

Student-run productions bring laughter to campus audience

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Opening scene: two guys on the side of the road, trying to change a flat tire. Well, one of them is trying. The other guy is busy wondering "What would you be willing to trade for a flying car?" to even bother with it. The theatre department's student-directed one-act Performance Showcase is a regular end-term collaboration show put on by individuals using the combined theatre, improv and stand-comedy class. The Showcase is a fun way for students to might be thinking, for example, "Hey, I'm

a funny guy; I can do stand-up," to prove they have the chops to make 'em roll in the aisles. On the other hand, it is also a painless way to see if a better choice would be to give up on the stage, fame and glory, and just go back to math and science.

"I really am kinda nervous about this," said first-time director Shelly Mortimer of her own production "Cameras" and the very strong message it brings. "It is about the media and their total separation from life, how they make money from tragedy, the indecency of it."

According to Theatre Arts Director David Smith-English, the Performance Showcase allows students to interpret existing material in their own way, to encourage their vision or to try out new material in a very comfortable setting.

It is also "a really nice way to spend your lunch hour," Smith-English said. "Come in, catch a few laughs, and then go back to classes."

Although the students are all assisting each other in their various acts, each separate production really is a unique work and manages to provoke the audience in different ways.

"The Flying Car" has a very basic premise and is really no more than an old jalopy with a flat and two guys changing the tire. After two minutes of watching, already the audience is annoyed enough to get up on stage and strangle the obnoxious guy who will not shut up long enough to just fix the stupid tire.

"Cameras" includes nine people on the stage, dancing, choreography and a lot of activities going on at the same time. This thought-provok-

ing act focuses on the very real and dangerous phenomenon of celebrity paparazzi in the modern culture.

The stand-up comedy routines and the improv group performing "We Are Lame" may be very minimalist on props, but are no less heartfelt by the people on stage.

Very reminiscent of TV's "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" the group pulls the audience onto the stage, acts out stream-of-consciousness humor and turns a healthy dose of narcissism into 20 minutes of belly laughs.

The Performance Showcase is free in the McLoughlin Theater March 11, 12 and 13 between noon and 1 p.m., and again on the 13th between 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.



Photos by Genyva Laubach Clackamas Print

ABOVE: Improv students practice at their dress rehearsal.

LEFT: The cast of the one-act "Cameras" runs through the short play.

Promising entertainment soon to pop into theaters

Nick Kornafel

The Clackamas Print

Anyone looking for some entertainment this spring need not look any further than the cinema theater. Among the new movie releases of the season is the epic film set in pre historic times "10,000 B.C.," the story of a man who goes on an incredible journey to find his tribe. "10,000 B.C." opens March 7.

Other films emerging this month include the sci-fi thriller "Doomsday," "Never Back Down," an action movie about underground fighting, and "Horton Hears a Who," based on the book by Dr. Seuss.

While many children are certainly fans of Dr. Seuss, this is not to say that college-age individuals will not commemorate Horton the Elephant's debut on the silver screen.

"'Horton Hears a Who' is my favorite Dr. Seuss book ever," said Clackamas student Billie Bachmann.

On the opposite end of the entertainment spectrum is "21," which starts on the 28th. It is the true story of a group of college students who go to Las Vegas and get rich by counting cards.

Come mid-April, the big hit looks to be "The Forbidden Kingdom," starring kung-fu movie legends Jackie Chan and Jet Li.

Those seeking comedy may enjoy "Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo." It opens April 25.

Also coming in April are "The Ruins," about archeologists who discover an evil entity while exploring ruins in Brazil, and "88 Minutes," starring Al Pacino.

According to Clackamas students, the two most-hyped-about films are the sci-fi drama "Iron Man," opening May 2, and "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom

of the Crystal Skull," starting May 22.

"Even if they rape the mythos, it will be fun to watch," Aaron June said of "Iron Man."

The Wachowski brothers' "Speed Racer," "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian" and "Sex and the City: The Movie" are upcoming attractions as well.

"'Sex and the City'?" Hell no!" student Teea Newberg remarked. "I will never see that!"



Courtesy of Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures

Courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

Courtesy of Lucasfilm Ltd.