

Merril Lynn Taylor guest directs at Clackamas Drama department performs high action melodrama

by Nolan Kidwell
Staff Writer

The Clackamas drama department will be presenting an action packed production of Dion Boucicault's play The Colleen Bawn, or The Brides of Garryowen in the campus theater Feb. 28, Mar. 1, 2, 8 and 9 at 8 p.m. with a dinner theater performance on Mar. 10.

"Every scene is high action," said Merrill Lynn Taylor, the play's director. "The play includes drowning, sword fights, gun shots, dancing and pub singing."

Boucicault's play is set in 1860 throughout the Irish countryside which Taylor describes as "whimsical," with scenery ranging from peasant cottages to fine castles. "Technically, it is a real beast," she added. She finds the sets to be very difficult but feels that they lend the needed effects. Taylor also feels that the costuming, which was done by Margaret Hetherington, is "beautiful."

The play is an authentic melodrama. Taylor finds this unique because some melodramatic acting has been satirized so much. "We're not camping it up," she said. "It's sincere domestic drama and a happy resolution saves it from being tragic."

The plot centers on a young aristocratic young man who secretly marries a peasant girl, but is forced to become engaged to another girl of substance to save his mother's estate. "The question is, who will be the bride," according to Taylor.

The cast is constructed of thirteen actors. According to Taylor, this is a good play for students because it deals with characters who are close to their age.



Photo by Lane Scheideman

Dennis Corwin Jr. as Danny Mann and Christina Vlassis as Maisie act out their parts for the upcoming production of The Colleen Bawn or The Brides of Garryowen. Performances will be Feb. 28 and March 1, 2, 8 and 9 at 8 p.m. with dinner theatre March 10.

"It's primarily a young group of actors," she said.

General admission will be \$6 and \$3 for students. Senior citizens are free with reservations. The dinner theaters will be \$13.50 per person. Tickets for the dinner theater will be available through Mar. 1; more information is available at the 657-6958 ext. 441. The production is also scheduled for Mar. 21, 22 and 23 at the Coaster Theater in Cannon beach with an admission of \$10.

The dinner theater features an Irish menu which will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the play will begin around 8 p.m. according to Deb-

bie Baker the dinner theater's coordinator.

Some of the creative dishes featured in the dinner are Paddy

O'Brian's Ham, Traditional Leprechaun Potatoes, Irish Soda Bread, and Emerald Spinach Salad. The food was donated by Service

America Corporation, and is to be prepared by Professional Food Service Management.

Speech team president speaks his mind

Jennifer Lessard
Staff Writer

Todd Alexander, 25, is president of the speech team and has won several awards in speech competitions throughout the state.

Alexander took first place in Editorial Commentary and second in Impromptu. He also took a third place trophy in a debate concerning excessive power in law enforcement agencies.

His editorial commentary was on the sensationalism in T.V. journalism.

He feels the reason he did so well was because he was prepared. According to Alexander, "When I do my preparations, I do very well."

Alexander got involved in the speech team when he enrolled in the persuasive speaking class last year. He enjoyed the classes and was recruited for the speech team by his instructor Frank Harlow, the speech team advisor.

Alexander is majoring in speech communications and business administration with an emphasis on international communications.

Alexander says that in ten years he would like to be in business communications using his skills in the international spectrum, particularly in Japan.

Alexander is enthused about how well the speech team has done. They have competed against other four year schools and have competed well, said Alexander.

Alexander has been on the honor roll every term and is presently involved as president of BSM. He helps head the Bible Studies and Joy Explosions on campus.

"I think speech is a great example of life, if you go into it allowing yourself to make a mistake. You need to allow yourself the freedom to make a mistake and you will never fail."



Photo by Lane Scheideman

Todd Alexander, speech team president, speaks out about his real life. He allows himself the freedom to learn from his mistakes and it helps him not to fail.



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