

Former student finds niche in teaching

Karlin Johnson
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Returned student Michael Gerber has returned to lend a hand in the theatre arts program as Clackamas' Artist in Residence.

Theatre Department Head David Smith-English asked Gerber to come to the college this year after he received his bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts from Western Oregon University.

In his time at Clackamas, Gerber was very involved with the theatre department. His contributions ranged from performing in main stage productions to directing one-act plays.

"David [Smith-English] and I worked with each other quite extensively [when I was here] and he and I stayed in touch and remained friends," said Gerber. "He thought it would be fun for me to come here and get experience."

Smith-English enjoys what the Artist-in-Residence program gives to the college.

"It brings a richness to the program from experience we wouldn't get otherwise," he said.

Gerber says the knowledge that he will get from helping teach at the college will be priceless. He wishes to become a teacher himself one day.

"I definitely want to teach drama at a college level," said Gerber. "I would maybe want to direct or act on a professional stage, but my main

interest is teaching drama."

The aspiring drama teacher and actor has been working with the theatre department since the beginning of the term, mainly aiding Smith-English in teaching.

Aside from assisting with the Acting 1 class, Gerber is performing in the fall main stage play, "Uncle Vanya." Not only is he acting himself, but he is helping guide his fellow actors. He is also assisting with the coordination of the one-act plays by giving the student directors input and being involved in the technical side of the acts.

Living out a little of his fantasy, Gerber is teaching his own Comedy Improvisation class this term, which he will continue to teach throughout the year.

"What isn't fun? The whole job, this is my dream job," said Gerber. "I work with people here, and can watch them do what they do best."

Gerber has obviously found his niche in teaching. Rather than instructing students on how to do things a different way, Gerber helps students expand on their own ideas.

"It's great. He's like an advanced advance student!" said student Holly Lewis. "He allows you to explore by giving you guidelines, and not being overbearing or judgemental. He's just cool about it."

Smith-English has seen this strong relationship that Gerber cre-

ates with students as well.

"He is the kind of person who attracts and inspires other students," notes Smith-English.

Gerber is looking forward to several things this school year, such as the performances.

The one-act plays will be performed Dec. 2-4, and "Uncle Vanya" will be performed Nov. 13-16 and Nov. 20-23.

"'Uncle Vanya' will be fantastic, and we are doing the 'Odd Couple' next term," said Gerber.

Gerber is most excited, however, about seeing the students he is working with develop.

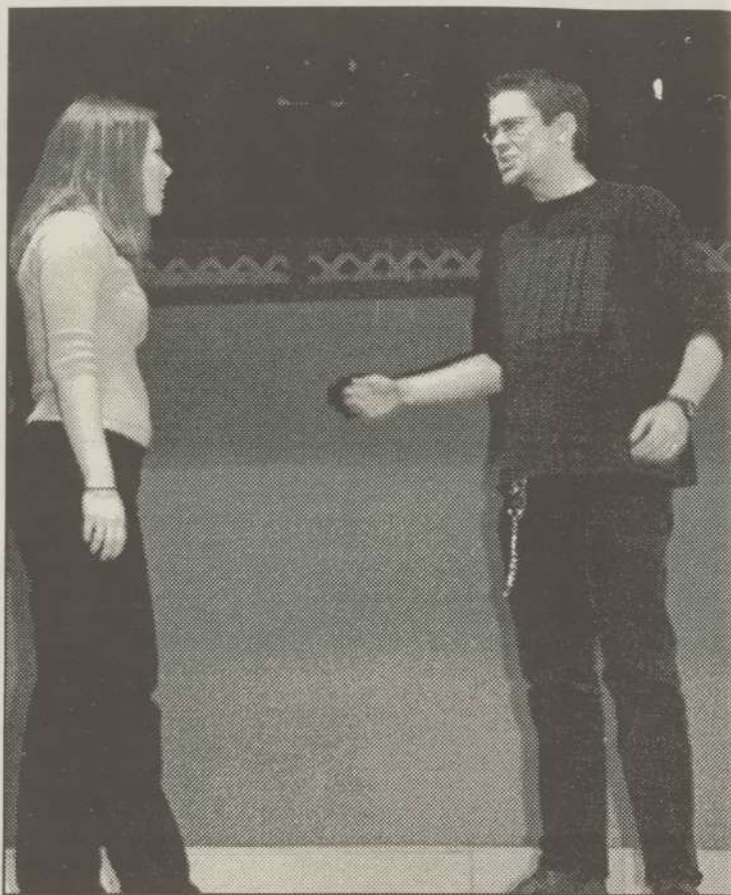
"It's watching each person blossom and bloom into something bigger and better and knowing that I might have played a part in that," he said.

Outside of the college, Gerber has been applying to different schools where he hopes to earn his Master's Degree in directing.

He is also writing plays, including a one-act he describes as "The Practice meets the Dating Game." Gerber would like to direct his one-act at Clackamas.

Smith-English could not be happier with what Gerber has brought to the department.

"He has such leadership in the department. In the main stage production, he's a strong anchor," said Smith-English. "He brings new energy, new insight and a new perspective to what we do."



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Michael Gerber acts beside student Kelsey Bales, rehearsing for "Big Mistake," a one-act directed by Bekah Finch.

Fear of water hasn't stopped Misley from diving in head first

Jessica Le Claire
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Life Science Instructor Bob Misley is known by many other titles, such as a taxonomist, botanist or biologist, but rarely do people know him as Bob Misley, the scuba diver.

Misley has dove in many areas including Alaska, Canada, Hawaii, Caribbean, Belize, Puerto Rico, Florida Islands, Grand Camions, Virgin Keys and Galapagos.

"I've always been active in outdoor activities," said Misley. "I was looking for a new sport that would allow me to pursue both my biology background and my love for travel."

Misley found scuba diving not only a way to incorporate biology and travel but also a way to confront his fear of water.

"I wouldn't call myself a chicken," said Misley. "I have no death wish. I got into scuba diving with the idea to be able to float weightless. I like to say [scuba diving] is the closest I will ever get to either being an astronaut or an angel."

Misley is a recreational diver, which means that he doesn't dive more than 120 feet deep in water. One does not have to dive deep in

water in order to stumble upon scary experiences. Misley had a close encounter while diving on a wreck in British Columbia.

"I take a lot of underwater pic-

"[Scuba diving] is the closest I'll get to being an astronaut or an angel."

Bob Misley
Life Science Instructor

tures and was focused in on my photography. I apparently had not checked my gauges for awhile," said Misley. "When I checked my gauges, I was close to being in a bad situation. I was out of air by the time I reached the surface."

Checking equipment is very necessary in the sport of scuba diving. According to Misley, he has learned from his near-death experience and will not ever forget it.

"Every time I go into the water, you could say there is a little bit of

anxiety," said Misley. "Trust your knowledge, trust your training, trust your equipment and especially trust your buddy. Once you are in the water, you think to yourself, 'Relax and breathe,' because you are entering a truly alien environment."

Once everything is in check, Misley can focus on the one part of scuba diving he loves most: underwater photography.

"To me, being able to capture photographic images that show and reflect some of what we see when we are underwater is very interesting, very challenging, very hard and artistically rewarding," said Misley.

Someday Misley hopes to dive in the Say Shell Islands, which is the only other place that giant tortoises live besides Galapagos.

"The Say Shells are on the other side of the world from Galapagos," said Misley. "To a biologist that is really interesting."

Misley is currently a volunteer diver at the Newport Aquarium.

"I am happy to be a teacher," said Misley. "I'm happy to have scuba diving be another activity that allows me to travel, to bring back information, to further enrich and enhance my teaching and my classroom experiences."



Total eclipse of moon, visible to naked eye

Jadon Triplett
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Anyone looking up into the sky on the evening of Nov. 8 will see a sight to behold, the second lunar eclipse of the year.

Imagine, the moon is blood red in the sky. It is 1200 BC, and you, a citizen of the Sheng Dynasty in ancient China, are out tonight and have no other light to rely on but that of the sky. Looking up at that moon, what would you think the sky was trying to tell you?

We know now that this sight in the sky is a lunar eclipse. Not just any eclipse, but a total lunar eclipse.

"No enthusiastic sky watcher ever misses a total eclipse of the moon. And the spectacle is often more beautiful and interesting than one would think," writes night sky columnist Joe Rao of Space.com.

A lunar eclipse occurs when Earth is between the full moon and the sun, and the moon passes into the planet's shadow.

A total eclipse is different from other eclipses because it passes directly into Earth's umbral shadow, and our atmosphere reflects onto the moon and can produce a variety of colors, such as yellow, orange, brown or red.

The other two types of lunar

eclipses are the penumbral eclipse, which are extremely difficult to see even with the aid of a telescope because the shadow is so dark; and the partial eclipse, which is easy to see with the naked eye because the moon is only partially orbiting in the earth's shadow.

Anyone should be able to see the beginning of eclipse, weather permitting.

For those with more interest in the eclipse, OMSI will be holding a "star party" in their east parking lot at the time of the moon's rise, and they will have experts and enthusiasts on hand. They will also have equipment (telescopes, binoculars etc.) on hand to make viewing easier.

The lunar eclipse will take place Saturday, Nov 8, around 5 p.m. Those in the Pacific Northwest will only be able to see the beginning of the lunar eclipse, but according to enthusiasts, it is still a sight to behold.

The moon will rise at 4:46 p.m. PST, the total eclipse will peak at 5:16 p.m. and the total eclipse will end at 5:30 p.m., though a partial eclipse will still be visible until 7:04 p.m.

For more information regarding this phenomenon, check out <http://www.oms.edu/visit/planetarium/starparties.cfm>.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life science Instructor Bob Misley is a volunteer scuba diver at Newport Aquarium.