

College cast's acting outshines play's script

By Shelley Davis
Of The Print

With a touch of singing, a lot of laughter, a bit of dancing, and a little drama, Clackamas Community College's production of "The Good Doctor" is quite a variety show.

Playing in the McLoughlin Theatre, the Neil Simon play is highly recommended for its lively performances, but not the playwright.

The 12 one-act plays put together are acted out exceptionally well, considering the playwright that they had to work with. Having no main plot, the script is quite hard to follow and unclear. For instance, at the intermission, the play changes and the audience is looking in to the past.

The narrator, played by Portland actor John Rausch, is at times touching and at other times funny, but always entertaining. From scene to scene, the narrator is always changing positions, pace, and ideas for his stories which are acted out.

In the sixth scene, "Too Late For Happiness," an older man and woman, Eric Steinhauer and Leah Grant, sing throughout the act. As they meet in a park, they both consider meeting for tea while not addressing each other until the end of the act. At this time, the two characters realize their age and loneliness and sing the song, "Too Late For Happiness," which was performed quite well. The serious touch in the scene was well acted.

The play includes quite a bit of laughter, too. For example, in the fifth scene, "Surgery," Father Sexton, played by Marty Yost, goes to the dentist to have the doctor remove his aching tooth.

While the doctor is out, the doctor-to-be, Kuryatin, played by Chris Parrish, has to convince Sexton that he has the same skills as the regular doctor and can remove it just as well.

While going through a whole argument, Kuryatin gets the tooth, but not the roots. Throughout this matter, the actors do a bit of struggling with one another in slow motion.

Playing the parts of Sexton and the 19-year-old boy in the last scene, Yost puts on an exceptional performance. The enthusiasm in his character, the voice changes, and facial expressions are very interesting.

Donna Miller, playing the roles of the wife on Cherdakov in "The Sneeze" and the girl auditioning in "The Audition," also does extremely well. The tone, structure, and overall performance is fantastic. Her ability to change characters rapidly in "The Audition" scene is beautifully done.

Although the theater department hired a costumer, the costumes appear to be quite dull. For a play with such great characters, the costumes do nothing for them.

As the set for each scene is changed, characters frolic around on stage, trying to entertain the audience. At the same time, the audience is trying to be entertained by the narrator. The dancing, meant for a good cause, appears to be tacky and could have used a change of complete elimination. The dancing and the narrator conflict a great deal.

Since the narrator, the main character, is a writer, why isn't the play called, "The Good Writer?" Did he have a Ph.D and not tell the audience? The title, "The Good Doctor" doesn't seem quite appropriate. Unless, of course, in the "Surgery" scene, the doctors have something more to do with it. If that is the case, why would something so unimportant be included in the title?

Although the play is not a good choice, the overall acting is superior. The theatre department at the College should be quite pleased with such a performance.

Class presents three one-acts

Three one-act plays will be presented by the Projects in Theater class today and tomorrow. The three scenes are "If Men Played Cards as Women Do," "Perfect Perly," and "Interview Job."

"If Men Played Cards as Women Do" is about four men who meet together regularly to play cards with their conversation adapted to the author's ideas of being effeminate.

The cast includes Eric Steinhauer, Joshua Robin Collins, Greg Murphy and Cary Sugahiro.

Eric Steinhauer and Marlyce Baird co-star in "Perfect Perly," a scene about "a very immature, spoiled young man," chosen to recolonize on a planet named Zond.

"Interview Job" is directed



In "The Interview," Andrew (alias Eric Steinhauer) lectures Don (alias Greg Murphy) on the dangers of guns.

by Joshua Robin Collins. Greg Murphy will play the role of Donald, Eric Steinhauer as Andrew, and Marlyce Baird will portray Joyce in the ap-

proximately 25 minute scene. The three one-act plays will be shown consecutively December 5, at noon and December 6 at 8 p.m.

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