

# THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

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## Giving tree benefits students' kids

Cory Price  
CO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Giving Tree is taking a stand to help children of students on campus.

ASG has sponsored the project for over 10 years. Last year the list of children in need of help exceeded 100 names. ASG also received a \$500 donation from an anonymous source to help in purchasing gifts.

The Giving Tree went up last Monday. It will hold the information of children in need of Christmas presents. Adorned with lights and tinsel, the tree resides just outside the cafeteria in the Community Center. Information for each child, such as gender, age and clothing size, is represented on an ornament and the presents purchased for the kids can be delivered unwrapped to the ASG office, which is located across the hall from the tree, by Dec. 8.

"I have a three-year-old myself, so I couldn't imagine how hard it would be if I didn't have money or have parents and grandparents to get her Christmas gifts," said Nichole Richards, who is the Childcare officer for ASG and also the coordinator of the Giving Tree this year.

"It's cool that there are resources for kids to be able to get presents. This is a way for us to help them out," Richards said. "If you can help

out, come down [to the Community Center] and grab a tag and help out in any way."

Helping out is what this project is all about. Applications have been out for a week now and the Dec. 1 deadline is approaching fast. Those students wishing to have their children included on the Giving Tree need to stop by ASG for an application.

**"The biggest obstacle is hoping that all those ornaments will be taken off."**

Nichole Richards  
Giving Tree  
Coordinator

"The application isn't very long and it doesn't ask you what your income is, so there are no guidelines—just fill out the form and someone will make your children an ornament," said Richards.

Richards created most of the ornaments herself. She has just one worry about the program.

"The biggest obstacle is hoping that all those [ornaments] will be taken off and toys or clothes will be bought for them," said Richards.

Any ornaments that go unclaimed will not be forgotten, though. ASG will appropriate the funds to purchase toys or clothes for those that remain unclaimed.

The general sentiment in ASG is about spreading joy and helping one another this Christmas. Chris Oestman, who assisted Richards Monday in putting up the tree, is excited to see this project do well.

"[I want] to help spread the joy that anybody else can offer their services to families that can't afford



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ASG officer Chris Oestman helps Nichole Richards, coordinator of the Giving Tree, hang ornaments on the tree outside the cafeteria. Students are encouraged to pick up an ornament and help their fellow classmates and their children this Christmas.

presents," said Oestman.

Others in ASG also have high hopes for the success of the Giving Tree and encourage students to help their classmates.

"People should help out with the Giving Tree because they are helping fellow students and their children," said Marlies Berney, ASG president. "There really are people out there in our college community

that are hurting. [The Giving Tree] is an excellent way for people to come up anonymously (or not) and help. This is a true need; people are trying to attend college and support a family at the same time."

Berney encourages students in need of this help to come in and sign up, saying that people are not going to judge someone because they need help.

"It makes me feel good to know that I am helping," said Berney.

*The Clackamas Print is assisting in this effort by choosing one boy and one girl from the Giving Tree to help make their Christmas special. We challenge each student, faculty member and club to step up and do your part to help this holiday season.*

## Cast of 'Uncle Vanya' adds humor to Russian tale of unrequited love, sacrifice, bitterness and insanity

Karlin Johnson  
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Mix two parts vodka, four parts unrequited love, five parts bitterness and one part claimed insanity and the outcome is this year's fall theatre

production.

Hard work has paid off for members of Clackamas' Communications and Theatre Department. The cast, crew and many others finally got to show their skills on Nov. 13, the opening night of "Uncle Vanya," a

classic tale of love and sacrifice written by Russian playwright Anton Chekhov.

Theatre Department Head David Smith-English directs the four-act play, which involves a cast of nine talented actors and actresses as well as a large crew.

The story is set in a country estate in the year 1911. Alexandr Serebyakov, a retired professor, played by Tom Cavanaugh, has returned to the estate which belonged to his late wife. Returning with him is his new and much younger wife Yelena, played by Jayne Stevens.

Daphne Starling plays the mother of Alexandr's deceased wife, who has been living on the estate in Alexandr's absence. Also on the estate is the late Mrs. Serebyakov's brother Vanya, played by Bob Alsman. Vanya has been sending the proceeds of the estate's farm to the professor for many years, while keeping for himself only a small salary.

Alexandr's young daughter Sonya, played by Annie Rimmer, is close in age to her new stepmother and has also been living on the estate.

Ilya Telegin, also known as Waffles, is played by Matt Morrison. He is Alexandr's right-hand man and Sonya's grandfather. Marina, played by Bekah Finch, is a kind old nurse on the estate and Yefir, played by Matt Strong, is a workman. Rounding out this strange mix of characters is Mikhail Astrov, a doctor played by this year's Artist in Residence Michael Gerber.

The first sign of trouble among the estate's inhabitants is when young Yelena's beauty catches the attention of Vanya and Mikhail. Both men feel

that she is wasting her life with her old and ailing husband. Sonya soon turns this love triangle into a square by admitting her affection for the doctor, Mikhail, which has been smouldering for years.

Love tangles get twisted tighter, dysfunction ensues and alcohol is abused as the story continues. An unexpected murder attempt adds new dimension to the plot.

The actors in this production make the dialogue. Comedy that may not have been originally written into the script is brought out by the actors' clever timing, expressions and tone of voice. The actors portray their characters in a way that brings out more of a modern-day humor to the older style of writing and language.

Each character in this play is incredibly convincing. For example, Finch physically changes the way she stands and speaks, giving the compelling impression of being a frail old woman. Alsman, who at first appears painfully dry with his emotions, later transfixes the audience in mesmerizing fits of rage.

The final product of 'Uncle Vanya' is definitely worth seeing. The story, direction, acting, set and technical workings all come together in a show that anyone can appreciate, especially for those that enjoy a dramatic performance that is chock-full of love, hate and silliness.

Further performances are scheduled Nov. 20-22 at 7 p.m. as well as a matinee on Sunday, Nov. 23 at 2:30 p.m. in the McLoughlin Hall Theatre. Admission is \$8 general admission and \$5 for seniors and students with ID. For reservations, call ext. 2356.



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Marina (Bekah Finch) and Mikhail Astrov (Michael Gerber) discuss the habits of Alexandr in 'Uncle Vanya,' directed by David Smith-English.



UNCLE VANYA



SONYA

Winter term registration is now open for returning students