

THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

http://depts.clackamas.cc.or.us/print

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

Clackamas Community College

Oregon City, Oregon

Volume XXXV, Issue 16

Come to a Wilde pun-filled night

ERINN LERTEN

Staff Writer

Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest," currently running in the McLoughlin Hall Theater, is a masterpiece of modern comedy. Wilde's final and most lasting play strikes a balance between respected and studied piece of literature and a favorite with audiences.

Filled with quick wit and wisdom, "Earnest" tells the story of Jack Worthing (Travis Nodurft) and Algernon Moncrieff (Jayson Shanafelt). Both have taken to bending the truth in order to add a dash of excitement to their lives. Jack has invented an imaginary brother, Ernest, whom he uses as an excuse to escape from his dull home in the country and frolic in town. Algernon uses a similar technique, only in reverse: His imaginary friend, Bunbury, provides a convenient and frequent method of taking adventures in the country.

Their deceptions eventually cross paths, resulting in a series of crises that threaten to spoil their romantic pursuits: Jack of his love, Gwendolen Fairfax (Desirae Carver), and Algernon of Cecily Cardew (Jayne Stevens.)

Wilde is a well of education; puns and one-liners breed incessantly.

Lady Bracknell (Christine Quinlan) and Algernon are very particularly amusing. Probably the most important theme of the play is the du-

ality all the characters display in some measure—everything from Jack's two identities, country Jack and town Ernest, to Cecily's witchily "innocent" remarks. The contrast and layers of identity lead to a rewardingly comedic ending.

The relationship between Jack and Algernon is especially well portrayed by Nodurft and Shanafelt in the first scene when they banter about the joys and woes of love and marriage:

Jack: "I am in love with Gwendolen. I have come up to town expressly to propose to her."

Algernon: "I thought you had come up for pleasure?... I call that business."

Jack: "How utterly unromantic you are!"

Algernon: "I really don't see anything romantic in proposing. It is very romantic to be in love. But there is nothing romantic about a definite proposal. Why, one may be accepted. One usually is, I believe. Then the excitement is all over. The very essence of romance is uncertainty. If ever I get married, I'll certainly try to forget the fact."

Audience participation creates a sense of intimacy and makes the audience feel connected to the action on stage. The characters often gesture and speak to the audience and occasionally get more up-close and personal.

"The Importance of Being Earnest" will run March 7-9 at 8 p.m. and March 19 at 2:30 p.m. in the McLoughlin Hall Theater.



MAGGIE JIRASEK / Clackamas Print

Above: Jack Worthing (Travis Nodurft) proposes to Gwendolen Fairfax (Desirae Carver). Troubles arise when she finds out his name is not Ernest.

Right: Algernon Moncrieff (Jayson Shanafelt) entertains his aunt, Lady Bracknell (Christine Quinlan) during one of her visits, to give Jack a chance to propose to Gwendolen.

David Smith-English directs this version of an 1890's classic.



Upcoming Events:

Student-directed one act plays March 12, 13 and 14 at noon and March 14 at 8 p.m.

A Duet for Bear and Dog by Sybil Rosen, directed by Jason Morrill.

The Hanging of Uncle

Dilby by Donald Payton, directed by Kira Whiting.

Sure Thing by Travis Ives, directed by Kristi McKenzie.

Open auditions for "Much Ado About Nothing" will be

held March 11, 2002 at 3 p.m. in the McLoughlin Hall Theater. Please prepare a brief monologue.

To reach Erinn Lerten email gowayrocks@hotmail.com

Peace Corps volunteers share experience

ELISABETH MEYER

Staff Writer

Five speakers told a small audience of Clackamas students and faculty about their experiences in the Peace Corps last week. Instructors Glen Ferris and David Campbell, librarian Karen Halliday, architect Robert Bjerre and student David Demsky hosted the presentation.

Although each volunteer had been to a different region, they had strikingly similar appreciations of their experiences. Each talked about reasons for choosing to volunteer, adjustments to the

society he or she lived in and the shift in perspective on American culture.

David Campbell, who volunteered from 1964 to 1966 said, "I was running away to Vietnam, and I ran all the way to Venezuela."

He held various jobs there, including working with parole officers and in an outpatient leprosy clinic.

Karen Halliday taught

math and science to children in Nepal after just three months of intensive language training. She commented that

her white skin caused quite a sensation.

"I have never been that entertaining since. Women would come from other villages just to look at

me, but they didn't want to talk. They would just stare."

"You just get the feeling that the world is a bigger place."

Robert Bjerre
Architect

ment) would help them. And that money just ended up in the dictator's pockets."

Bjerre's college background in sociology was more valuable to him in Tanzania than his surveying skills, he said. He explained that in the native language, there is no possessive form, which reflects extreme generosity of the people. "You wouldn't say, 'my knife,' you would say, 'me with knife,' or 'you with book.' You and the object just happen to be occupying the same place."

Glen Ferris also noticed the
See Peace Corps,
page 3