

'Dirty Blonde' has all the fun

SHADRA BEESLEY
Staff Writer



"When I'm good, I'm very good. But when I'm bad I'm better," -Mae West.

"Dirty Blonde" is a hilarious, quick-witted play by the Portland Center Stage, with themes including celebrity idolization, female empowerment and cross-dressing. I was fascinated and surprised by this unique dramatic comedy by Claudia Shear.

The physical elements of the play were pared down to emphasize the dimensions of the main characters: The set was stripped to bare walls and a few simple pieces of furniture to ensure that spectators focused on the characters. The costumes displayed neutral colors and simple designs.

Except, of course, for Mae West. Dripping with diamonds and wrapped in bright colors, West was the only visual spectacle present. Her flashy garb appeared especially outrageous surrounded by plain clothes and sets.

Three actors portrayed all the characters in the show. Transitions between characters were performed brilliantly, each depicting multiple ages and personalities.

Jennifer Taub played both

Mae West and her biggest fan, Jo, adding depth and meaning to the play. Colin Thompson and Roy Abramsohn played all the male characters.

The unconventional timeline of the play was interesting and complex. The setting shifted rapidly between several different time periods, including the early 30's, the late 70's, and present day. Near the end of the play, time shifted so quickly that past and current events seemed to happen at the same time.

"Dirty Blonde" delivered 90 minutes of fast-paced dialogue and action. Every scene produced a new development in the lives of the present-day characters or added history to the life of Mae West. There was no "down time," just humor,

drama, and character development.

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Dirty Blonde

Newmark Theatre

Portland Center for
the Performing Arts.

Runs until April 14.

(503) 274-6588



OWEN CAREY/PORTLAND CENTER STAGE
Mae West, played by Jennifer Taub, is the centerpiece for glamour in "Dirty Blonde."

Students contribute to Arbor Day celebrations



left: Kate Yoder, a Clackamas student, bags fertilizer for trees that will be sent to local grade schools for Arbor Day celebrations. She prepared the tress in Clairmont Room 127 last Monday, April 8.

In Oregon, Arbor Day is the first full week in April. The state tree is the Douglas Fir.

Quick facts and quotes:

"One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people." -U.S. Department of Agriculture

"Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent." -Management Information Services/ICMA

"No shade tree? Blame not the sun but yourself." -Chinese Proverb

Arbor Day has now spread beyond the United States and is observed in many countries of the world.

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