



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

(Left to right) Matt Zak, Bob Alzman, Tom Cavanaugh, Michael Gerber, Matt Morrison, and Tony Marcellino will perform in 'The Odd Couple' which opens Thursday, February 26.

Future department chair to present 'The Odd Couple'

Karen Hill
FEATURE EDITOR

David Smith-English, director of the upcoming production "The Odd Couple," looks forward to the new Communication Arts building, prospective musical theater, position of department chair and of course, a really great show.

Smith-English began his college studies as a music major with skills in piano, trombone and predominately voice. Although he occasionally still plunks out a note or two on the piano, Smith-English has found his niche in theater arts.

After completing two years at Lewis and Clark College as a music major, he began to question his desire to pursue music.

"I felt I had more interest somewhere else—and I found theater," he said.

Smith-English graduated from Lewis and Clark College with a bachelor's and a master's degree, both in theater arts. Shortly after graduation, he began working in any theater-related job he could get his hands on, including musical theater, where he found his former training useful.

"I did darn-near anything to support myself," said Smith-English. "You can't always make a living doing what you like to do. So I did anything that came along."

Ten years ago, Smith-English joined the theater department at CCC as a theater director and instructor, taking the position of the retired Jack Shields. Since then,

he has directed all but one main-stage production at Clackamas.

"[During winter 2001] I got a new knee," said Smith-English. Former student John Renner directed the show that term. "He did a very good job."

This term, Smith-English looks forward to the fast-approaching production of "The Odd Couple," featuring six men and two women. Although the cast missed important rehearsal hours due to the college closure at the beginning of the term, Smith-English is confident they will pull off the show with success.

"I was a little concerned—but it's been okay," he said. "The [cast] has worked really hard and even put in some extra time on the weekends."

Smith-English comments on the unusual number of men acting this term. Theater departments usually contain more women and fewer men, said Smith-English.

"This year we have a lot of really good men," he said, and is quick to add that the women are good as well. "There just happens to be more men right now than women, which is quite unusual."

The cast of "The Odd Couple" contains some familiar faces as well as some new ones.

"The two leads [Michael Gerber and Tom Cavanaugh] have a lot of experience, and the two women have been here a couple years," said Smith-English. "There's a couple new guys I haven't worked with before; it's been fun. The new guys have a lot of talent and they're get-

ting it very quickly."

Smith-English enjoys seeing the talent and skill of cast members shaped and developed in rehearsal.

"There are specific tools and techniques you need as an actor and [the cast] has a lot of that in place," he said.

Spring term, Smith-English will be taking the position of Communications and Theater department chair, as current chair Frank Harlow takes a one-year sabbatical.

"One of the reasons I wanted to get more involved as a department chair was because we're moving into the new building," he said. "This is a big change; it's a big project."

Smith-English has been closely involved in the architectural design of the building, attending meetings discussing the project for the past five years.

"I have very specific ideas," he said. "The music department and I were both very clear about what we ultimately had to have in this building."

As a thank-you to the construction company, Skanska, the cast is putting on a special production of "The Odd Couple," March 6, at 2 p.m. for the workers, contractors and their families.

"I look forward to saying 'Thank you' to those guys," said Smith-English. "Getting to know them was really nice."

Next week's issue will include profiles featuring each of the eight cast members in 'The Odd Couple'.

Grade A student leaves time for music and 'Mario Kart'

Jeff Sorensen
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

What if Wonder Woman went to community college? As a student who juggles a job, grades, friends, rehearsals and performances, it's a wonder Morgana Williams never developed super powers of her own.

Just getting from Randall Hall to the cafeteria for lunch took roughly ten minutes. Her luggage in tow, Williams was stopped or called to by no less than 80 percent of the people she walked past. This only shows that to say "Williams has friends" is equivalent to saying "the Pacific is damp."

Entering the cafeteria, Williams walks right past the grill, claiming she never eats beef, and that she's not a "big fan of meat in general." Instead, she settles on a nice, healthy sandwich.

Even more impressive than her attention to her friends and her health, though, is the fact that Williams is maintaining a 3.8 GPA.

"I took most of my [required classes] last year, and biology is [the only requirement] I have left ... and speech," she said.

As a result, Williams is working hard to keep on top of her biology class in addition to juggling a full schedule of classes as an actively performing music major. Just talking about being a musician between bites of her sandwich, makes her eyes light up.

"Performing is the best [experience] ever," she said. Her favorite thing in the world, though, is practicing her piano in the middle of the night. "It's so much quieter and easier to write."

Williams' other passion in life is jewelry.

"Everything I wore last year [were things] I made. I don't do much with metal, but [there are] lots of beads," she said.

Aside from making her own jewelry, Williams also loves to shop at Express and Nordstrom on an almost daily basis.

"I don't know what I need [today], maybe a new shirt ... something cute," she jokes.

In order to pay for her passions in life, Williams works as a hostess at The Olive Garden,

where she puts her life on the line 20 hours a week. Just last week, a customer pulled a knife and held it to her throat, claiming if he didn't have a table in five minutes, he'd be forced to take "dr. stic measures." Wonder Woman survived without a scratch. Supposedly, the man was "only joking."

When she's not studying music or fighting crime, Williams still makes time in a mere 24-hour day to hang out with her friends. Their current favorite pastime can be summed up in one word: "Mario Kart."

In spite of all of this, Williams is still humble enough to admit that she's not perfect.

"I hate things that are spelled wrong on purpose to look cute," she said. Her biggest pet peeve: Krispy Kreme.

She can never find it in a phone book.

Williams plans to move on to study piano at Portland State University or study music therapy at Marylhurst University. She eventually wants to get a teaching

degree to help pay for her big, pink dream house with a white grand piano in the front room window.

Williams is a girl that definitely knows what she wants, and as long as she doesn't have to do anything illegal or immoral to get it, she's willing to do what it takes. But it's that ambition and dedication to herself and her peers that makes all of those people want stop and say hello to the next Wonder Woman.

"Performing is the best [experience] ever."
Morgana Williams
CCC student



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