

Timeless play gives TV show new life

Katie Funk

THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Clackamas' version of "The Odd Couple," although perhaps not quite up to the standard set by Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon in the 1968 movie by the same name, is still an enjoyable occupation for a rainy weekend evening.

Michael Gerber, the college's Artist in Residence, plays Oscar Madison, a laid-back, disorderly sports writer; Felix Ungar, a fanatic for cleanliness and organization, is played by Tom Cavanaugh.

As the play opens, Oscar's Friday night poker game is interrupted with the news that Felix, one of the game's regulars, is halfheartedly threatening suicide after being thrown out by his wife. Oscar, whose wife left him several years before, calms him and suggests that Felix move in with him to cut down on expenses. Soon, however, the behaviors that drove their wives to leave them have Oscar and Felix fighting like the proverbial "old married couple."

Gerber and Cavanaugh are the stars of the production, each amplifying his own personal habits to the extreme, portraying their

respective characters with enough comedy to keep the audience laughing and enough realism to be plausible. Laughter erupts from the audience at situations that cast Felix in a feminine light, such as his insulted aggravation with Oscar when he is late for dinner. Other emotions—the exasperation on Oscar's face as he flings a plate against the wall in anger, for example, or the desperation in his eyes as he tries to avoid strangling his roommate—keep the audience enthralled, wondering what will happen next.

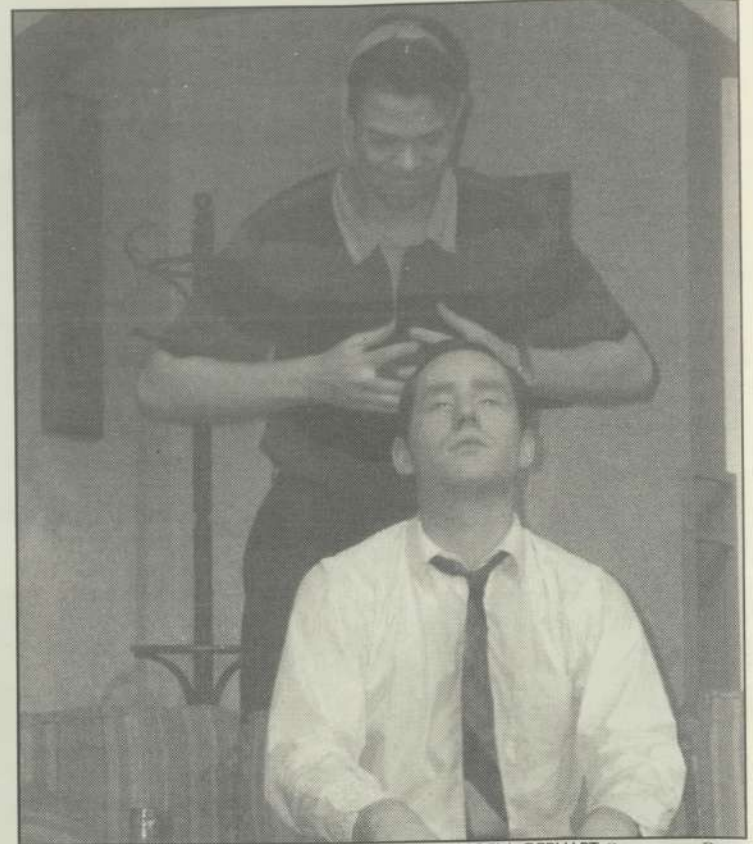
Supporting characters add to the humor and bring the play and its plot closer to everyday life. Clueless poker pal Vinnie (Bob Alzman), with his bucket hat and wide-eyed naivety, is the typical nice guy. Roy (Tony Marcellino) is the nerdy accountant whose attempts to be funny result in pity. Speed (Matt Zak) is an easy-going loudmouth that doesn't take anything too seriously. Police officer Murray (Matt Morrison) talks big but doesn't mean it.

Unlike many Clackamas plays, "The Odd Couple" features only two female roles, played by Annie Rimmer and Bekah Finch. Upstairs neighbors Gwen

(Rimmer) and Cecily (Finch) Pigeon pepper one evening with fits of high-pitched giggles when Oscar tries to push Felix back into the dating world by inviting the ladies to dinner.

Neil Simon's original "Odd Couple" has prompted many reproductions, including a five-season TV show in the '70s and many neighborhood theater performances, and for good reason. The plot is timeless—couples are constantly separating or getting divorced, guys will always have Friday night poker games and opposite personalities will forever alternately attract and repel one another. Clackamas' theater department certainly does justice to this enduring account of two people testing their friendship to the limit and still surviving.

Anyone who missed the opening weekend still has a few more chances to attend the winter term production. "The Odd Couple" will be presented in the McLoughlin Theatre March 4-6 at 7 p.m. and at 2:30 p.m. on March 7. The cost is \$8 general admission or \$5 for students and seniors. Contact David Smith-English at ext. 2725 for more information.



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Oscar Madison (top) and Felix Ungar bring their respective characters to life in 'The Odd Couple.'

Controversial film shows Gibson's true 'Passion'



INTERNET PHOTO

James Caviezel shines as Jesus Christ in 'The Passion'.

Cory Price
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Take one genius director, add one amazing actor, and the result is just the right formula for a movie good enough to be about Jesus Christ.

"The Passion of the Christ" opened nationwide last week to packed theaters everywhere. Many viewers left the theater in tears. The gripping portrayal of what Jesus went through in his final hours was highlighted the most in this movie. Although, to some, this was a grotesque and vile display, to me this was a toned-down version of what he really had to endure.

In maintaining the Biblical story of Jesus, the movie was performed in Aramaic, the Arabic language, and Latin, the language of the Romans, with English subtitles.

The part Jesus was played by James Caviezel, a devout

Catholic who had turned down a previous offer from another director. Caviezel did not feel that the first script had the authenticity it needed. When he saw Mel Gibson's idea, though, Caviezel jumped at the opportunity. The great thing about Caviezel is that he poured 110 percent of his heart and soul into this part. The audience never felt like it was an actor on the screen; instead, most saw Jesus Christ.

One role that has not gotten much attention from reviewers is the part of Satan, played by Rosalinda Celentano. She is beautiful and yet horrifying simultaneously. According to the Bible, Satan used to be an angel, so for accuracy's sake the character would have been somewhat beautiful. At the same time, the evilness inside of her shows through.

This is a morally appropriate movie that uses the actors' raw talent to sell the movie rather than sex. The movies

that use sex as a seller have been wrong all this time. Gibson has shed a new light into Hollywood: the light of morals.

"The Passion" did not fall short when it came to ticket sales either. The film grossed over \$76 million in revenues for its opening weekend, leaving all others playing that weekend in its dust.

Through this movie, believers will be shown the gospels in a new light and non-believers will see the truth for the first time. One improvement I would suggest is displaying a number at the end of the movie that viewers could call to get more information about living a life with Christ.

Parents with kids should be warned about the amounts of blood contained in the movie. But it is the truth; should we shelter our children from that? Either way, this is a movie that everyone needs to see to believe.

Dairy-free theater offers low cost Monday nights

Jessica LeClaire
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Monday night can be the most dreaded night of the week for some, but for others, it can be enhanced with a low-cost evening at Portland's Hollywood Theatre.

Typically, this theater plays movies by independent film companies as well as old classics. "Zero Day" (2003), which started Feb. 27, is an independent film about "The Army of Two," two teenage boys who stage a Columbine-style assault against their high school. The story is presented in the form of video diaries from the boys as well as security camera coverage from the school.

In March will be a showing of "From Here to Eternity" (1953), an Academy Award winner portraying military life in Hawaii just before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

A measly \$4 (less than half the going rate at most cinemas) will buy a Monday night ticket. Other days, a general admission ticket is just \$6. Hollywood Theatre also offers concessions at lower rates.

The melt-in-your-mouth fluffy popcorn is made fresh and the prices range from as low as \$2.50 to just \$3.50 at the most. The alternative to have soy butter on top of the popcorn is a nice option at no extra cost. They

also offer coffee and a variety of teas for only \$1.

The Hollywood Theatre is located on 4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd., on the cross-streets of NE Broadway and 41st Avenue. Parking can be a bit of a hassle due to the lack of a theater lot, but with a bit of a hunt, street parking can be found.

The theater is one of the few grand theaters of the 1920s left in Portland.

It spent nearly 30 years in disrepair before the Oregon Film & Video Foundation purchased it in 1997 for the purpose of preservation and renovation. Although gradual improvements are still being made, it is now one of Portland's must-see attractions.

The architecture is amazing. Big hallways lead to the auditoriums and the stairwell is almost like being in a crooked house. It leans to one side and can bring one back to fond memories of Enchanted Forest.

Overall, the Hollywood Theatre is filled with many wonders and the best part is that all Monday night movies can be seen for only \$4. Even adding a small bucket of popcorn and a drink doesn't cost more than two Lincolns.

Check out <http://www.hollywoodtheatre.org> for more details on upcoming shows and show times.

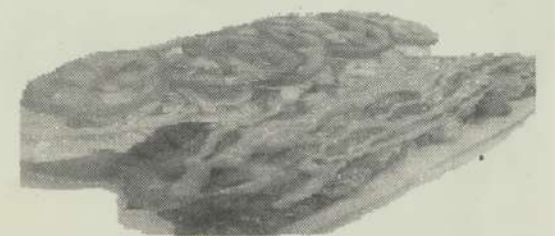
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