

The Arts

Abstract class debuts at College

By D. Dietrich
Of The Print

"The term abstract is like love. It has many meanings," said Bill Garnett the instructor of Clackamas Community College's first abstract art class. Titled *Painting—Abstract*, the class is currently composed of eight students with varying degrees of experience but Garnett says that not having a prerequisite isn't a problem.

Garnett said that he believes that it is good to learn the understanding of abstract while learning the skills involved. "At first I was leary," Garnett said about the fact that over half of the students hadn't painted before, but he found that the most important point was that everyone was open to the learning experience. "It isn't a serious intellectual trip," said Garnett, "although it can be," he added.

Garnett stressed the importance of "feeling safe" when working on a project and said the communication between the students was a positive point in the class. He said that he felt that the reason more

students hadn't signed up for the class may have been that many people are intimidated or turned off by the word abstract. Garnett described abstract by saying, "It means the hidden elements that you don't necessarily see." He also said that abstract techniques are equally important in extreme realism style as in extreme abstract style.

Garnett has been teaching art for approximately ten years as well as working on many murals throughout his career. He is currently teaching drawing and painting classes on four campuses in the Portland area, plus working with the zoo on two diaramas and a mural. Garnett's personal interest at the moment is working with the "old masters" what he called "variations on the theme."

Because the class is the first of its kind at the College and there is a range of experience among the students, the format of the class is flexible as yet. "We're feeling it out this term," said Garnett. Garnett also doesn't have real strong grading criteria. "I've never been comfortable with grading



IN THE COLLEGE'S first abstract painting class, Craig Ronshausen listens to idea of instructor Bill Garnett. Students work on about six projects throughout the term.

art," said Garnett. He said his grading tends to lean on attendance and interest. He said that if the focus is too much on the grade, "It makes them aware of the product more than the process," which is not what he's looking for, he said. He called a complete emphasis on the grading of the product an "antithesis to art."

When asked what he thought made certain pieces of art work for the viewer he described it by saying, "The unity is there." He explained that an artist knows when he is finished because the piece is "self-contained" and has a "ratio of harmony." "Why say more if you've said it," he said. But he also said that he doesn't always believe in art making a statement and likened the work of an artist as a trail they leave behind, something like the "ooze of a snail," he joked.

Garnett encouraged anyone interested in painting to sign up for the class and said that it didn't matter whether they had started with the fall term class. The class is scheduled for two classes a week for two hours a piece plus two hours of lab time per week.

Veteran actor plays in long-awaited role

By Shelley Davis
Of The Print

Have you ever heard of John Rausch? Seen him in plays at the Lady Bug Theater or other theaters? If not, here's your chance. Rausch will be appearing in McLoughlin Theater at the College in "The Good Doctor."

Rausch, currently working in video productions, majored in theater at Portland State University and continued and graduated from Marylhurst College. He worked for the Play Box Players Productions for approximately twelve years, appearing at several theaters.

Jack Shields, the College's Theater Director, acted with Rausch at the Lady Bug Theater and various other theaters. Rausch has worked under the direction of Shields at the Coaster Theater in Cannon Beach.

"The main reason I wanted to do it (the play) was to be under his (Shields) direction," Rausch said. "I've wanted to do a show at the College, but never had the opportunity," he added.

When a cancellation in the play's cast occurred, Shields "didn't want to put the large role on an active student." "I asked Rausch if he was interested, and he agreed to do it, although I know it conflicts with his schedule," Shields said. "I am so very pleased to have him work with us," he added.

Even though Rausch has agreed to play the role, he will only be getting funded for the transportation to and from rehearsals and performances. The salary was not mentioned in the agreement, but was actually based on the mutual respect between Shields and Rausch.

"Shields is really one of the best I've worked with,"

Rausch said. "The College is lucky to have him."

At the present time, Rausch is working on two plays, "Snow Queen" at the Coaster Theater as well as "The Good Doctor" at the College

Neil Simon's "The Good Doctor" was written by organizing ten short stories of Anton Chekhov. It was then that it was turned into a play. When Shields was asked about the play, he first described it as "Russia's primary literary figure to America's primary playwrights. I guess you could call it 'Russia meets America on stage'."

The characters for the play are warm and witty. "The play will be very, very funny in places and may be even a poignant tear drawn from the audiences collective eye," Shields said. "I felt very lucky John (Rausch) could do the role."

"It's a conversational piece," Rausch said while thinking about the play. "I enjoy the direct contact with the audience."

"The Good Doctor" opens at 8 p.m. on Nov. 29. It then plays Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 7, 8, and closes with a 2:30 matinee on Dec. 9.

A play that Rausch appeared in recently was "Pirates of Penzance" at the Lake Oswego Community Center. He is currently working at Holiday Park Hospital in the audio-visual department.

Rausch explains of having a goal to do challenging things. "Right now it's challenging to try and learn so much for a large role in such little time."

When thinking of rehearsals, he said, "All of the cast have been so darn friendly at welcoming me and supporting me. I'm really pleased to play a role where I've wanted to for a long, long time."

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