

Clackamas plays 'an adventure' to organize

by Carce Hussey
Feature/Managing Editor

Ever wonder how the plays here are put together?

The process of deciding what play to do differs in the fall from winter and spring terms.

"Fall term we don't know how this thing's going to go. Jack (Shields, chairperson for the communication and theatre arts department) chooses three or four or five different plays. One may be a cast of fifteen. One may be a cast of four. One may be lots of men, few women or the reverse. We try to cover all the bases," explained Barbara Bragg, communications and theatre arts department secretary.

The next step is to hold an interest meeting on the first day of school. The people who attend the meeting decide which play they want to do, based on the size of the group.

"You never know what's going to happen. We're always really surprised."

"Jack wants to accommodate as many people as want to get on stage," stated Bragg.

The type of play is also taken into consideration. "We don't want to do three costume dramas or comedies or mysteries. We may do a British play one term, an amusing play the next," Bragg said. "We want to make the season varied to give the people as many chances as possible to play different types of characters."

In the fall, once the play is decided upon, auditions are held and cast that same week. There is a read-through the following Monday.

Winter and spring terms, auditions are held a month in advance. "This gives the people a

chance to get acquainted with their characters before the term starts," stated Bragg. After the cast is chosen, rehearsal begins the first day of the term.

The costumer goes through the script and then checks out the basement to see if any of the costumes are already available. "She really understands what the characters ought to look like," expressed Bragg.

Construction of the set also begins to take place. This is done by the technical director with the help of other people who are interested in the process.

Every other year a Fundamentals of Technical Theatre class is offered. The class begins with sketches fall term and by spring term they are independently designing sets. The best parts of those designs are then used for the set of the spring term play.

The publicity angle begins to take shape. Nancy Baker, college news coordinator, is given the dates for the play. Kevin Forney publications coordinator, who was given a script before rehearsals started, begins to design the posters for the show. The poster for *Bedroom Farce* was designed by Lenda Amstutz. Forney designed the fall and winter term play posters.

In addition to the posters, mailers, programs and tickets have to be produced. There is a mailing list of about 600 people that has to be taken care of. Flyers are sent out. Buttons or t-shirts are made.

In the midst of all this, prop gathering begins. The props not on hand have to be borrowed from other people.

The light designer goes to work and the sound designer begins choosing music and sound effects. "A lot of the effects are done live," stated Bragg. "Some are done on an electronic keyboard."

The makeup has to be designed. Some plays require special makeup effects. In *The*



photo by Jillian Porter

The building of the set is just one of the many processes that goes into putting a play together.

Vampyre the last scene required that one of the characters carry the vampire's decapitated head on to the stage. Bob Ems, who played the title role had to go and have a cast made of his head for this visual effect.

"Each play is an adventure. It's brand new every time," Bragg said. One recent adventure happened when the cast and crew of *The Vampyre* travelled to the Cannon Beach Coaster Theater. During the Tuesday evening rehearsal disaster struck.

Lady Harwood was supposed to faint toward center stage, but she accidentally fainted into the metal leg of a table," related Bragg.

The actress was rushed to the hospital where she was ordered to lay flat on her back for three days. Unfortunately there were performances scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The costumer was given a script on Wednesday morning and rehearsed all day Wednesday. She went on and acted in the Thursday and Friday performances without a script. "It was thrilling," expressed Bragg.

For the most part, the schedule stays the same. The Sunday before the play opens, the cast and crew spend anywhere from 10-12 hours running through the play.

"We bring all the elements

together. This is the first time that the actors perform with all the lights, sound effects and music," explained Bragg. Dress rehearsal is held on Monday and Wednesday and opening night is Thursday.

"You never know what's going to happen. We're always really surprised," stated Bragg. Non-theatre majors are encouraged to try out for the plays.

"It's a great area to be in," related Bragg. But she also jokingly warns "anybody that wants to come along with us, watch out, you might get hooked. It's a real family feeling, a team effort."

The Clackamas Community College Writers Club is sponsoring a Poetry/Fiction Contest. Submit your best or worst and take a chance. Entries will be judged by staff and administration.

Rules: Poetry entries must be under 500 words. Fiction entries must be under 1500 words. Entries must be submitted in an envelope with the below entry blank to Alan Widerburg. Deadline for entries is May 8 with no exceptions. Entries must be typed, double-spaced and must not have name on any page, but have social security number in top, right corner of each page. Cash and/or certificate prizes will be awarded May 24.

WRITERS CLUB POETRY/FICTION CONTEST

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: _____
 NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 TITLE: _____
 CATEGORY: _____

Renaissance comes to life in Library Friends' program

The Renaissance Age will come alive again in a program presented by the Friends of the Library.

The two hour presentation will include art, poetry, music, drama and dance

"Last year we did a very successful English Romantic Period night. Since it was such a success we thought we would do it again from another period in time," explained Library Director Valerie McQuaid.

This year's program has been expanded to add the drama and dance.

Leland John, art instructor, will be presenting art part of the program. He will be followed by

Allen Widerberg, English instructor who will read sonnets. Two performers in costume will perform the musical part of the program. A scene from the "Taming of the Shrew" will be presented by students from the drama department. The final part of the show is a group called the Dance of the Angels who will perform country dances from the Renaissance period.

The Renaissance Evening will be held on Wednesday May 10 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the McLoughlin Theatre at Clackamas Community College. Free refreshments will be served during the intermission.

