



Photo by Owen Carey Photography

'Coyote Ugly' tickles the sinister

by Denise Myers
Contributing Writer

"God is a butt pincher!" according to Andreas Pewsey. The Pewsey family doesn't have much to talk about out there in the middle of the Arizona desert.

Director Alana Beth Lipp gives us a peek at the warped lifestyle of the Pewsey family in "Coyote Ugly," one of the productions in the Oregon One-Act Play Festival.

The Pewsey story begins one hot day with an argument between

Andreas, the cranky mother, and her physically deformed daughter, Scarlett. The two argue over who will answer the phone. Eventually Scarlett screams obscenities into the phone and slams it down.

Scarlett's deformities go beyond the physical. She has a nasty habit of trapping rabbits and keeping their dead bodies in her room. She also fancies her worthless, drunken father, Red.

Incestuous tendencies run

rampant in the family. During a visit from Dowd, the long-lost Pewsey son, Scarlett has her eye on another conquest. This time it's Dowd.

Throughout the play the Pewsey household generates weird and disturbing situations. Scarlett decides to get rid of her competition, Dowd's fair-haired innocent bride. She contrives a game that leaves Penny alone, bound and blindfolded in the desert. Penny crawls her way

back, her fair white skin bubbling from the heat of the sun.

"Coyote Ugly" is a black comedy that shocks the prim and proper part of the mind with the horrible things this family does to each other, and tickles the sinister part with the bizarre lifestyle of this family. The Oregon One-Act Festival continues with this and a companion piece, "A Poster of the Cosmos" through February 23 at the Firehouse Theatre.

Editor's note:

The theatre department has allowed us to print these reviews as a service to the community.

Get 'Wrapped up in the intensity'

by Christina Vlassis
Contributing Writer

"Aaahhh!" cried Fleance, as he ran from the killers.

He and his father, Banquo, had been strolling and talking when suddenly the sky went black and all that could be seen was light flashing from the weapon that smashed Banquo's head.

This scene is just one example of the mysterious evil found in William Shakespeare's "Macbeth," performed by the Tygre's Heart Shakespeare Company.

From the first moment the gate opened, this was not to be just another play. The actors first appeared in featureless black clothing, but opened a trunk in the center of the stage, brought out and

donned an article important to their character.

Macbeth was ornamented with gold rings linked together, representing his armor. Many of the other men wore silver rings. The three witches brought out a set of black lead shackles, and the soldiers displayed the battle armor of the period.

It is said that the witches of Elizabethan England did not appreciate the way they were represented in Macbeth. Tygre's Heart has done a terribly beautiful job creating the ugly hags. Their incantations and possessions are so real as to sent chills to the spine.

Macbeth is played by Tracy Conklin, who brings a new strength of desire and ambition to the role.

Lady Macbeth, played by D. Roberts, was vivid in her scene where she attempts to cover the murders. The confession scene is heart-breaking. It is torturous to watch her abuse herself because of her deeds.

The complete production was fascinating to watch and, even though I knew the plot, I was wrapped up in the intensity of the characters' next move and how they would perform it.

Macbeth opened February 7 and will run through March at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts Winningstad Theatre on Broadway in Portland. This production was directed by Patrick Page. The makeup designer is Diane Trapp, who teaches here at CCC.

Wilson paints 'A Poster of the Cosmos'

by Justin Rytel
Contributing Writer

"I don't look like the kinna guy'd do somethin' like dat? What does dat kinna guy who'd do somethin' like dat look like to a cop, huh?"

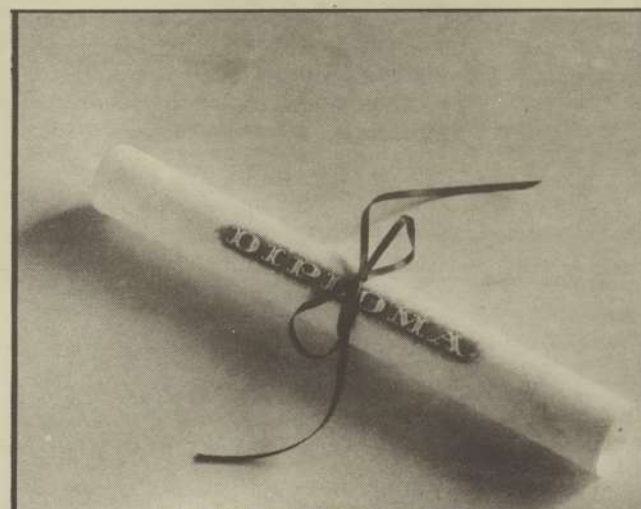
So says Tom in "A Poster of the Cosmos," Lanford Wilson's play about a man charged with the murder of his gay lover.

"I don't look like the kinna guy'd do somethin' like dat? What does dat kinna guy who'd do somethin' like dat look like to a cop, huh?"

Character actor Steven Clark Pachosa succeeds in stunning his audience with this portrayal just as he did last fall as the "inventor" of the HIV virus in "Mixed Blood." Coincidentally, this current one-man show also has an AIDS theme.

The play takes place in a Manhattan police station where Tom sits at a desk in front of a microphone and tells of his incredible ordeal. Tom graphically talks about drugs, his sex life with Johnny and the final bloody event that causes his arrest.

Some audience members may be uncomfortable with this type of theatre, but for the open-minded in search of a superb performance, see "A Poster of the Cosmos." It is playing, along with "Coyote Ugly," in the Oregon One-Act Festival through February 23 at the Firehouse Theatre, 1436 Montgomery, Portland.



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