

How to make a first impression last forever

DENNIS RONDEAU
Contributing Writer

Well, it's that time of the year again. Valentine's Day is upon us. This can be one of the most anticipated days of the year, and if you've got a good date it can certainly be one of the most exciting. That's why it's one of my favorite holidays.

Unfortunately, for some of us, Valentine's Day can also be very lonely and sad if you don't have that special someone to share it with.

Quite frankly, if you're one of those dateless souls come V-Day, "it must suck to be you." Now some might say that was a heartless comment, but to show my compassion I have decided to share some amazing tips on finding that Mr. or Ms. Right. We all know that the most important part of it all is the first impression. That is why you have got to have a good variety of pick-up lines.

Here is a list of pick-up lines that I have assembled. I spent a night on the town to test them out:

1. "My name isn't Elmo, but you can tickle me any time you want."

Result: She giggled and told me how creative I was. We exchanged phone numbers and I was feeling confident and ready to make my next kill.

2. "Hi, I'm President Clinton."

Result: She smiled, looked me over with out a word and that's when her very big and jealous looking boyfriend showed up. And that's when I ran. Hey, I'm a lover, not a fighter.

3. "Is your name Pepsi? 'Cause I gotta have it."

Result: "You gotta be kidding, right? Dork." So I was on to the next victim.

4. "Are those space pants you're wearing? 'Cause your butt is out of this world!"

Result: She called me several unpleasant names and slapped me. This one wasn't going to work.

5. "Do you believe in love at first sight, or do I have to walk by again?"

Result: Score! She told me I was sweet, gave me a kiss and I'm seeing her next weekend.

6. "Am I dead, Angel? 'Cause I must be in heaven."

Result: Two in a row. When you're hot, you're hot, and I'm hot.

7. "You must be Jamaican, 'cause you're Jamaican me crazy."

Result: "Jamaican this," she said, flipping me off. Time to revert to my secret weapon.

8. "I only have three months to live."

Result: Bingo! She invited me over to her place for a "drink", but I had to take a rain check. I was on a mission. Dozens of readers needed this information.

9. "What's that in your eye? Must be a twinkle."

Result: Another catch, but nowhere near my limit.

10. "(French accent) Your eyes are blue, like the ocean, and I am lost at sea."

Result: She asked me if I was really French. I came back with "I'll be whatever you want me to be." She told me to be a man and get the hell away from her.

11. "Excuse me, but I think I dropped something. My jaw."

Result: "Here," she said, "Let me help you with that," and she hit me with an overhand to the jaw.

12. "Bond, James Bond." Result: "Lost, get Lost."

13. "Hey baby, wanna make 50 bucks?"

Result: "No, but I want to puke." That one hurt.

14. "You're the reason men fall in love."

Result: We danced for a little while and she was my favorite of the night. I wanted to stay with her, but us players have to move on.

15. "Hey! You were great on Baywatch last night."

Result: She told me to get a life and asked me if I was on Animal Planet last night.

Although I had my share of rejections, I still call the night a success. I met some great girls and I definitely see romance in my future. I learned that some lines work with women and some...just don't. You never know though until you test them out.

Valentine's dates around Portland

ALEX MAHAN
Co-A&E Editor

Another February 14, another Valentine's Day. A day of love, romance, and sometimes indecision in the minds of couples who cannot seem to think of anything original and romantic to do. Well, the Portland area has more than a few options for love-smitten partners. There are cruises, restaurants, mountains, music, and, of course, movies.

The many dining establishments in the area provide fine cuisine for you and a date. Atwaters, located at the top of the big pink U.S. Bancorp tower downtown, is one of the more expensive, but the atmosphere and terrific view make up for the cost. Others, such as Eddie May's, offer Valentines Day "Murder Mystery" dinners which promise "Side-Splitting Comedy, Mayhem, and Mystery!" Perhaps not the choice for many Valentine dates, but

some might find it morbidly amusing. Sylvia's Class Act Dinner Theatre also offers a special Valentine's Day performance. "Olympus on my Mind" starts at 11:30 a.m. and costs \$28.95 per person for the lunch matinee.

Another idea, which might set you back a few dollars, is a Valentines Day cruise on one of the sternwheeler ships on the Willamette River. The Cascade Sternwheelers offer a dinner buffet cruise for \$44.95 a person and a dance party cruise for \$25.95 a person. Call 223-3928 for information on these two cruises.

Mt. Hood and the ski areas that surround it are also good places to find fun yet romantic activities for the 14th. Snowboarding, skiing, or just messing around in the snow can all be followed up by an evening and dinner at Timberline Lodge or other restaurants in the Hood area.

Many orchestras and bands play special Valentine shows. The Oregon Symphony will perform at the Arlene

Schnitzer Concert Hall, and play themes from film scores such as *Amistad* and *The Mambo Kings*. The number to call for information and tickets to this show is 790-ARTS.

Couples also enjoy the cinema on Valentine's Day. *Titanic* is definitely an appropriate movie for the occasion, but perhaps there are other prospects. For instance, Adam Sandler's new movie *The Wedding Singer* might be a humorous interlude to an otherwise emotionally serious day. And *The Apostle* has also been given rave reviews by the Oregonian as a "deeply powerful movie about spiritual passion."

These are just a few of the hundreds of things to do in Portland on Valentine's Day. But another option might be just to stay home. You never know, you and your date might get hit by a UPS truck and never see another Valentines Day again. So please, stay safe during February 14. Avoid alcohol, drugs, and most of all, promiscuous sex.

Authors' night a smashing success

JEREMY STALLWOOD
Staff Writer

"We have three of the best playwrights in the Northwest here with us tonight," English Instructor Allen Widerburg said as he opened last Wednesday's successful and entertaining Authors' Night. Sue Mach, Charles Deemer and Dmae Roberts are playwrights with a long list of successes, and an enthusiastic crowd gathered in the McLoughlin Theater to hear them read from their plays.

The evening started out with Charles Deemer, who introduced his two-character play accompanied by actors Joseph Derting and Sydne McKennie. The play, described by Deemer as a "dark romance," takes place at a table in a bar. The couple, Deirdre and Quinn, are romantically involved, having met at the bar. Deirdre, a very emotional and unstable young woman, receives a birthday present from Quinn, who is very romantic. The dialogue exchanged between the two is very casual and realistic. During emotional and sensitive moments the audience was so silent and still in anticipation it could be felt in the air. Deemer shouted "Blackout" at the end of the scene and the audience applauded in appreciation. Deemer and the actors emotionally moved the crowd.

Roberts, an Amerasian, shared scenes from several different plays. Her explanation of why she writes is to "express identity." Using many mother-daughter themes, her play "Forbidden Dreams" is about a young Asian daughter who wishes to be a dancer for a club in San Francisco. In the scene presented by actresses Lauren Meyer and Elaine Low, a tra-



Dmae Roberts, Alan Widerburg and Charles Deemer elaborate.

ditional Asian mother finds her daughter about to go on stage and tries to stop her. The mother's is hurt by her daughter's career choice, and, to no avail, the daughter tries to explain her dream in life. The same actresses did "The Mill Poem" as a duet. It was read very quickly and depicted the hectic routine of a typical mill worker. And "Lady Buddha," an extremely beautiful poem read by Low, describes how one might see the goddess. The poem, the way Low read it, was like a ride through time and space, telling a story with a beautiful message: "Emptiness is a feeling if you let it fill you."

Finally, with much energy, Sue Mach took the stage with her play "Angle of View." Mach's experience working as a productions assistant for the television show "Cops" inspired the play and the role she played in the scene was a character named Barbara. Barbara's character, said Mach, was taken from a real woman whose every headache in life is a demanding crisis, and, as a result, many laughs were emitted from the crowd during the scene. Another

play, based on a true story regarding a cult, was very "dark" in language. Mach explained that many times stories we get from real life can be more bizarre than fiction. And the last was a ten-minute, one-act play which took place in a Starbucks coffee shop. The play was a comedy between two characters, depicted by O'Brien and actress Susannah Mars, who were studying for an STD test. A lot of medical terminology was impressively used and it was evident that Mach had done some research into the subject. The girl's study partner had made "an offer" prior to the stage story and the reactions between the two were extremely hilarious: "Infections, infections!"

Afterward, the audience was invited to ask questions. A question was asked about Portland, and Mach said that in all the areas she had written, Portland offered the most encouraging opportunities of anywhere she had been. Portland, it was concluded, was the most art-appreciative city any of these playwrights had experienced.

A&E events around the area

The Clackamas Theater Department will be presenting *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* as its winter production. The play will be performed at 8 p.m., Feb. 26, 27, 28 and March 6 and 7. A matinee will be held at 2:30 p.m., March 8. All performances are at the McLoughlin Hall Theatre. Tickets a \$6 for general admission, \$3 for students and free to people 62 years and older who call and make reservations in advance. Call 657-6958, ext. 2356 for more information or reservations.

Ska-core band *Five Iron Frenzy* will be playing this Friday the 13th at Rolling Hills Community Church with Wilsonville band *Zak Attack* and another ska band, *The W's*. *Five Iron Frenzy* combines positive lyrics with powerful horns and vocals, and put on a great live performance. Tickets go on sale at 6:30 p.m., doors open at 7:00. Be there or be square!