

Rehearsals begin for 'Best Man'

By DeAnn Dietrich
Of The Print

"The Best Man" by Gore Vidal has been selected for the Clackamas Community College Theater Department's spring production.

Vidal's 1960 play covers two presidential candidates vying for their party's nomination during the convention. That this play was chosen dur-

ing a presidential election year is no coincidence, Director Jack Shields said. "I read the play initially 15 years ago," he said. Since then he has wanted to produce the play during an election year because the play's theme says something that is "so vital about our national political campaigning system."

Shields said he believes the play has a very relevant theme. "We are humans and

we must beware of the brute side of humanity, especially in those chosen as leaders," Shields said.

Shields also feels the audience will find the climax of the play a surprise as well as a welcome solution.

In coordination with Vidal's piece which Shields terms "upbeat" and "beautiful" is the casting which he said is "magnificent." A combination of veteran actors as well as returning and new thespians are integrated in the cast which hosts nineteen parts. Casting was done before spring break but readjustments have been needed to fill several recent vacancies.

When casting, Shields said that he could have gone several ways in terms of the personal relationships between the characters. Because of a large turnout for the auditions and a wide range of talent, Shields described the role of casting as "gloriously terrible."

The set is under the design of two Clackamas Community College students. Joel Hladacek and Patrick Sterling created the design in the college's technical theater class. David Smith English will construct the set.

The cast at this point consists of: Patrick Sterling as Dick Jensen; Joe Schenk, First Reporter; Rolland K. Grubbe, William Russell; Jeanine Kryza, Assistant to Russell; Charisse Smith, Second Reporter; Anne Rindal, Third Reporter; Eric Steinhauer, Fourth Reporter; Dollie Mercedes, Alice Russell; Merril Lynn Taylor, Mrs. Gamadge; Neil Hass, Arthur Hockstader; Connie J. Conner, Mabel Cantwell; J. Dana Haynes, Don Blades; Robert Ems, Joseph Cantwell; Roy Osborne, Senator Carlin; Jim Nicodemus, Dr. Artinian; and Steven Huft, Sheldon Marcus.

Behind the scenes will be: David Harvey, Co-Director/Stage Manager; Jim Nicodemus, Assistant Stage

Manager; Lynn Myers, Costumer; Charisse Smith, Jeanine Kryza, Cindy Brown, Assistant Costumers; Merril Lynn Taylor, Make up; Diana Bauer, Sound; Maggie Bragg, Lighting; Joe Schenk, Assistant Lighting; Roberta Ellsworth, Properties; Linda Kuntz, Jim Nicodemus, Assistant Props.

The opening of the play is scheduled for May 17. After the show will be an "after-theater party," Shields said, at Harry's Mustache. The purpose of the party is to allow members of the audience to get acquainted with the cast and discuss the event or simply "have a good time. The opening night party originated last fall and has become something of a tradition, Shields said. He also added that if the levy doesn't pass, this may be the last play the theater department will be able to produce.

"The Best Man" will run May 17, 18, 19 and June 1, 2 at 8 p.m. with a matinee performance at 2:30 p.m. June 3.



HARD AT WORK—Jack Shields, Clackamas Community College theater director, ponders possibilities for his spring term production of Gore Vidal's "The Best Man." David Harvey, a theater major student at the College, is co-directing and stage managing the show.

Photo by Joel Miller

Two artists' work chosen by agencies

Two art students at Clackamas Community College have made their training pay off this month, art instructor Kevin Forney said. The students' works were chosen for display by two different organizations.

Student Peggy Pfeifer created a logotype, or logo, that was selected by the Clackamas County Recycling Task Force, and will be displayed around the metropolitan area. Pfeifer was awarded \$50 for her creation. The task force will use the logo in all publications, Forney predicted.

Another student, Dee Baker, created a poster for the College's Environmental Learning Center Spring Plant Sale.

Nan Hage-Herrmann of the ELC said the poster was chosen because of its "beautiful design of geraniums."

The poster was Baker's final assignment in Forney's winter term Introduction to Commercial Art Class.

Hage-Herrmann said this will be the ninth annual plant sale, which is one of the ELC's largest fund raisers of the year. The sale will be held May 2-12 at the ELC and will offer landscaping stock (trees, shrubs and ground cover), bedding stock (flowers and vegetables), and a number of two-year-old noble firs with parentage from Mt. St. Helens, Hage-Herrmann said.

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