

OUR TOWN: Iconic play comes to Clackamas

By Mandie Gavitt
Arts & Culture Editor

"Our Town" is a play that thrives on its simplicity and genuine relationship with the audience in attendance. Set in the early 20th Century, "Our Town" tells the story of a small town as it begins to adapt to a changing world. The story focuses mostly on the relationships of the people who reside in the small town of Grover's Corners, N.H., in particular the relationship between Emily Webb and George Gibbs, the two main characters of the play, written by Thornton Wilder.

The story is narrated by a character entitled simply Stage Manager, who is able to break the fourth wall and speak directly to the audience. The Stage Manager not only plays several roles in the show, he also helps to inform the audience of what is happening in the play. The scenery is entirely minimal, with only a few tables, ladders and benches. Instead of using props, the actors pantomime the objects they are interacting with.

The story itself is simple, which means that those attending the play can instead focus on the acting. The actors are solely what make the play. As always the college theatre program has an excellent cast. "They are the bright shiniest thing in the galaxy," said Director David Smith-English.

The Stage Manager played by Michael Mitchell, did an excellent job of engaging the audience and telling the story in a way that made the play feel relevant and Athena Folk, who played Mrs. Soames, provided much comedy relief. Emily Webb played by Shannon O'Shaughnessy was the sweetest character of the whole play. I found her innocence and naivety to be very refreshing and heart-warming. O'Shaughnessy seemed to approach the character with a child-like inno-

cence who steals the show away. The play follows Emily Webb and George Gibbs as they go from high school sweethearts to husband and wife. The audience gets to be in on the intimate details of how the pair progresses from being two kids growing up in the same small town to lovers. The story begins with them as students at night talking from their adjacent second story bedroom window. This is done with each standing on ladders to represent the houses locations to each other.

In a later scene, after a few years in the story, the lovers are having a date at the small ice cream shop, where Stage Manager takes on the role of the owner of the shop. While helping themselves to milkshakes, the two discuss the possibility of liking each other enough to get married in the future. This precludes the wedding scene where both are shown to have doubts but with help they manage to keep their cold feet under control and wed by the preacher who is played once again by the Stage Manager.

The wedding scene is quite adorable. Those in attendance for the wedding are not necessarily the most respectful and make the scene humorous. Mrs. Soames loudly tells anyone who will listen about how she thinks the wedding is one of the nicest she has seen.

Because I hate to spoil endings I will not say what happens in the final act. What I will say is that, with a happy and whimsical feel, the play moves on and acts one and two quickly disappear. With superb acting and a genuine spirit, this play will break your heart.

As is to be expected, the theater department is once again putting on a must see show. Tickets are \$8 for students and you can catch this unforgettable and utterly charming show Thursday through Sunday until Nov. 20.

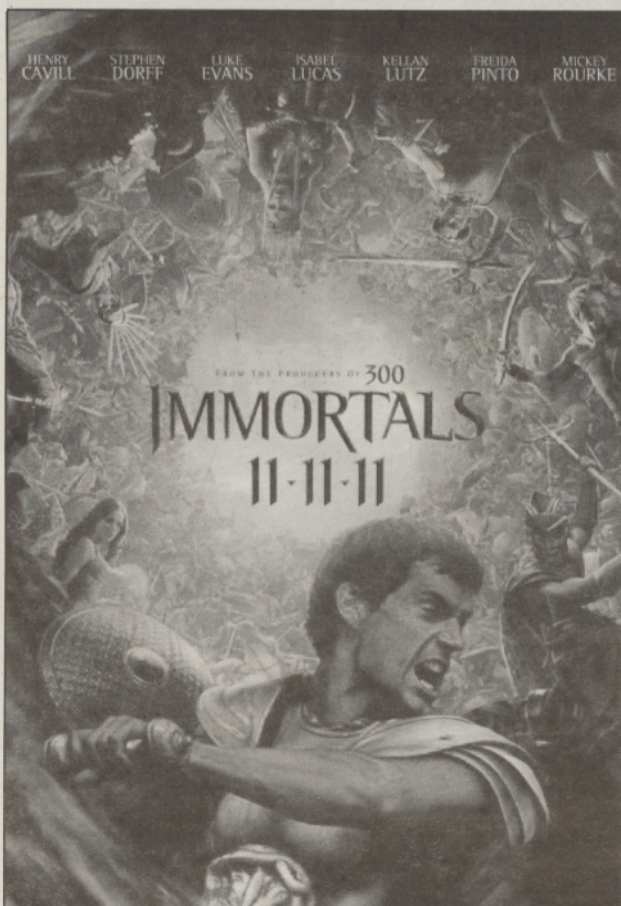


Emily Webb (Shannon O'Shaughnessy) and George Gibbs (Michael Lissman) talk with Mr. Webb (Sam Munger) at their wedding in "Our Town". The play, presented by CCC's Theatre Arts Department, runs until Nov. 20, Thursday-Saturday at 7:30pm in the Osterman Theatre located in Niemeyer Center.

Brad Heinke - The Clackamas Print

'Immortals' attempts to disguise lacking story with striking visuals

By James Duncan
Design Editor



From Tarsem Singh, the director who brought you the dark and mind bending movie "The Cell," comes a new and "exciting" movie for the masses, "Immortals." Filled with brutal fight scenes, love, tragedy and all things a Greek epic should contain, it wows its viewers with spectacular effects and very little else. The striking visual effects do very little to cover up the terrible story and the blatant attempt to cash in on movies like "Clash of the Titans," "Troy" and "300."

The acting of Luke Evans and Henry Cavill is laughable throughout most of the movie. Mickey Rourke isn't at his best but he makes a good bad guy. Even the most dramatic scenes of the movie are completely overshadowed by the terrible acting and juvenile writing.

"Immortals" follows the adventure of peasant hero Theseus (Henry Cavill) and his adventures seeking the Epirus Bow to stop the evil plans of King Hyperion (Mickey Rourke). The movie is regularly seasoned with a small selection of Greek gods including or rather limited to Poseidon (Kellan Lutz), Zeus (Luke Evans), Athena (Isabel Lucas), Aries (Daniel Sharman) and a pinch of Helios (Peter Stebbings) and Heracles (Steve Byers). The only interesting fights in the whole movie are the ones that the gods are involved in and those take up a very short amount of the total run time.

For a film that trailers focused on all of the action it had, a great deal of rambling dialog that rarely seemed to matter or impact the overall tone of the movie. In places it felt like the writers ran out of ideas for dialog so they would just have the character repeat a line from

earlier in the movie. Some of the most important moments feel silly and so over the top with testosterone that the actors were about to start leaking it from their ears. It is hard to take something seriously when, bam bam, every other, bam bam, word is, bam bam, broken up, bam bam, by an annoying sound effect. Repetition is a theme in "Immortals."

The visual effects are the only thing that made this movie watchable: stunning views of 'Greek' landscapes and excellently detailed fight scenes. Most over-the-top action movies often seem to throw logic to the wind and people do insane fight moves that make historians and people who read, shake their heads and laugh.

This movie has one-upped most. The characters fight like they are in a bad kung fu movie more than that they are ancient Greek soldiers but over everything else heads roll all the time. This is another point in the movie that feels like someone ran out of ideas really fast, because everyone's head pops off constantly in slow motion no less. More heads roll in this movie than in the French Revolution. The last and maybe most annoying part of the whole movie was the excessive use of slow motion. Yes, we get it. "300" happened, it was good. Now give it up, you are not going to do it better, let alone do it well!

Over all, this movie is bad, really bad. If you are into testosterone fueled head chop fests, this just might be your movie, but if you care at all for story or even a little about the characters, that won't happen. "Immortals" should be getting one of the lowest ratings possible but because the CGI is "just so perty" I give this movie a two out of five.

P.S. The ending sets the movie up for a sequel! Bam bam!

Rogue Pictures