

# Student director prepares for one act 'identity crisis'

Having acted since the age of 10, Rimmer now takes on the role of director

**Bethany Monroe**  
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

Each term, the Clackamas theater department sponsors a student-produced collection of plays to be performed during the lunch hour, commonly known as "one-acts."



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from past mainstage shows at Clackamas including "The Odd Couple," is directing "Identity Crisis," a one-act play written by Christopher Durang. Although Rimmer has been participating in theater productions since the age of 10, this is only her second time taking on the job of director.

"You totally get into it in a different way," Rimmer said, describing the differences of directing and acting. "You get so wrapped into it just watching it—it's a totally different feeling."

The casts of the one-acts are made up entirely of Clackamas students. Some are theater majors; others simply saw the flyers around campus or heard about it from word of mouth and decided to audition.

"It's open-audition," said Rimmer. "We get theater students, but we also get a lot of other students."

According to Rimmer, casting is one of the most important aspects of putting together a quality show. About twenty hopeful actors auditioned for the five roles

in "Identity Crisis."

The resulting cast includes Cynthia Smith-English (a faculty member and part-time student), Matt Morrison, Sarah Griswold, Matt Zak and Bekah Finch.

"I have a wonderful cast; I'm really excited about them," said Rimmer. "They have experience and are talented."

*"I have a wonderful cast ... They have experience and are talented."*

**Annie Rimmer**  
Student director

"Identity Crisis," a comedy, was selected by Rimmer after spending hours reading through scripts.

"It's zany and crazy ... I thought that it would be really challenging and really fun,"

said Rimmer. "I read—I don't know—a million different one-acts, and this was the only one that I really got excited about."

In addition to "Identity Crisis," students will be performing "Fade Out Again (Act without Words III)," a one-act play written and directed by Clackamas' artist-in-residence, Michael Gerber. Rather than using spoken word to entertain the audience, Gerber's play relies on music and mime. It has a large cast, including Rimmer as one of the actors.

When not directing or acting, Annie keeps busy with work and school. She is planning to graduate with her associate's degree next spring. Even the little amount of free time that she has is often invested in the world of theater.

"I go see a lot of plays," said Rimmer.

She is also looking forward to working in the sound booth for Clackamas' main stage spring production, "The Real Inspector Hound" by Tom Stoppard.

"I've done lights before and I've done stage managing and all that, but I've never done sound, so it'll be fun ... I like to learn everything, everything with theater ... clearly not with biology!" said Rimmer.

Rimmer's "Identity Crisis," along with "Fade Out Again (Act without Words III)" and a performance by Clackamas' Comedy Improv Troupe, will take place during the noon hour June 1-3 in the McLoughlin Theatre. There will also be a 7 p.m. show on June 3. There is no charge for admission.

# Nursing student hopeful, banks on Clackamas program

After three years at CCC, McNamara is finally ready for nursing school

**Cyndee Mady**  
CO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Since the time she was just a little girl, Clackamas student Crystal McNamara has longed to become a registered nurse.

"I've wanted to be a nurse since about the time I was nine, when my dad had a really bad accident," said McNamara. "I've always liked helping people and I'm really curious about the medical field."

McNamara has been attending Clackamas for the past three years in preparation for the nursing program.

"The sad thing is—it's a two-year program, but most people take at least two years to get the prerequisites done," McNamara said. "It's frustrating in that aspect, because after I get out of the program, I will have gone to school five years for a two-year degree."

While there is a current nursing shortage, the shortage of funding for programs makes it a highly competitive field, according to McNamara. She hopes to get into the nursing program here at CCC.

"They're only taking somewhere around 45 people, but a couple hundred could apply. You really put yourself out on the line for a slim chance," said McNamara.

McNamara was accepted into Linfield College last year, but for financial reasons declined enrollment. She also applied for the program at Portland Community College (PCC).

"PCC just does a lottery. They had about 900 people apply and they pick 90—and I wasn't one of them," said McNamara, who is, as she puts it, "banking on Clackamas."

Now that the baby boomers are starting to retire, the need for nurses is imminent, but the affordable schools can't accommodate the demand.

"It's really sad because so many



**McNAMARA**

people, exactly like me, really care about the profession ... and it's taking so long," said McNamara. "It's sad that there is this [nursing shortage], because there certainly isn't a shortage of desire."

Aside from college, McNamara maintains a part-time job as a Certified Nursing Assistant, where she cares for an 85-year-old stroke victim.

"He has a hard time with his balance mainly, so we do exercises to try to increase his stability; I help with meals, brushing his hair, nail care, making sure that he takes his dentures out and cleans them—I also do a lot of housework and change his sheets, basically just anything that needs to be done," said McNamara.

Though McNamara enjoys all aspects of nursing and said she would have a difficult time narrowing her field of interest, one area seems to stand out above the others.

"I would love to work in the maternity aspect of nursing—I just love babies!" she said.

When her hectic schedule permits, McNamara enjoys spending time with her boyfriend, bike riding and hiking, though she admits she doesn't have many opportunities.

"Lately I haven't really had a lot of fun time; most of the time I'm just doing homework or applying to schools. My whole world has been consumed with application processes for the nursing program."

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