



It was the butler, in the study, with the shovel

Last week some members of the *Print* staff were given the opportunity to see The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery, produced and directed by Edward James, at Sylvia's Class Act Dinner Theatre. We each wrote our own review on the play.

Amanda Gosser

When first looking at the program I didn't think that I would like the play very much, but after the first 10 minutes I was into it and didn't want intermission to come. The show was great. I found myself laughing through the whole thing. The play had a great way of bringing the audience into the play instead of just watching the play as an outsider. There are things such as: tennis balls thrown into the audience, audience spotlight and even a mystery quiz with a winner and a prize. This play had a way of making you laugh at stupid things said and done (on purpose of course), and kept you wondering "who dunnit" it and what was going to come next. This was the first comic farce that I had seen and I hope to see some more.

Liesl Muggli

When I walked into the dining hall I was surprised to see the stage all decorated in a 1920s style. I read through the program and learned I was about to witness a "murder mystery play." As the play started so did my anticipation; Who could be the murderer? The vivid characters held my attention throughout the two hours. The play was hilarious. I loved how the audience was repeatedly included in the show. The fashion show at intermission was an added bonus!

Maggie Jirasek

First of all, I have to say that I'm not a big fan of plays. Well, I have to admit that I haven't attended a lot of plays either, so that's probably why, but the ones I have seen seemed to be more boring than interesting.

This particular comedy mystery play, however, I enjoyed. The way the audience was included in the play and the characters made me really laugh, I almost choked on my water.

The 1920's decoration was very

well done and added the right touches to the play. A mystery quiz was given, and the winner received a nice little gift. I'm not going to tell what it was, though. You have to go and find out yourself!

Jason Lingel

I went into the restaurant with little to no expectations, I had never been to a dinner play before and wasn't sure how it would work. I found out after arriving that if you wanted dinner you had to show up by 6 p.m. Being close to 8 p.m. and show time, dinner was not an option. I had heard that it was a murder mystery and this was also a first for me. I had always wanted to see an actual murder mystery play.

At our table we were given a card with questions on it, which I assumed were to help figure out who the killer was and maybe for some contest. When the show started I found out that it was not actually a murder mystery, it was about an actor's guild, which, quite frankly, wasn't very good. The head guild master even warned that for some reason they were cursed and things tended to go wrong. It was this fictional guild that was putting on the murder mystery.

As they started the mock play, things happened just as the lady had said, terribly badly. From the obviousness of the killer, things being misplaced or lost on stage and actors forgetting lines and cues, the play was filled with mistakes that kept the audience rolling on the floor laughing. At intermission, they had a quiz on the little paper, which was harder than at first glance. Before the play started up again, they chose a winner from the quiz and gave a very humorous, but fitting, prize.

The play was great from the setup to the last minute twist ending. This is a must see for comedy fans.

The murder mystery will be playing through Nov. 18. Sylvia's is located at 5115 NE Sandy Blvd, in Portland. Price is \$31.95 per person and includes the play and choice of two gourmet Italian entrees. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 503-288-6828 or e-mailing Sylvia's at sylviasrst@aol.com.

H O R O S C O P E S

Aries (Mar 21-Apr 19):

Life is looking like a bad daytime drama. So your summer ended on a sour note. This week could be a new beginning if you keep opening doors. So stop starring in your own Soap. You will get a better response if you drop the drama. This week your show is canceled.

Taurus (Apr 20-May 20):

You have been like a piece of string cheese all summer. You have let people pull off pieces of you. Pretty soon there is going to be none of you left. This is all coming to an end. Take what is left of your self and be a piece of cheese no longer. You are more than cheese.

Gemini (May 21-June 20):

If you wanted variety, maybe you should have spent all of your money on three pairs of shoes instead of one very expensive pair. Always wanting more, well then your task is to think ahead. The shoes are only one symptom of your problem. This week look toward the long term effects.

Cancer (June 21-July 22):

A birthday kicked off your summer, and with this birthday you became another year older and wiser. This summer you made better choices than the last. Keep the wisdom flowing. This week you will come across a person who could interfere with your good judgement. Remember to keep your composure and you will continue the mellow pace that the summer brought.

Leo (July 23-Aug 22):

Just when you thought your chances were over, Heads up—you are about to receive a surprise. The unexpected will occur this week. I know that you have a tendency to be very cautious, but don't worry—it sounds too good to be true but it's not.

Virgo (Aug 23-Sept 22):

Hard work and little play—well worth it though. This work will be much like making a feast. There is a lot of preparation but when you are through, there is plenty of good food and people will be grateful that you spent all of that time in the kitchen. Your task may not be preparing a feast but you will reap all of the same gratitude in the end.

Libra (Sept 23-Oct 22):

Is karma working overtime on you? Bad choices and treatment of people will come back to haunt you, but I guess that you are finding that out. The lesson of your week is to treat people as you wish to be treated. I know that you are always trying to find balance Libra, but sometimes you tip over your own scale.

Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21):

Your life has really had its ups and downs in the past month. This week you will begin to bounce back. A traumatic incident gives you a new perspective on what is important. For Scorps with a birthday this week, you are truly given a new beginning and a new chapter in your life. A few of the characters that were in the last chapter of your book have left your novel forever, but it makes for a happier ending.

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21):

If you leave that look on your face you could save money on a Halloween mask. A person should not look so serious all of the time. Go ahead—loosen up and smile a little. It will be worth it, even if you do have to splurge a little and spend some extra money on a Halloween mask.

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 19):

Remember when you wanted to buy that drum set when you were younger and your parents said no because drums are too loud? Well guess what? You are old enough now that you make your own choices. You could probably have drums now if you still want them. But remember, just because you are old enough to make your own choices doesn't mean that the drums aren't still loud.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18):

Sometimes macaroni and cheese is better than a New York Steak. It doesn't mean that you have bad taste or that you are cheap, but that sometimes you are just in the mood for food out of a box. Don't judge yourself or let anyone else judge you on eating habits or anything else. Maybe you just have different tastes than other people.

Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20):

Last year I noticed you being the fanciest wallflower in the room. Well this year that is obviously not the issue at all. You are still a damn fancy flower but you are not in the background at all. Now that you have taken that step forward, enjoy that attention. You will meet a lot of new people in your new location.

BY MANDY GOOD

"Almost Famous" is nostalgic and funny

CORINNE RUPP

Staff Writer

My favorite way to see a movie is to know as little as possible about the plot. Maybe I'll choose it because I like the actors, the director, or the screenwriter. Maybe my friends really want to go see it. In the case of "Almost Famous," it happened to be playing at the right time of day. Sometimes with this method of film watching I end up seeing some really awful cinema, but I was really surprised with Cameron Crowe's most recent work.

"Almost Famous," set in 1973, tells the story of William Miller, an awkward, overly bright 15-year old rock journalist who ends up on assignment for "Rolling Stone" to interview the up-and-coming band Stillwater.

Even with a rather young and inexperienced cast, the film is beautifully acted. Newcomer Patrick Fugit

is completely real as William; as awkward, charming and confused as any other teenager trying to grow up. And growing up around his mother, Elaine, skillfully played by veteran Frances McDormand, isn't easy. A Goethe-quoting eccentric college professor who "trips out" every one she talks to, Elaine refuses to let rock music be played in her home ("But Mom, Simon and Garfunkel is poetry!" "It's poetry about sex and drugs!").

The only other member of William's family is a sister who ran away from home three years previously to become a stewardess, leaving her secret rock and roll record stash for her baby brother.

Writer/director Cameron Crowe (of "Jerry Maguire" fame) tells this combination coming-of-age/road trip story with humor and sensitivity, letting each character develop fully into a believable person, and only rarely straying into the land of melodramat-



PHOTO COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS PICTURES

The crew of *Almost Famous* poses before the tour bus used in the movie.

Watching this film, I couldn't help but feel nostalgic for this period in time, despite the fact that I wasn't even born yet. The soundtrack made me long for a return to real rock and roll music; I found myself turning the radio to KGON on my ride home from the theater, drumming my fingers in time with the music wishing my Subaru were a Mustang instead.

In spite of a few predictable moments, I liked this film a lot. I would highly recommend "Almost Famous." It is the best movie I have picked by chance in a very long time.

Even with a rather inexperienced cast, the film is beautifully acted

Corinne Rupp
Staff Writer