

Visit 'Naomi in the Living Room'

Jadon Tripiett

A&E Editor

"Naomi in the Living Room," is one of two student-directed one-act plays written by Christopher Durang that will be playing at noon and 7 p.m. tonight in Niemeyer Center.

"Naomi in the Living Room" is about a very [eccentric] old lady," says Director Meagan Kowaleski, continuing to say that Naomi herself is a lady who "doesn't conform to anything. She has so many personalities, it's almost like she's six characters in one."

The effects of Naomi's (Kelly Miller) multiple personalities on those close to her are manifested in her son John (Jake Dannen), who comes to Naomi's house with his wife Johnna (Lora Grant).

"It's really kind of showing how her son has been so mixed up that he doesn't really know who he is,"

Kowaleski said.

"Naomi in the Living Room" portrays the changes John goes through during his and Johnna's visit with Naomi. According to Kowaleski, John goes from "kind of like his mother, to really transforming into his wife towards the end of the play." John even comes out in women's clothing later in the play in a more flagrant example of that transformation.

"He doesn't want to not be noticed in this world," Kowaleski said of John. "He wants some kind of affirmation that I believe he finds through his wife."

John's wife is very honest, open and secure, and despite her quiet ways, Kowaleski said "she can go above those soft-spoken ways and really reprimand where she needs to."

When asked how she got involved in theater, Kowaleski described playing the witch in "Wizard of Oz" in grade six, going on to tell what she got



Adam J. Manley Clackamas Print

Kelly Miller plays the title character in "Naomi in the Living Room," one of two student-directed one-act plays that are showing today at noon and 7 p.m. in the Niemeyer Center.

from the experience. "I just loved the idea of being able to portray something to an audience, and have them take that away and ... think about a different life."

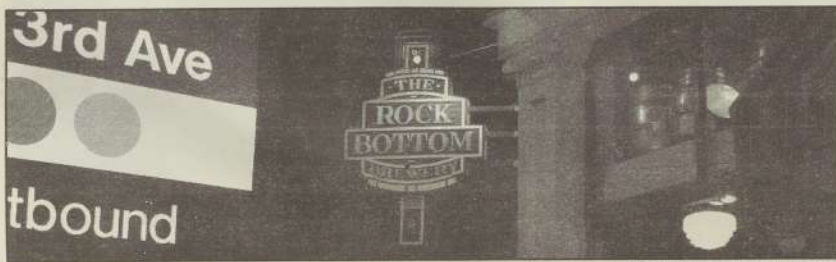
Kowaleski has acted in many plays,

including recent college plays "All My Sons" and "Hot L Baltimore," in addition to others. "Naomi in the Living Room" is Kowaleski's directorial debut.

"I wasn't sure if I was going to like

it, because I love being on stage," said Kowaleski about directing. "I love being able to portray something, and it's just a work of art that you're able to really show, where as the director kind of behind the scenes."

Bottom-of-the-barrel dining at Portland's Rock Bottom Brewery



Mike Kimberling Clackamas Print

The Rock Bottom Brewery, located on 3rd and Morrison in downtown Portland, is lacking in authenticity and distinctiveness, making dining indistinguishable from dining at most other restaurant chains.

Mike Kimberling

The Clackamas Print

Rock Bottom Brewery is an incompetent counterfeit of an authentic Northwest brewery.

The atmosphere inside Rock

Bottom Brewery is a mixture of a Shari's-style seating minus being overcrowded with the elderly, and a pretentious décor that the brewery does not properly pull off.

It has been said that one can tell a lot about a restaurant by the caliber of person that eats there, and this is true even if the caliber of people

seated within is not consistent with the genre of the establishment.

The point is this: if you go to a "biker bar" and don't find any bikers, you're not in an authentic biker bar. This lack of authenticity is the problem with most restaurants and pubs now. Rock Bottom Brewery is a great example of this.

The customers I found seated around me as I ate appeared no different than if I had been eating at any other major food chain. For all I could tell I was sitting at the Olive Garden, or Red Robin.

Restaurant chains are a fine opiate to the cuisine-ignorant masses. Some of them even have good — if not predictable — food. Rock Bottom Brewery cannot even claim to stay up to par with the culinary expertise of a hot dog street vendor.

My dinner party ordered a variety of food including the standard hamburger and fries, barbeque ribs, and a chicken salad. The hamburger received an unenthusiastic shrug, the ribs turned out dry and overcooked, and the chicken salad was bland.

As for me, I pushed the limit by ordering their alder-smoked salmon. This proved to be the first time I have ever not finished a piece of salmon. Two words: cold and tasteless, even with the topping of mango salsa.

What kind of "Northwest restaurant" can't cook salmon?

Answer: the kind of restaurant that is not indigenous to the Northwest.

This brought me to a puzzling dilemma, because the brewery beers were named after places in Oregon. There is the Morrison Stout, the Sunny Day IPA and Multnomah Porter. How could you produce authentic Northwest beer but not edible Northwest food?

Rock Bottom Brewery is a brewery chain that brings tasteless culinary techniques and the predictable restaurant chain style atmosphere to regions around the country, while relying on the regions strengths to stay afloat.

Their strategy may be to sell talented local brewmasters to create desirable brews and give them catchy local names, but like the who always tries too hard to fit in, Rock Bottom Brewery won't make many friends in this neighborhood.

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