

The road to becoming Jayne

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Culture Editor

Imagine juggling two jobs, one of which often makes you cry, and another that makes you smile. Daily, when Jayne Stevens performs emotion at work, she is smiling. Stevens is the college's artist in residence for the 2007-2008 year. Every fall, Clackamas Community Theatre (CRT) Director David Smith-English awards Stevens the position of artist in residence to a current or former

Clackamas student who has taken his acting courses and performed in several of the school's productions.

As artist in residence, Stevens assists students in the acting classes and helps with the student-directed one-act plays each term. She is also in Clackamas' main-stage shows, which gives students the opportunity to know her as an actress as well as a teacher.

In addition, she is a member of the CRT.

"The opportunity that David (Smith-English) has provided is just amazing; he has given me professional credits for my work with



STEVENS

"As a little kid, I loved to play imagination games," she said. "I did community theatre as a child. My first play was 'The Wizard of Oz,' when I was five. I was a Munchkin. I just sort of have always done it."

Stevens continued to do community theatre and was involved with school productions in high school before coming to Clackamas.

She enjoyed participating

in sports when she was young, in addition to theatre, but had to decide between the two later on.

"When I was in eighth grade, I had to choose, and I chose theatre," she said.

One of Stevens' favorite roles while she was a student at the college was Meg in "Crimes of the Heart."

"It is a show about three sisters," she said.

Another memorable production for her was "A Lie of the Mind," in which she played an older woman.

"I wore a fat-suit, and that was fun," she said. "It is fun playing ugly people; it is like you can just let out all the ugliness that you keep inside most of the time."

"A Lie of the Mind" is also by her favorite playwright, Sam Shepard, whom she admires like a celebrity.

Stevens will graduate this spring with a Bachelor of Science degree in theatre arts from Portland State University, where she transferred after attending Clackamas.



Contributed by Jennifer Schwartzman

Roles of an actress

Clackamas Community College:

Play: "The Importance of Being Earnest"

Play: "Crimes of the Heart"

Play: "Lend Me a Tenor"

Play: "A Lie of the Mind"

Play: "Uncle Vanya"

Play: "Reckless"

Play: "Quilters"

Portland State University:

Play: "Fox'd"

Play: "Blithe Spirit"

Play: "Big Love"

Clackamas Repertory Theatre:

Play: "Moon Over Buffalo"

Play: "Fuddy Meers"

Play: "The Fantasticks"

Artist Repertory Theatre:

Play: "Owen Meany's Christmas Pageant"

CRT," she said.

Stevens balances her theatre duties while working as a visual merchandiser in Portland, which involves designing and coordinating displays at West Elm, a furniture store that currently has stores in 15 states throughout the country.

It is not so startling that she has become a talented actress; she started performing and fell in love with theatre at a very young age.

Jayne Stevens

plays the

character

Rachel in

"Reckless," which

the theatre department

put on earlier

in the school

year.

Scraps piece together well but do not appeal to the student masses

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The play is set in the prairies, during the westward expansion. Life stories are shared and passed on through quilts, one of the main social events among women is to create these remembrances. Women are given quilts when they are

born, and they live and die with quilts. The musical describes how the art form came to be in the west and the pioneers' many uses for it. Quilts became mementoes, passed on by families who stayed east instead of moving west. They were also used as burial shrouds, the final resting places for those who died along the

journey across the prairie.

The characters, through an all-female cast, make quilts from scraps of fabric. Putting the scraps together could be a means of describing how the play is organized.

"Quilters" is a compilation of scenes, each represented by a specific quilting-

block pattern. Every pattern introduces a new series of memories.

The show does not have one overall tone; instead, the patchwork way in which the play is arranged allows for the scenes to go from heart-wrenchingly depressing to overly exuberant in a matter of seconds. This adds a lot of variation to the plot, but at the same time, it makes it difficult to really care about any of the characters.

In one scene, a woman gives birth in the dark and screams at the top of her lungs while the band plays a cacophonous sound. Shortly after, all the lights on stage turn on and a gathering of whimsical school girls prance around holding a set of corn-cob dolls.

"Quilters" obviously caters to women, from the overall theme of bonding via quilting to jokes about who of the characters has gotten her period.

The cast was well-selected, and the music is a definite strong point for the show, but these factors cannot hide the simple truth that the production lacks something important, something with which everyone can connect.

I was surprised that the college chose to put on this particular musical. I found it hard to relate to the story, and the focus doesn't seem appropriate for the college audience, let alone a college male like me. This is made evident by the fact that the majority of the audience members were over 50 and female. Most of the young men who attended were with a woman.

Although "Quilters" has a lot of upsides, including its sometimes-very-dark sense of humor, the subject matter is its downside.

I realize that, primarily, it is a tale for women, and in light of that, I brought along a female friend of mine, who I figured would be able to offer a woman's perspective. What she said to me about a quarter of the way through the play solidified my opinion that this is not a musical for college students, and that was "I hate you for this."



Mistymarie Wilks-Salguero Clackamas Print

of the characters of "Quilters," the mother, Sara (left), and one of her daughters, Margaret (middle), proudly show off a large quilt square pieced together from scraps of fabric.