

New play to haunt Clackamas

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Arts & Culture Editor

Have you ever been so afraid of
the hairs on the back of
your neck standing up?

It's the feeling of honest and
raw fear. Most of us have
experienced it once or twice.
For the most part, we can say
it's a rare occurrence. However,
the play coming to Clackamas
aims to recreate that feeling.

"The Haunting of Grayson
Manor" written by local play-
wright Greg Forbes, will have
its world premiere at Clackamas
Community College this February.
It's about a manor haunted
by the owner's dead-for-twenty-
year-old son and follows a team of
scientists trying to find the
source of the ghost. With
dark turns and "hair raising
effects," this main stage
production is to be buzzed about.

Rehearsals have been going on
for three weeks now. Director
David Smith-English runs through
the script and tells actors which way
to go and they discuss the set as
they go. Actors go in and
out of character in the blink of an
eye. Smith-English directs every-
one at the speed of their words
and one of their lines. Forbes
said he is so impressed at
Smith-English's ability to "breathe
life into the script he wrote.

The production's main play-
wright is James Sharinghousen,
who plays Dr. Moore — the ghost
of Tara Wentworth, who
is playfully named Miss Graves
housekeeper, and finally
Grayson herself, the manor's
owner played by Heather Ovalle.
The rest of the cast includes Hollie
Jones, Annie Scharich,
David Smith and
Athena Folk
stage manager.

Playwright Forbes says he owes
the production to his friends and fam-
ily who encouraged him to actu-
ally do this play down on paper.
After weeks, Forbes had the story



James Sharinghousen(left) and Tara Wentworth(right) rehearse for "The Haunting of Grayson Manor," local playwright Greg Forbes' first work. The play is to open at Clackamas on Thursday, Feb. 25. Hillary Cole Clackamas Print

circling around in his mind, and it
wasn't until one night at a winery
when he asked his wife and friends
what they thought about it that he
was encouraged to really take it
somewhere.

Forbes has a degree in theater
from a Midwest college and has
written about two other plays, one
of which is the sequel to "The
Haunting of Grayson Manor."

It took Forbes about two weeks
to write the script after which he
began calling around to theaters
seeing if they were interested —
many were not because of the fact
that Forbes' work has never been
performed. Finally it occurred to
him to contact a local college.

Forbes contacted CCC, and
after editing a few things, he got
a call from Smith-English, who

said he was interested in using the
script as the college's main stage
play.

"I was thrilled," said Forbes.
Forbes said the best thing about
seeing his play being performed
is "seeing the characters come to
life," and he is very much looking
forward to opening night, which
he will spend with family and
friends; a few have already bought
tickets.

"The Haunting of Grayson
Manor" is a world premiere play
and definitely one worth seeing at
Clackamas. As rehearsals progress
and the play becomes closer to
being ready to be performed, the
buzz of the play will surely circle
the college and for good reasons:
this play promises to terrify you
with its paranormal activity.

Vampires don't sparkle

By John Simmons
The Clackamas Print

Vampires. I'll bet that upon
reading that word your mind
immediately jumped to daz-
zling good looks, cold, hard
skin and sparkling in the sun-
light. This breed of vampire has
been popularized by Stephenie
Meyer's Twilight Saga, which
stars an angst, preppy 110 year-
old teenage vampire who drinks
only the blood of animals. Many
traditionalists complain about
how "Twilight" has bastardized
the vampire, making it into noth-
ing more than a model/Olympic
athlete with copious amounts of
body glitter.

Despite this view, it is undeni-
able that "Twilight" has brought
vampires back into popular cul-
ture. Due to the sudden popularity
vampires have, many television
series such as "True Blood" and
"Vampire Diaries" have been
produced, fan-fictions are every-
where on the Internet, and there
are now Twilight-themed trading
cards, candies and clothing items.
Yes, everyone seems to be going
vampire-crazy, especially teenage
girls.

There are those who want to
restore vampires to their formal,
pre-Meyer glory, and writing and
directing duo, Michael and Peter
Spierigs, are just such people. Their
new film, "Daybreakers," is made
for the fans of the traditional vam-
pire, and they do not disappoint.

The Spierigs chose to instill
their film with all the trappings
of the traditional vampire story.
There are stakings, crossbows,
violent turning scenes, fangs and,
of course, the vampires' aversion
to sunlight. This film takes the
latter seriously, showing in the
opening scene that vampires burst
into flames and disintegrate when
exposed to the sun. Because sun
exposure means certain death, the
world has become nocturnal, and
all cars are equipped with sun-
light-blocking windows for day-
light driving.

"Daybreakers" takes place in
the year 2019, ten years after the

first human contracted the vam-
pirism virus from an infected bat.
Most of the world's populations
are now vampires, with only five
percent still human. The vam-
pires are quickly running out of
a blood supply, and only have
enough blood to last the world
for another month. Without blood
to drink, the vampires turn into
bat-like monsters called "Sub-sid-
ers," mindless, blood-thirsty kill-
ing machines.

The title character, named
Edward in what is sure to be a
jab at "Twilight," is a scientist
trying to find a blood substitute.
His initial attempts fail, and he
is running out of time. He then
comes in contact with a group of
humans on the run from the gov-
ernment that is hunting them for
their blood. They ask him to assist
them, and Edward is dragged into
a battle against time as he works
with them to find a cure and save
the human race.

Although exciting, there are
some issues with the film. Some
scenes are not explained and don't
lend much to the story, and some
characters are not developed as
much as I would have liked. That
being said, "Daybreakers" is a ter-
rific action flick.

"Daybreakers" is definite-
ly not a movie for those easily
scared or those who don't like
the sight of blood, because this
movie is full of bloody encounters
and exploding bodies. It is one of
the bloodiest movies I've seen,
right up there with Tim Burton's
"Sweeney Todd."

The special effects aren't any-
thing spectacular, most, if not
all, of the vampires and Sub-sid-
ers are just people in costumes,
which, at some points, is painfull-
ly obvious. However, the movie
more than makes up for it with
action sequences, thrilling fight
scenes and blood. Lots and lots
of blood.

I would suggest this film
to those who want to see what
vampires are really like and what
would happen if vampirism were
to ever become a reality, as well
as those who just love a good
scare and a great story.

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