



Brad Heinke/The Clackamas Print

Shannon O'Shaughnessy and Michael Lissman perform in "Our Town" in the Clackamas Community College theater.

'Our Town' brings story of youth and simplicity

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 Grovers 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.

Because the play was so simple, it was easy to focus on the excellent acting instead. The

actors are solely what made the play. As always the Clackamas theater department has an excellent cast. "They are the brightest shiniest thing in the galaxy," said Director David Smith-English.

The "Stage Manager" played by Amanda Sutton, 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 innocence that 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 got 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, a few years

later 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.

Though the first two acts are a whimsical form of happy with a child-like innocence the happy quickly faded in the final act with the untimely death of Emily Webb. With superb acting and a genuine spirit; this play will break your heart.

As is to be expected, the Clackamas Community College theater once again put on a must see show.

"Fall Run" shares labor of love from mother-son pair at Alexander Gallery

By Robert Morrison
The Clackamas Print

Another art show has come to Alexander Gallery at Clackamas Community College. On Nov. 10, mother and son team Rod and Donna Pike brought the newest exhibit, "Fall Run" to the college. "Fall Run," showing unique folk art, can be seen until Dec 22. The Pikes, hailing from Molalla, obtained their wood backgrounds working in lumber mills. Antique collectors and garage sale enthusiasts, this mother-son combo collects items such as clapping monkeys and bean pots. Rod Pike carves fish out of

soft wood, while his mother paints them with an acrylic paint. They add a unique flair to the fish by affixing strange items on some fish, such as a real cat teeth. "Fall Run" is made up of approximately 20 suspended wooden fish. Each of these fish was handcarved and painted, taking approximately 20 years to make. Some of the fish have unique qualities such as a humanlike head, but others simply resemble salmon or trout. "I like the unique fish the most," said Charles Wilson, CCC student. "It shows a creative ability and imagination. It was my first time I've been in the gallery and it was a new experience. I liked it; the art-

ists did a great job." Wilson is a sophomore, planning on majoring in art as he works his way toward university. "One of the things I like most about our current exhibition is that it is a labor of love. These pieces were not made with the intent to exhibit. They were also not made with the intention to sell or make profit from. They were made because of an interest in nature and a need to explore and manipulate materials," said Kate Simmons of the CCC art department. "I am also drawn to the fact that these works as a whole display a kind of visual dialog between a son and his mother as he has formed them and she has

finalized the surface treatment." "The artists sound like they are happy doing what they love," said Trisha Scotts. "It shows in the details in their work. It's amazing." Scotts was taken to the gallery by one of her friends and plans to enroll in CCC next year. According to Scotts it was worth the visit to the CCC Oregon City campus. Playing on the term "fall run," which is when fish swim up river to spawn, the art shows the theme well with its fish carvings. The gallery is open Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. "Fall Run" is open to the public and free to attend to all of those who would like to visit.



Hillary Cole/The Clackamas Print

A wooden fish hangs suspended in the Niemeyer gallery. This is one of the many artistic fish made over the last 20 years by mother and son Donna and Rod Pike.

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J-215 & J-226

Tweaks of the week
Things to do if college life is tweaking you out:
Fall Term Student Performance Showcase (Nov. 29 - Dec. 1)
Student directed one-act plays, stand-up comedy. Performances are from noon to 1 p.m. in the Osterman Theatre.
12/5: CCC Chamber Ensemble Fall Concert
Concert begins at 7 p.m. on Dec. 5 in the Niemeyer Center.
Have a gig or event coming up? Email aced@clackamas.edu.

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