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Making a great play is dirty work



Brad Heineke Clackamas Print

By Annemarie Schulte
Arts & Culture Editor

"Ten points!" actor James Sharninghausen exclaimed, opening his mouth wide, hoping for an audience member to throw a peanut into it. From the third row, I aimed and made it; a perfect shot.

Why was I throwing peanuts at an actor in the middle of the play? Attend Clackamas Community College Theatre Arts Department's latest production at the Osterman Theatre and you'll see why.

The play, "Dirty Work at the Crossroads," written by Bill Johnson and directed by David Smith-English, is being performed in the Osterman Theatre from May 20 to 30.

As Sharninghausen writes on his Facebook, the play "is the story of our heroine, Nellie Lovelace, an innocent country girl, and the dastardly Munro Murgatroyd. Munro pursues Nellie tearing her from the arms of her dying mother (whom he

has poisoned). He has driven Adam Oakhart, Nellie's true love, to drink. This colorful mix of characters is a hissing and booing ... hootin' and hol-lerin' melodrama of the first order."

For \$5, people attending the play could buy a bag of peanuts, which were used to throw at the villain and main character, Munro.

Signs that prompted the audience when to say "BOOO!" and "HOORAY!" added to the fun theatrics of the play. The actors were funny and quick-witted, and there were a few lines here and there that the actors ad-libbed, and those were the funniest. The play also had humorous references to nearby places like Lake Oswego, West Linn and Portland, which localized the play.

Other familiar names were referred to like David Smith-English, and actress Heather Ovalle even referred to herself as the artist in residence (which she is indeed). Very small things like this made the play unique and intimate. At one point, one of the characters threatens to blackmail another and says they will publish a picture in "The Willamette Week." This got a lot of appreciative laughs from the audience, including me.

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Great student and a great player: the story of Taylor Hill

By Mark Sunderland
The Clackamas Print

Full-time student, full-time worker and softball player, Taylor Hill is a busy man. He is in his second year at Clackamas Community College, and he is currently working towards a degree in business. He played as a relief pitcher for the Cougars last season, he is now a starting pitcher. Hill is from Sherwood High School where he was an All-State player. He originally went straight to a four-year college, Canyon University, in Arizona. The season didn't work out there. Clackamas was the closest place to home, so I thought I'd come back and try it out," Hill said. "It seems to have found his stride at Clackamas. "Playing here at Clackamas has

been great. The coaches are great; it's been a lot of fun and a learning experience. But it is really nice to have two solid years with a bunch of great guys," he said.

He is an All Region, Gold Glove and all NWAACC player. He earned the Gold Glove in 2009 as the best defensive player as a pitcher and in the words of Hill, "It's an honor to work hard and pitchers, especially, aren't known for defense. So it's kind of cool to get recognized for something like that."

Beyond the titles though, he is dedicated student baseball player. When he isn't training or studying, he said, "I hang out with my family and friends a lot. I'm an outdoors guy; so hanging out playing basketball, playing sports anything like that. Anything outside."

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plus 50
Community Colleges:
AGELESS LEARNING

Contributed

Retirees will learn for life

By James Duncan
The Clackamas Print

The economy is in shambles, and we are on the edge of seeing 78 million baby boomers enter retirement. The Plus 50 Initiative opens doors for people who are in or entering retirement, making it more possible for retired persons to get back into the work force and to share their vast experience with the younger generations.

The Plus 50 Initiative is the American Association of Community College's work to benchmark and showcase the most current and innovative programs at community colleges to engage the

50-plus learner. Through this program, community colleges will create or expand campus programs to engage the older population in learning, training or retraining programs and volunteer, civic, or service activities, according to the Plus 50 website.

"This ... economic crisis developed right in the middle of this initiative so year one we had a lot of goals and then year two people flooded community colleges going back for their education," said Tracy Reilly Kelly, program manager in continuing education at Clark College.

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