

Theatre season to open with original play

by M. Leigh Hagen
Staff Writer

Over the past 17 years the theatre department here at CCC has become well known for its high quality in areas such as acting, sets and costumes.

The fall production of "The Halfsoul Gift" by F.T. Morris will be certain to maintain this tradition.

Technical Director David Smith-English has outdone himself. The set and decoration, built with the help of the technical theatre class, is in a word, remarkable.

Costume designer Merrill Lynn Taylor once again helps to put the finishing touches on each character. Although this show only has five characters, her job is no easier but the end result is always the same. Down to the earrings and cufflinks, every character looks complete.

Director of the production and Chairperson of the Theatre Department Jack Shields is the backbone in bringing the show to life for its world premiere.

As for the cast, we are all facing a challenge of our own. Since this is the first time "The

Halfsoul Gift" has been produced, all of the actors face a different challenge.

All of the characters must be created from the imaginations of each actor -- taking chances and hoping that they work.

For me, playing the part of Liz Carder has been like making a cake from scratch with no recipe to speak of. It's a real challenge that in the end, if all goes right, will prove rewarding.

Travis Box, who portrays Cowboy Harris, described the creating of his character as "a little scary. A little intimidating. There is nothing to work from. If you fail, it's your own fault." Box has previously appeared on the CCC stage in "Present Tense" and "This is a Test" both were student-produced one-act plays.

Marcy Anderson who plays Lana Carder said that portraying her character has been "a learning experience like no other." Anderson's first stage experience at CCC was in "The Happiest of the Three" last winter.

Garett Lytle, who plays Phil Carder, said that playing the role of Phil has been "very creatively challenging." Lytle joined a three member cast in the one act fan-



photo by Tara Powers

Rehearsals for the fall production of "The Halfsoul Gift" are going strong. This show will be the world premiere of the play, which was written by a former CCC student.

tasy "Jaberwocky" last fall.

Donna C. Miller, who portrays Rita Harris, is a veteran of the CCC theatre. Her first show here was "The Good Doctor" in 1984. Miller returns occasionally to CCC because "I enjoy the people that work here and I learn with every show."

As opening night draws near, the show is becoming stronger

and is well worth seeing.

The cast of "The Halfsoul Gift" cordially invites you to come and witness a world premiere.

Come and see how the Carder family uncovers a secret that split their family in half 10 years earlier.

Come and discover exactly what the halfsoul gift is and what it does to this family.

Come, relax and let us entertain you for the evening. The theatre wants you!

"The Halfsoul Gift" will be playing Dec. 1-3 and 9 and 10 at 8 p.m. and on Dec. 11 at 2:30 p.m. General admission is \$4, students \$2 and seniors are free with reservation. For reservations call 657-8400 ext. 356.

Dahl returns to hometown, CCC to teach music

by Carce Hussey
Feature/Managing Editor

Rich Dahl is a CCC success story.

Dahl attended classes here from 1981 to 1983. He has returned this year, but not as a student. This year he's a teacher. He co-directs the Jazz Band with Leroy Anderson and is director of the Concert Band.

Although Dahl didn't graduate from CCC, he did go on to graduate from the University of Oregon with a Bachelor of Music degree. He also went to the Texas Christian University on a Jazz Assistantship and graduated from there with a Master of Music Education degree last May.

Dahl credits his professionalism and success to two of his CCC instructors: Gary Nelson and Leroy Anderson.

"I first got serious (about music) when I started going here," he explained, "before that I was just a person who owned a horn." He said he felt that Nelson and Anderson were good teachers because, "they haven't just taught, they also have experience in the field."

According to Dahl, Nelson and Anderson also helped him find work in the field. "I started to work professionally in the Portland area, and through that I gained experience and knowledge about what being a musician is all about," he said.

Dahl plays a free-lance trombonist and also plays baritone horn in the Oregon Symphonic Band.

Dahl said that he "used to be narrow minded about music." But now he has "learned to appreciate

all kinds of music," and enjoys everything from "James Taylor to classical."

When asked how it felt to be a teacher instead of a student, Dahl replied, "I feel like I'm in a transition period. I'm still getting over some of the attitudes I had as a student."

However, Dahl remarked, "I really enjoy teaching. I use humor a lot. I think it makes the students feel more relaxed."

He also views teaching as "a way of expanding my own knowledge. I'm doing what I feel is important. I'm doing what I want to do."

Dahl commented that he had done some musical arranging but hasn't had the time to do any composing.

Dahl explained that he is "enthusiastic about music!"

Music does something special for him. "Music for me is not just an occupation, it's a way of



photo by Jillian Porter

Rich Dahl (r) offer assistance to drummer Tim Erickson (l).

learning about myself."

One upcoming event that Dahl will be participating in is the Jazz Festival to be held Mar. 10 and 11 in the Randall Hall Gym. It is an event where middle

and high school bands compete. Dahl will be the guest artist on Mar. 10 and the Jazz Band will be playing on the Mar. 11.

According to Dahl this event is "going to be lots of fun!"

Fiction authors share expertise

by Michael L. Walker
Copy Editor

Writing a novel might seem to be an impossibility to most people. But, it might be easier than it seems when you have actual authors discussing how it's done.

Last Tuesday (Nov. 15) at 7 p.m., in the Community Center, several well-known authors made an appearance for the Friends of the Library's "Authors' Night."

The panel of authors was composed of science fiction writer Scott Wheeler, mystery novelist Conrad Haynes, and romance

writers Susan Crose and Nancy Bush.

The theme of the night was "genre" fiction. That is, popular fiction that is categorized like romance or science fiction.

The action started when Jim Meiser, president of the Friends of the Library, asked each of the authors to tell how they started writing.

Nancy Bush, 35, and Susan Crose, 38, both started writing romance stories as a lark in 1981. They described reading an article in Time magazine which told

about how much money romance novels were making.

They both felt that, "we can do that too." So, they wrote their first novel together. After some initial editing and getting "positive feedback" the book was published.

Scott Wheeler, 51, of Oregon City whose novel *Matters of Form* has been out for about a year, started writing as a hobby three years ago. He said a key to writing is to be a "voracious reader," and to "rewrite, rewrite, rewrite!" see page 4

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