas Community College

correction

Last week, *The Print* ran an article on the upcoming dinner theater production of "Same Time Next Year." The wrong date was published for the show.

The play will be presented on Thursday, Feb. 23, Dave Buckley, ASG advisor said. The dinner will begin at 6:45 p.m. with an 8 p.m. curtain for the show.

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