Film fest's future remains unseen

Contributed by Todd Gardiner

fans yell out the tradional chant "IA!" replicating the writings of H.P. Lovecraft during the H.P. Lovecraft Film Festival at the Hollywood Theatre on After 15 years of bringing dark and deranged entertainment to the Northwest, the festival may be on hiatus next year.

By **Jaime Dunkle**
News Editor

is not dead which can eter-

with strange aeons even death

P. Lovecraft,
Nameless City"

med horror writer H.P. has developed enough of owing to have festivals cel- name. The H.P. Lovecraft ival showcases films, com- visual art, and more based rchaic author's particular sthetic, which is common- to as Lovecraftian.

istoric Hollywood Theatre East Sandy Boulevard in hosted the HPLFF. The fest ran from Friday, Oct. 1, day, Oct. 3.

I caught the entire event, d only make it to the Sunday veral people told me the ds of short films I didn't exceptional, so I'm certain out on some quick qual- o-thrillers. I also missed the rary aspect of the event, called CthulhuCon. I wasn't worried because I prefer the progenitors; I'm not into current horror authors. Besides, listening to people read for extended periods is boring, at least I think so.

After running the H.P. Lovecraft Film Fest for 15 years, founder and festival director Andrew Migliore is stepping down. The 2010 festival was the last fest he will direct, at least for now.

"It's a lot of work. When I was doing it full time, it was different, but the banking crisis in 2008 basically left me without a credit line and it became harder," Migliore said. "I ended up this last year having to get a 'real job,' so I ended up going back to programming computers."

Migliore said that although he won't be the festival director anymore, he intends to be actively involved with any future festivals to ensure the preservation of his original vision. Indie filmmaker and writer Aaron Vanek, a longtime friend of Migliore, will continue directing the HPLFF in Los Angeles. However, Portland's future is still undecided.

"The only problem in Portland is finding someone equivalent, or a group of people who are gonna be able to take care of it and build an organization that will continue to grow and be successful," Migliore said.

Jon Ho, a student at the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine, was working as a volunteer at the event. He did everything from stage set-up to checking people at the door. Festival shirts sold out the first night of the three day event, according to Ho. Later on, I asked someone handling official merchandise and confirmed that they were taking back orders.

When I asked for a film recommendation, Ho emphatically suggested I catch an Australian horror film called "Primal."

"It had teef," Ho said. "Spell that with an 'F.'"

"Primal" did indeed have teeth! I only caught the last half of the movie, at the very end of the festival. I walked out of "Re-Animator: The Musical," which was hokey thespian psychobabble, to watch it. I could tell the Australian bloodbath was a clever flick. The gore effects were well done, and the monsters were genuinely frightening. From what I saw, it was about a group of people on some desolate island full of hungry cave-dwelling octopus demons and bloodthirsty zombies.

"The Unnamable II: The Statement Of Randolph Carter" was the first film I saw. I had previously seen "The Unnamable" years ago, and I recalled it being corny and goofy. The sequel was campy, but not as awful. The audience found it amusing, and many of us were laughing in unison.

The second thing I watched was Shorts Block 3, introduced by an onscreen art show with Coil as the soundtrack. One painting was especially morbid. A boy and his dog stood in mutual decay with nasal cavities and jawbones visible. It mocked the style of vintage photography.

The short films were diverse. Some were funny, witty, gory, imaginative, or just plain awful. The funniest short was "At the Reefers of Madness" by Brian Clement. It played off the gratuitous violence induced by marijuana as portrayed in its 1938 exploitation predecessor, "Reefer Madness." The film "A Tell-Tale Heart" by Michael Swertfager was an impressive CGI take of a famous Edgar Allan Poe short story. During a Q&A, Swertfager told the audience he wanted to add another minute and a half, but it would have taken two to three months! "Dagon" by Michael Chase was a grim, abstract animation with subtle mystical elements. "Effulgence" was terrible. The storyline, camera work, and acting were all vapid attempts at failed cinematography.

"Eater" by Stuart Gordon, the director of one of the most famous Lovecraft films, "Re-Animator," was the next movie on my list. Gordon told the audience that "Eater" was entered into NBC's "Fear Itself" horror series. The plot was good, and the filmmaking looked great. The cannibalistic villain was scary. The blood spatter scenes gave the movie an ominous touch. I'd watch it again. I still have no idea why Gordon followed such a cool film with that "Re-Animator: The Musical" cornball crap. I almost wished I had caught the first half of "Primal" instead.

Even though I spent more than eight hours away from homework, I'm happy I sat through all of those films. I hope the HPLFF finds a way to manifest in the Northwest again next year. If it does, I recommend planning ahead to avoid missing out on the overlapping films and readings.

Visit www.hplfilmfestival.com for updates on the festival's future.

oming soon: 24-Hour Story Jam

By Kyle Smith
The Clackamas Print

ook, up on the stage! It's a bird! It's a ! No, it's Scott McCloud! That's right, egendary cartoonist and comics theo- is coming to Clackamas Community ge, and he's bringing his 24-Hour Jam with him.

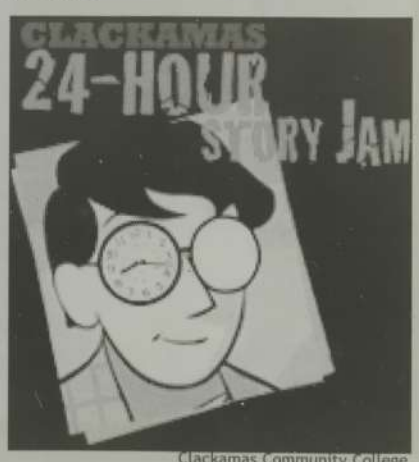
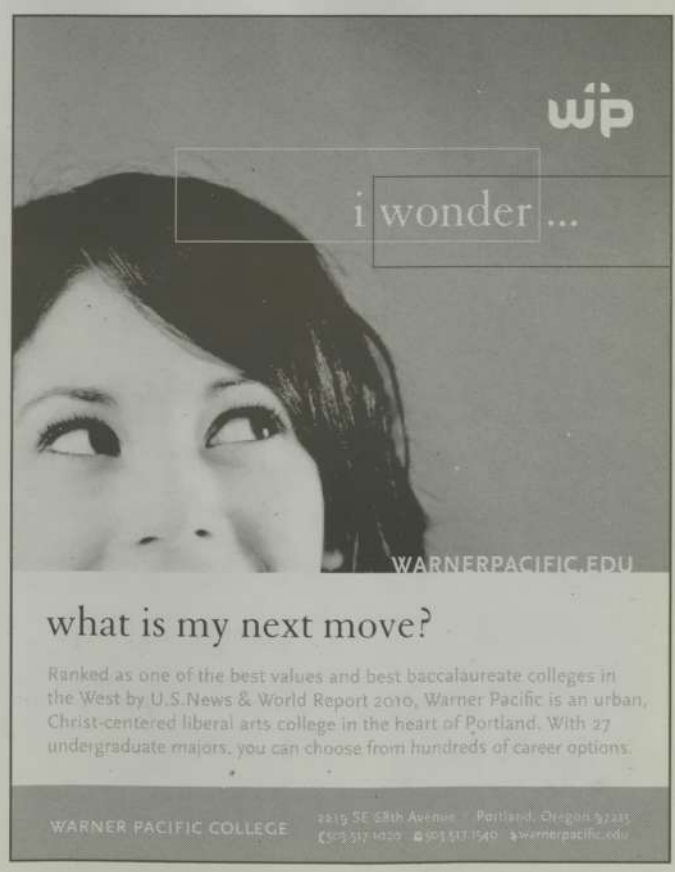
e Story Jam is a creative workshop on with the goal of producing a fin- d project within a 24-hour time span.

Students who attend McCloud's lecture ld expect to be entertained, enlightened ltimately challenged to think about how ake and experience art in the new mil- um," Trevor Dodge, English instructor lackamas Community College, stated e-mail. "Those who sign up and com- the creative workshops in letter press- comics or video can expect to chart dea from beginning to conclusion and Saturday evening having produced ished piece of their own design and ation."

e event starts in Gregory Forum on us at 6 p.m. on Friday the 15th and until 10 p.m., at which time it will rn for the night and resume at 9 a.m. on Saturday the 16th ending that evening at 6 p.m.

Scott McCloud's talk and the 24-Hour Story Jam is free to attend for current CCC students.

To register, contact Kate Gray in the English Department or attend the event Friday night, as registration sheets will be at the door.



Clackamas Community College