

Stand-up; it's your line now

Jess Sheppard
The Clackamas Print

Everybody loves to laugh. There's no denying it - we humans are attracted to people who make us chuckle, whether they are stand-up comedians, vaudevillians or members of an improv troupe.

Clackamas even offers a course that teaches students the fundamentals of comedic performance.

"What is funny and why?" Instructor Chris Whitten asks his stand-up comedy students at the beginning of nearly every class.

The answer to both, according to Whitten, is "recognition." The audience identifies with the jokes being told and the experiences being portrayed on stage, and that shared experience is funny.

So why take stand-up? Whitten asserts that "humor is a valuable skill in any career track," especially in a profession that requires speaking to people. He encourages students to take the class even if they don't plan on becoming comedians.

The course improves self-confidence onstage and off, as well as offers an hour of the day when individuals can simply make others laugh, he said.

"Sociologically speaking," he added, "it's not the funniest guy who's voted off the island first - it's the obnoxious guy who *thinks* he's funny but isn't."

This term, Whitten's stand-up class consists of four students, which is an improvement since it has averaged a mere three participants in the past. It currently features the comedic talents of Glen Hoover, a returning student from Spring Term, and three new comedians in the making: Robert Wood, Bryan Maurice and Byron Bartlett.

Performing alongside the stand-up students in Clackamas' upcoming One-Act Festival is the Comedy Improv Troupe, I-Prov, taught by Theatre Instructor David Smith-English. Smith-English has taught improvisational theatre for 17 years, about 14 of them at Clackamas.

The difference between traditional acting and improv is mainly scripted versus non-scripted lines. Improv actors rely on their audience to give

them situations to act out and other helpful incentives.

The performers are still characters, but they are not in the "context of a play," Smith-English said. It's very "dependent on the audience."

"It's really valuable actor training," he added.

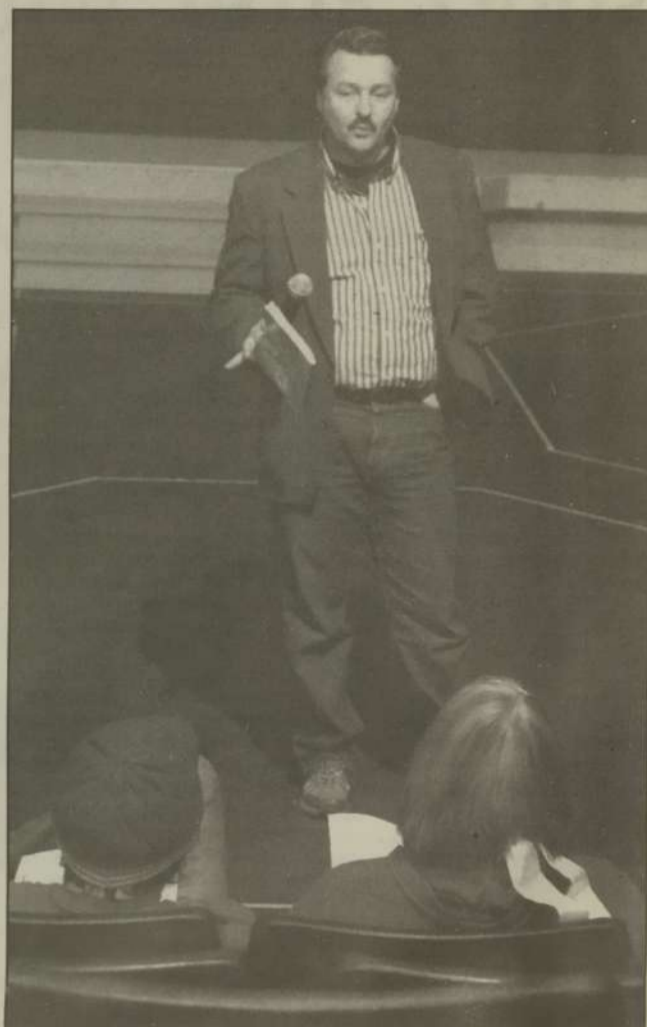
The technique teaches performers how to work positively together, share attention on stage and, perhaps most importantly, listen to their fellow actors. One of the major goals is to "work together as an ensemble," Smith-English said.

This term's one-acts showcase a large group of entertainers that includes Thomas Dieftrich, Bo Ernster, Beth Hungerford, Nick Kornafel, Bryan Maurice, Michael Mitchell, Jennifer Whitten and Robert Wood.

The One-Act Festival itself will take place Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 27, 28 and 29, at noon, with an additional showing at 7:30 on the 29th, in the McLoughlin Theatre.

"Humor is a valuable skill in any career track ..."

Chris Whitten
Communications & Theatre Instructor



Adam J. Manley Clackamas Print

CCC students watch Instructor Chris Whitten perform at the preview performance of Stand-up Comedy Night last Spring Term in the McLoughlin Theatre.

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Events

11/8 - 18: The Fall Term theatre production, the dark comedy "Reckless," plays in the Osterman Theatre, in Niemeyer Hall. Performances take place Thursday through Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 for seniors 62 and older and \$10 for students. For further information or to make reservations, call ext. 2356.

11/12: Veterans Day; school holiday, college closed.

11/12: The Alexander Gallery, in Niemeyer Hall, will be opening a new exhibit titled "Confluence," which will feature works by Tim Lundholm, Mike Suri and Tom Yody. The opening reception is on Friday, Nov. 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. "Confluence" will be open until Jan. 18 next year.

The Clackamas Print

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