

# 'Flaming Idiots' take over theater

Lara Hedbor

The Clackamas Print

"Flaming Idiots" looks to be a promising concluding play for the 2006 school year.

Written by playwright Tom Rooney and directed by Artist-in-Residence John Renner, "Flaming Idiots" is the story of two disgruntled postal workers who decide that karmic justice follows those with the entrepreneurial spirit.

"Think 'Dumb and Dumber' in a restaurant with a bigger cast," said actor Matt Morrison.

The characters include Carl (Morrison) and Phil (Bob Alzman). Carl and Phil are harangued by disaster after hilarious disaster, including difficulties with their new hire, a deaf/mute chef named Bernadette (played by Daphne Starling). Also appearing in the show are Ernesto, the mysterious Norwegian national (Seth Wrubleski), Task (Jake Dannen), Eugene (Mark Polendey), Jayne Fryman (Heather Ovalle), Louie

(Peter Schweitzer) and "The Body" (Matt Strong).

The play is a self-proclaimed "farce in two acts," and the cast agrees whole-heartedly.

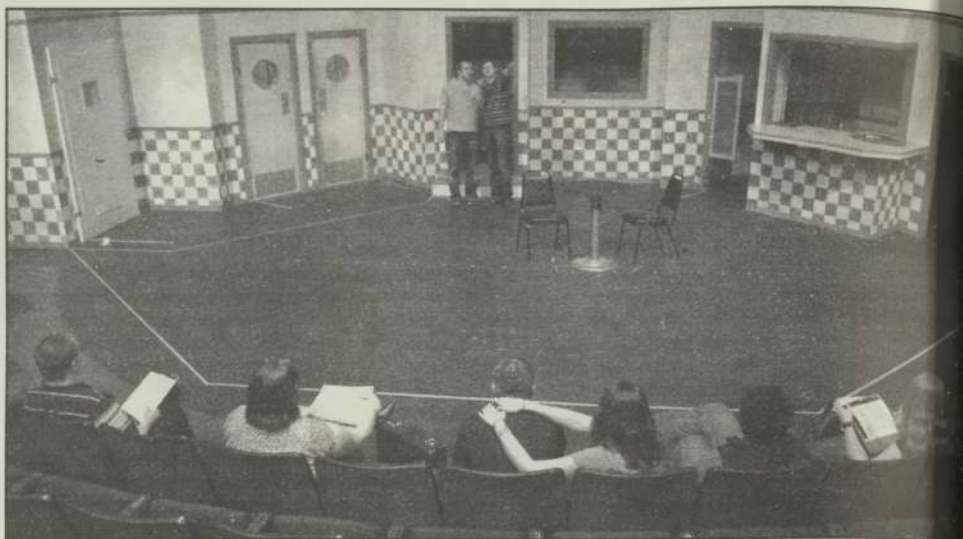
"It's all the things that can possibly go wrong with starting your own business," said Alzman.

When things get so bad that they can't possibly get worse, hilarity ensues and, in this case, clothes disappear. Nothing that would be suitable for course — this play is in fact for all audiences, a feat that both amazes and amuses the cast.

Breaking the fourth wall — when the characters acknowledge the audience purposefully — is no accident in this comedy.

"If we do it enough, it becomes accepted," said Morrison. "We're not accidentally glancing at the audience."

This will be the final curtain call at the Clackamas mainstage for four members of the cast. Starling, Alzman, Wrubleski and Morrison will be moving on to different drama groups after four years of hard work and dedication. For them, it will be a departure worth remembering —



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Director John Renner, along with cast and crew, watch Matt Morrison and Bob Alzman rehearse a scene from "Flaming Idiots," premiering May 25 at 7 p.m. in the Niemeyer Center's Osterman Theatre.

an excellent summation of their dramatic careers at Clackamas Community College.

"Flaming Idiots" will be Morrison May 25 - 28, and June 1 - 4 in the Osterman Theatre located in the Niemeyer

Center. The Thursday through Saturday shows will start at 7 p.m., Sunday shows will start at 2:30 p.m. The cost of admission is \$10 for general audiences, \$8 for students and seniors (with valid ID).

"I feel very good and ready," said Morrison.

The entire production will likely be well worth the price of admission. And as for those who choose not to attend? "Flaming Idiots" indeed!

## Disaster remake 'Poseidon' gives audience shafts, little else

Megan Koler

The Clackamas Print

In the remake "Poseidon" it takes several hours for the luxury cruise liner of the same name to sink. The movie, no matter how many vertical shafts it had, manages to go down much too fast for any survivors to remain.

If the story is unfamiliar, it takes place on a cruise ship on New Year's Eve on its way to New York from London. The story follows a few cliché adventure heroes as they try to get to safety after a "rogue"

wave knocks the ship upside-down.

It must be acknowledged that this film is eye candy in every sense. However it also is a classic example of how little special effects really contribute to a film.

Sure, the elevator shaft scene is actually pretty nail-biting and scary, but only because there are giant balls of fire shooting down from above, not because you don't want the characters to get hit by them. It is awesome because you know someone is going to be hit.

What makes disaster movies powerful is the connection it allows one to make with the

characters. Even people who hated "Titanic" can't help but admit that at least one death in that movie made even the coldest little heart feel sadness for just an instant.

"Poseidon" is a million miles away from inspiring any other emotion besides the joy pyromaniacs experience in the presence of fire and the terror claustrophobics will feel viewing the many scenes involving cramped vertical shafts.

Ultimately the movie is a great example of where the film industry is in terms of special effects. That is what I remember most about the movie because it was the most impressive ele-

ment.

This story is, thankfully, forgettable. Hopefully it will inspire people's curiosity in the original. It managed not to cheap-

en the idea of the "Poseidon Adventure," despite the fact that its sole virtue lies in its promise of making the original look even better by comparison.

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