

FEATURES

CCC actor Patrick Sterling returns after working abroad

by Tina Guinn
Editor-in-Chief

From performing in theater productions at CCC to playing a knight in Las Vegas to creating magic as a puppeteer in Africa, Patrick Sterling has tasted a little of everything, including zebra.

Sterling, who attended school here from 1982-84, has traveled the world, leaving his theatrical mark on many places along the way.

While taking classes at CCC, Sterling performed in three shows: "The Best Man," by Gordoal; "Appointment with Death," by Agatha Christie; and "A Life in the Theater."

After graduating from CCC in 1984, Sterling went to Southern Utah University on an acting scholarship, where he participated in the Utah Shakespearean Festival, as well as several theater productions.

"Utah was a big change. They promoted their theater department well," Sterling said.

When Sterling finished at Southern Utah, he came back to the area, and auditioned and was cast in "Night of the Iguana," written by Tennessee Williams, which brought him back to CCC. However, "Night of the Iguana" was his last show before he left for entertainer life in Las Vegas.

When Sterling landed in Las Vegas, he became an entertainer at the Excalibur Hotel, where he played a medieval knight, juggled and was part of a comedy trio. It was there that he got his start in Neon Magic puppetry.

Sterling said fluorescent lighting and special paints were used to highlight the puppets.

The trick was, however, that you couldn't see the puppeteers. That's the secret part, how the puppets hid themselves, and Sterling prefers to keep it that way, to avoid ruining the "magic."

"It was new and interesting and it carried me to South Africa," Sterling said.

During the two years he was an entertainer in Vegas, he hooked up with his producer and friend, Errol Mannof from S. Africa.

Mannof persuaded Sterling to move to Sun City, S. Africa with two other friends to take their Neon Magic puppet show on the road, so to speak.

"Errol invited me to S. Africa and it was probably one of the best experiences I've ever had," Sterling said.

So Sterling packed up and left the Excalibur and the desert



Photo by Josh Kehler

Patrick Sterling, who will play a logger in the spring term play, "Betty the Yeti," has worked as an entertainer in Las Vegas, and as a puppeteer in South Africa.

of Las Vegas to relocate in the jungle of Sun City, just a few hours northwest of Johannesburg.

"It was enormously beautiful. From the fauna to the flora, it was spectacular," Sterling said.

Sterling's new puppet act was in the middle of a two-hour-long dance production, what he called an "extravaganza."

His routine lasted 10 minutes.

"It was challenging, but it was the simplest way to make money. It was not acting, but it was still performing and I loved it," Sterling said.

Not only did Sterling get a taste of the performer's life while in S. Africa, but he was able to nibble on the culture and some of the exotic foods S. Africa had to offer as well.

It was here that Sterling

tasted zebra, among other foods foreign to an American's taste buds. And it was zebra, he said, that he like the best.

Despite his love for entertaining, Sterling was made to return to the United States two days before elections took place in S. Africa.

"Two days before the elections, they flew all the nationals home," he said, for safety purposes. Thus, after 15 months, Sterling's contract ended and he came home.

Though Sterling had to leave S. Africa for safety, he remembers fondly the time he spent there.

"I was well accepted by everyone I met. They were wonderful, sincere and they really like Americans. They wanted to be westernized.

"There was this kind of unfounded respect. I made lots of friends. It was amazing how much people want to be like Americans," Sterling said.

"Ultimately, it was a great experience, but it was time to come home. I missed my family and friends, and as corny as it sounds, I missed the United States.

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Celebrate culture with dancing, food, exhibits in May ethnic festival

by Brendon Neal
Staff Writer

Have you ever wondered about other cultures but haven't had time to do any research or join a class?

On May 10, you can join fellow students in enjoying the food and entertainment at the Celebration International.

The celebration is a one-day ethnic festival that includes food, dancing and a variety of exhibits.

The celebration has been occurring in the quadrangle since 1978.

Carlotta Holley, who is now the head of the Foreign Language department and a Spanish

teacher, started the festival when she began teaching at Clackamas.

Holley explains that when the International Committee at Clackamas was formed several years ago, it decided to change the name of the event which was previously known as Outdoor Cafe.

The last two years the event has been called International Month, and different cultures have been featured each week.

However, this year, because of budget problems the event was made into a one-day festival: Celebration International.

The celebration is mainly put on by Clackamas students. They cook the food and do most of the dances and other activities.

The celebration teaches participants about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries, Asia, France and Germany.

It starts at 11 a.m. and gets over at about 2 p.m.

The program will start off with the Alpine Echoes Band,

including authentic costumes to set the tone.

Members of the Tai Chi Club, along with some of the staff will put on a demonstration of the ancient Chinese exercise known as Tai Chi.

From noon to 12:30 p.m. and from 1:30 to 2 p.m. there will be a variety of Spanish activities including poetry readings, skits, singing and dances which will be put on by the Clackamas students.

Dancers from Nicaragua and a guitarist from Mexico

studying here will perform. There will also be skits put on by North Clackamas Christian School

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Spanish students.

After the Spanish students' first performance, the Alpine Echo Band will return, along with dancers for a repeat performance that will go on from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

There will then be a performance by Natya Dancers.

They are traditional East Indian Dancers and will be accompanied by traditional music from the same area.

The celebration will end with the breaking of a pinata.

The celebration isn't just for Clackamas students.

Students from other colleges, high schools, and in the past some grade schools will join Clackamas students in the festivities.

Celebration International bundles up a lot of information about foreign cultures into a short three-hour event.

It's a great way for people to learn about other countries without having to spend a lot of time and money traveling or taking classes.

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