

The Arts

Director submerges in arts while abroad

By D. Dietrich
Of the Print

Where else would a theater director go to on a summer vacation but to a theater festival. That's precisely what Clackamas Community College's theater director Jack Shields did this year on his month long trip to the British Isles and France. Shields visited the Edinburgh Festival in North Wales along with the co-existing Fringe Festival. "A really significant theater festival worldwide," described Shields of the annual cultural exchange. Theater troupes from various countries immigrate there to present a spectacular week with an astounding forty different plays running simultaneously throughout the day. Even the most determined of theatergoers couldn't possibly see every production.

As a non-competitive Olympics of theater, the festival attracts top billing theater companies for a cultural bonanza. Shields described Fringe theater as the equivalent of off Broadway, the Broadway equivalent an area called Westend. The festival's hometown size is close to that of Seattle's with a mountain lofted castle as an epicenter.

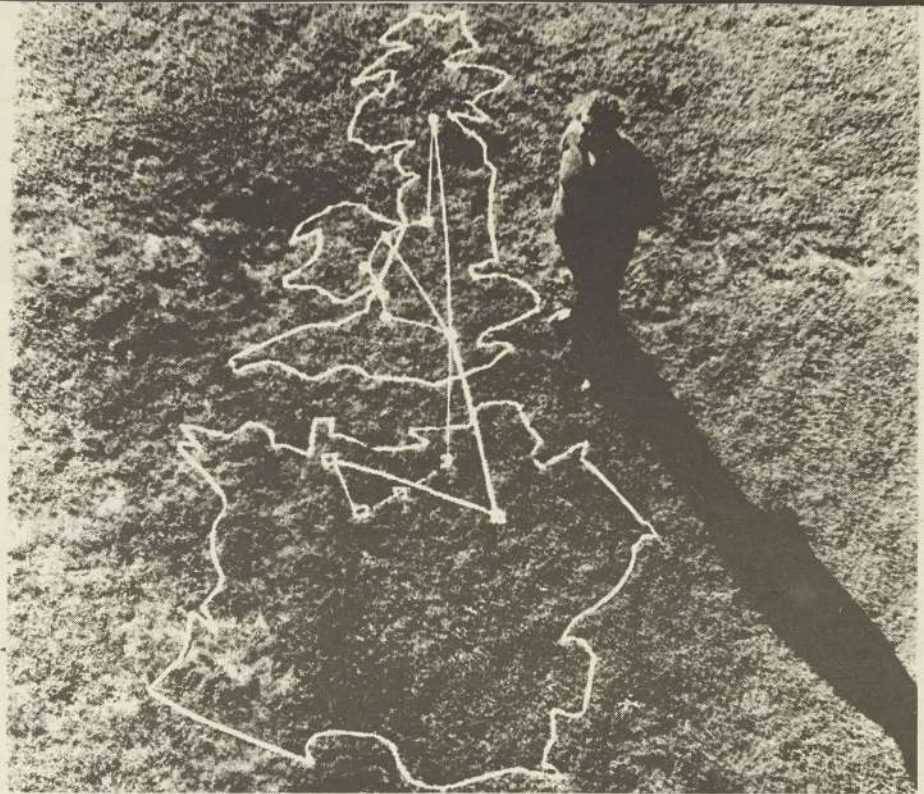
"Magnificent for antiquity," is how Shields

described the street scenes of theater, mime, and dancing although not all of it of historical nature. Shields also said that there were many brand new productions showing their wares at the festival. Not only are the theaters humming with action but the local pubs are filled with the sweet sound of touring jazz groups.

Each group may only play a one or two hour set and then move on to another of the approximately twenty jazz clubs. With only three days spent at the festival, Shields remembers being "barely able to feel the impact," he said.

After the festival, Shields continued on to Herefordshire, a town known for its beauty and that of the surrounding area, making it a major source of landscape art, Shields said. Herefordshire lies near the River Wye as does Shields' next excursion site, Hay on Wye. A book town, Hay on Wye is literally just that. Shields estimated that nearly sixty percent of the businesses in the town are book stores, many offering a wide selection of first editions from as early as the 17th Century.

Shields himself indulged in buying a book printed in the 1800's with lithograph prints titled, "A Doctor's Advice to the Sick, the Lame and the Lazy."



Illustrating the summer vacation Clackamas Shields stands by map tracing his route through the British Isles and France.

Photo by Joel Miller

Shields' next stop on his loosely scheduled agenda was London, where he managed to attain tickets normally bought months in advance, for the Broadway smash hit "Cats," based on a novel by T.S. Elliot. The show was a double treat for Shields as it was playing in the newest theater in London which Shields noted as "perhaps the most flexible and functional theater complex in the world." Before the show began and the house lights were down, the theater

auditorium made a 270 degree turn. Although certainly not intrinsic to the show itself, Shields said the effect was fun because it was "a little splashy and just a techy thing to do."

Next Shields was off to Normandy for four days, a place he remembers quite well for its fine cuisine for about half the price one would find at any of Portland's comparable French restaurants. And concerning those rumors about the rude and coarse attitude the native Parisians hold for foreigners, Shields finds it an unfortunate rumor. After four of five trips to the city, Shields said he has always found them to be "very cheerful and helpful."

Shields said that the found it

important to keep up with what's happening in the professional theater world. For all intents and purposes one could easily say that he indulged in a brief immersion of the contemporary arts.

But Shields claims he hasn't seen any major changes in theater styles, for one main reason they are already in existence.

And one more note of interest. When he was mingling in Wales, he spied a familiar poster. Who else but Portland's mayor elect, Bud Clark in his obviously internationally reknown pose in the picture "Expose yourself to art." Nice to know we had something to contribute.

Calendar of community events

Joanne Sullivan, author of *Orchids in the Sand* is seeking interested poetry writers to form a poetry club. Fellow enthusiasts will meet for a brown bag lunch for an hour of sharing their own works plus hosting seminars by published authors and members of the Oregon State Poetry Association. The club will meet once or twice a month. Those interested contact Sullivan at 230-2903.

Women's Voices: The Gender Gap Movie will be shown Oct. 8 at noon and 7 p.m. at the Fireside Lounge in the Community Center. Sponsored by Women's Programs, this free event includes interviews with a suburban housewife, senior citizens, high school students, a dairy farmer, blue collar workers and the former co-Chair of the Republican National Committee. Also featured is Nicole Hollander's nationally syndicated cartoon character

"Sylvia" appearing for the first time in full-color animation.

Workshops for Artists will begin a series of specialized how-to programs Oct. 22 and 24, with "Tile Making and Decorating" in the Art Center. Other workshops include Photographic Documentation of Artwork, Etching: Soft Ground Technique, Printmaking: Embossing and Color Printing and Marketing Your Art." Registration is available by mail or on campus. For more info call ext. 230.

Celebrating its tenth anniversary of the Focus Program, Women's Special Program's will present the seminar, "Being Single Again." Marilyn Bohan will discuss problems, feelings and options when you find yourself with a single status. It will be held in the small dining room and has a \$5 fee. For further info contact ext. 306.

Among a series of scheduled events featuring Oregonians, William and Kim Stafford will present "Poems, Ballads and Visual Images of Oregon," Oct. 3, and on Oct. 10, the film "Loggers of the Northwest" will cover the history of the Oregon lumber industry. "The unique character of Oregon," is the focus of this four month series sponsored by the College's Humanities and Social Sciences divisions. All programs are scheduled from 7-10 p.m. in the McLoughlin Theater and are free to the public. For more info contact Kevin McMurdo at ext. 441.

"Women and Nutrition: To Your Good Health," is a one night presentation focusing on nutrition and special health care at Gardiner Jr. High Oct. 4 from 7-9 p.m. Other topics will include pre-menstrual syndrome, Osteoporosis, stress and weight maintenance. For further info or to register call 657-2446.

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