

The Clackamas Print

First copy FREE, additional copies 1¢

FILE COPY

independent, student-run newspaper since 1966
 Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, OR
 Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2006
 Volume 40, Issue 5

Romeo & Juliet



Adam J. Manley
 The Clackamas Print

Vulgarity, sword fighting, swing dancing and nudity: not the first things people think of when picturing Romeo and Juliet – yet all of those things can be found in the Osterman Theatre as the two star-cross'd lovers meet on stage tomorrow night. "I've seen this play a number of times and always been a little disappointed in the outcome of it, and I wondered why," said director David Smith-English. "I didn't [direct] it because I thought I could. I did it knowing that there must be difficulties in the play because so many times it doesn't quite work." And indeed there have been difficulties. From trying to fill the many shoes of Lord Montague was only just last Thursday), choreographing a play that is inexperienced in the ways of Shakespeare or simply trying to grasp Shakespeare's writing, Smith-English and the theater department has been stumbling. "I was really scared," said student Adam Polendey, who is attempting a Shakespearean role for the first time as Mercutio. "Memorizing lines has always been difficult for me, and I don't even fathom memorizing Shakespeare." After rehearsals started, though, Polendey said it became second nature, especially when the cast was given the opportunity to play with the various dirty jokes Shakespeare is famous for. "Mercutio is a dirty bastard," Polendey said. "There's one scene where the nurse ... we portray it as if it's a rape scene."

"A lot of places want to tone down 'Romeo and Juliet' because there is a lot of graphic sexual content," said Travis Ferguson, who plays Gregory. "We're totally playing it up, making it more interesting for younger audiences." Adding to the appeal for younger audiences are choreographed swordfights, swing dancing and even – however briefly – Romeo in the buff. "This is a real love story, but it's also a physical love story," Ferguson explained, noting that Romeo appears naked to show that he and Juliet did, in fact, have sex. "If you see a high school do it, or if you see another group do it, they might just do the romantic, beautiful side of it. But, you know there's just a real human element that [Smith-English] is trying to bring through here." Smith-English's interpretation of the play takes a different course than the common Romeo-centric versions American culture is used to. "It's about Juliet," said Smith-English, citing Harold Bloom's *Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human*. "If you're going to be successful in doing Romeo and Juliet, you've got to remember it's about Juliet." "It's really more emotional that way because you're following this character who found her love and then lost her love. You see all those ranges of emotions where she's happy, sad, confused," said Jake Dannen, assistant stage manager for the play. "It's just wonderful to watch, and Sarah Wilson, who plays Juliet, does a fan-



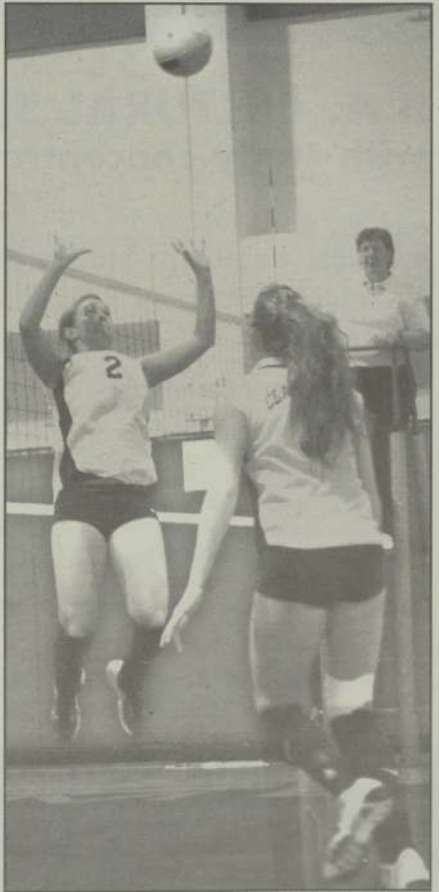
Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

"For never was a story of more woe, than this of Juliet and her Romeo" wrote Shakespeare. Colton Ruscheinsky and Sarah Wilson as Romeo and Juliet in this fall's production of the Bard's classic play.

Where: Osterman Theatre, Niemeyer Center
When: 7 p.m. Thurs. through Sat., 2:30 p.m. Sun. Performances follow the same schedule for next week as well.
Admission prices:
 Students & seniors – \$8
 Adults – \$10

Volleyball team excels in tourney

Carla Crowder (2) flies high and sets the tone for balling during the Chemeketa Crossover Tournament. The Lady Cougars busted out with a major win over Walla-Walla to win the tournament. Please turn to page seven for this week's full volleyball coverage. Tonight the Cougars will take on Linn-Benton CC in Albany at 7 p.m.



Contributed by Dick Clouser

Experimental films showcase indie scene

Megan Koler
 News Editor

An experimental film screening next Monday will offer Clackamas a sneak peek into Portland's indie film scene. "Northwest Edge: the End of Reality is an anthology and DVD that was edited and put together by myself, Trevor Dodge and Lidia Yuknavitch," said English Instructor Andy Mingo. Dodge is an English instructor at Clackamas, and Yuknavitch a local short-fiction writer. The screening of the *Northwest Edge* anthology begins at 6 p.m. on Mon., Nov. 13, in the McLoughlin Auditorium. Approximately an hour and a half in length, it features local filmmakers, including Holly Andres and Karl Lind, who will attend the screening and speak on behalf of their films. "Holly is actually an artist and has had some work in the Alexander Gallery before, and some of her work has graced the cover of *The Mercury* and *The Stranger*," said Mingo. "Karl's stuff has played in numerous film festivals, and I believe he has work in the upcoming Northwest Film Festival next week." "What we have done is create a hybrid text, where we have an anthology of northwest experi-

mental fiction writers, but we also wanted to expand it into film because there is such a huge revolution of experimental film in the Portland area." Mingo, Dodge and Yuknavitch felt a hybrid of text and film was necessary, in order to reflect recent trends in independent filmmaking. "We're seeing the lines of traditional writing and film blurring in many situations whereas, a lot of times, filmmaking is being influenced by writing and vice versa," said Mingo. "It's really difficult to represent that ... aside from giving

both mediums." There is an extreme amount of diversity, even within the short list of films provided in the DVD. "We have everything from found footage to short films, computer animation to experimental narrative shorts," said Mingo. "It runs the gambit, basically." The anthology is full of established northwest writers, including Stacey Levine, David Shields, Zoe Trope and Kevin Sampson. Any questions can be directed to Mingo at 503-657-6958 ext.2803 or by e-mail at andym@clackamas.



A still from "Cat and Cake," an indie film by Gideon Klindt made in 2003. It is one of several films featured in the anthology.