

# Prize-winning author comes to campus

Robb Egan

The Clackamas Print

Clackamas Community College is set to host an evening with Michael Chabon, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay."

The event, scheduled to take place in the Gregory Forum, marks Chabon's first visit to CCC, an event organized by the English department and paid for by donations and fund-raising for the arts.

Born in 1963 in Washington, D.C., Chabon grew up in Columbia, Md. He studied at the University of Pittsburgh before attending the University of

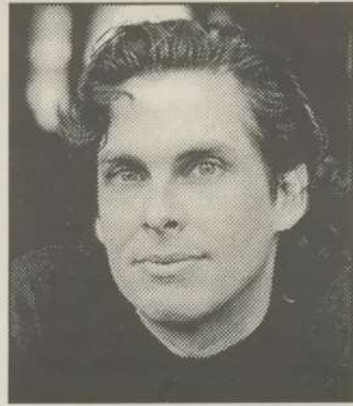
California at Irvine, where he earned a Master's degree in creative writing. Chabon's thesis his Master's, a novel about a young man coming to grips with his sexuality, was later published in 1988. "The Mysteries of Pittsburgh" earned rave reviews from critics and readers alike, and eventually became a bestseller.

"It's a very good choice of speakers to bring here," said David Mount, English instructor and enthusiastic fan of Chabon's. "He's very accomplished, with impeccable credentials," said Mount. "But he's also pretty down-to-earth and funny, able to talk to and relate with students."

Mount uses Chabon's latest book

"The Adventures of Kavalier and Clay" as the text for his Comics & Literature class, which is being offered for the first time this spring. "Kavalier and Clay" is the fictional story of two Jewish cousins who create comic books during the '30s and '40s, a time often referred to as the "Golden Age" of comics, when Superman was ruler of the comic kingdom, and the world was ravaged by the war and genocide of Nazi Germany.

Clay and Kavalier do their part for the war effort, fighting the Nazis on the page with their costumed creation The Escapist. Clay's clever writing melds well with Kavalier's intense artwork and his natural tendency towards showmanship. The result is a brilliant and power-



MICHAEL CHABON

Pulitzer Prize winner will come to campus April 29.

ful bit of comic gold. Chabon's treatment of these odd characters is nothing short of superb, interspersing the dialogue with characteristic wit while never taking away from their dignity.

Mount anticipates that Chabon's broad appeal will help spark interest in the event. With Chabon writing the next Spiderman movie, on top of his already cinematized 1995 book "The Wonder Boys," he has built a firm standing in pop culture and the more conservative literary circles.

Michael Chabon will visit CCC April 29 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for general admission \$7 for students. For more info, call the English department at (503) 657-6958, ext. 2284.

## 'A Mighty Wind' blows into theaters

Shadra Beesley

Editor-In-Chief

A landmark event is happening in the lives of Christopher Guest fans everywhere: the director's new movie, "A Mighty Wind," comes to theaters today.

The cast in Guest's latest work of art is a delightful combination of the casts from "Waiting for Guffman" and "Best in Show." The story revolves around a group of traveling folk singers, lead by Jonathan Steinbloom (Balaban) on a tribute tour dedicated to his deceased father.

Mark Falling, 18, attended a pre-screening of "A Mighty Wind" in March. "Only a person with an IQ above 100 would get it," he said. "Some parts were quite funny."

The random, sarcastic humor that exists only in movies by Guest and co-writer Eugene Levy exhibits a very unique quality due to the fact that the movies do not have scripts. Guest and Levy write a story, create the characters and let the actors take it from there. There are no rehearsals; the movies are improvised.

Guest's work is well known by a large cult following, but sometimes overlooked in the mainstream movie market. He is best known for his most recent film "Best in Show," released in 2000. The mockumentary gives a glimpse into the lives of

several quirky purebred dog owners who prepare for and participate in the annual Mayflower dog show. Starring well-known actors including Guest, Levy, Michael McKean, Parker Posey, Fred Willard, Jennifer Coolidge and Catherine O'Hara, the movie also gives plenty of screen time to talented lesser-known actors like John Michael Higgins, Michael Hitchcock, and Jane Lynch.

Guest's 1997 release "Waiting for Guffman" is a hilarious film about the making of a musical to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the city of Blaine, Missouri. The "play within a film" contains the same tongue-in-cheek documentary style and loosely parodies "Waiting for Godot." Posey, O'Hara, Willard, Guest, Levy, Linda Cash, and Bob Balaban portray the main characters, and share the stage with Matt Keeslar and Lewis Arquette. While McKean did not appear in the film, he lent his talents through music; he wrote all of the music and lyrics for the numbers in "Red, White, and Blaine," the play Corky St. Claire (Guest) produces for the city's sesquicentennial.

Guest's first screenplay, "This is Spinal Tap," came out in 1984 and was directed by Rob Reiner. "Tap" is often held responsible for the birth of the mockumentary style. The film follows British rock band "Spinal Tap" through 15 drummers and sev-

eral "complete catastrophes" on a tour of their musical career. Co-stars Guest and McKean explore the world of loud '80s rock through carefully crafted musical numbers such as "Sex Farm" and "Lick My Love Pump."

As if to try his hand at another style of film, Guest directed "Almost Heroes" in 1998. Starring Chris Farley, his role as a trail guide in the prairie caper/buddy movie was one of his last. "Almost Heroes" does



CHRISTOPHER GUEST

Mockumentary director plays folk musician.

not follow the style of Christopher Guest's other directorial pursuits due to the fact that it contains cliché humor and follows a script. The improvisational mockumentary style does justice to the genius that is Guest like no other film style can.

"A Mighty Wind" is playing in several theaters in the Portland metro area. It is rated PG-13 for "sex related humor," according to Hollywood.com.

## Epic Events

### Energetic Punk/Rap Show:

**Who:** Kottonmouth Kings, Zebrahead, and Riddlin' Kids  
-This highly energetic show will host bands who play better live than on cd. You will have a great deal more respect for all of these bands after witnessing their live performances.

**When:** Friday April 25 9 p.m.  
\$20 through Fasttixx

**Where:** Roseland Theater  
(corner of 6th and Burnside)

### Sasquatch Music Festival:

**Who:** Coldplay, Flaming Lips, Jurassic 5, Modest Mouse, Jason Mraz, Pedro The Lion, The Coral and many more.  
-More than 30 fantastic bands of all styles will play on three different stages at the most spectacular venue ever.

**When:** \*Memorial Day Weekend\*  
Saturday May 24 all day (Gates open at 11 a.m.)  
\$50 through Ticketmaster

**Where:** The Gorge Amphitheatre in George Washington.  
(approx. 5-6 hours from CCC)  
Camping is available

### Swing Dancing:

**Who:** Anyone who likes to dance  
**When:** Saturday April 19 7-11 p.m.  
(Lesson is from 7-8 p.m.)  
Open dance from 8-11p.m.)  
**Where:** The Abernathy Grange in Oregon City (right of 213)  
\$3 in advance or at the door  
-For more info, contact Elisha Totten at (503)-317-1238


### HALO on the Big Screen

**When:** Every day at 10:30 p.m. also on Sat. and Sun. 9 a.m. - noon  
\$4 (what a deal and a half)  
-Dream no more gamers! XBox's HALO (similar to Goldeneye) is featured on on the BIG SCREEN with full surround sound. WOW!  
**Where:** Sandy Cinema 8

### Frogz (a wild performance)

**When:** plays April 16 - June 1  
Wed., Thurs., Fri. 7:30 pm  
Sat. 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
Sun. 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.  
**Where:** The Imago Theatre  
Ticket prices vary.  
All seats reserved.  
-For more info, call the Imago Theatre at (503)-231-9581 or Ticketwest at (503)-224-8499.

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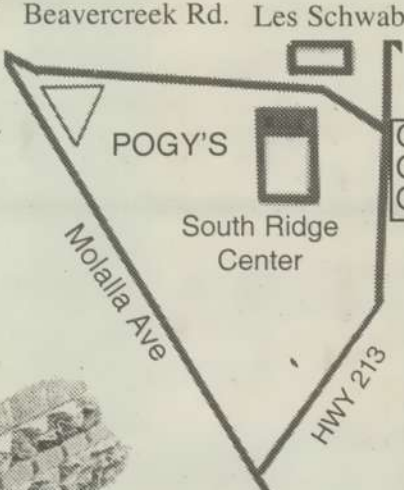
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13 • Pastrami & Salami			

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