

'Body Worlds' horrifies and captivates

By Joshua Dillen
Associate News Editor

A grotesquely powerful tour of beauty, OMSI's latest surreal expression of the human form, Gunther Von Hagen's 'Body Worlds and the Brain' is a vividly real and mind bending exhibit.

Body Worlds is an enlightening journey of the human body that will enthrall and develop the mind as you witness the in-your-face expansion of several figures and the incredible complexity of human physical form. Tastefully displayed, all the specimens evoke curious emotions. My first impression was almost "too much information," but it quickly lost the shock value and I continued the journey with awe and enthusiasm.

Adult price is \$25, and the parking fee is \$3. Children ages three through 14 get in for \$17. Student (fourteen and older with student identification) and senior price is \$20.

The experience will give you a new perspective of your own body and those around you. I certainly have looked at myself differently after enjoying the exhibit last week. Whether you are studying anatomy or don't even have an interest in what the most intimate parts of the body look like, I urge you to see the exhibit before it leaves Portland in early March. Don't miss this wonderful thought and emotion evoking example of life frozen in action, oh yeah — with the skin peeled off.

I thought a microscope in biology class was cool, but plastination blows that kind of observation away. The process literally turns a body (or a slice, section or portion thereof) into a plastic replica of itself. Once complete, depending on the particular process used, it results in a spectacular and mind bending (literally) 3D view of all the details of a human body.

Different organs and sections of the body are processed separately and reassembled in varying configurations to give visitors a plethora of paths into the inner realms of the human body. Bones are white and muscles are clearly defined. Nerves and blood vessels are distinctly revealed in their respective networks in the body.

The huge collection is of plastinated bodies is arranged in various configurations to highlight different features that have been revealed by the process. All of the bodies are donated by people who want their remains to further science.

The displays are an incredible spectacle of nature revealed, from a tiny fetal skull that first reminded me of a South American

shrunken head, which was strangely cute, to views of organs in various states of disease. The examples of cigarette blackened lungs had a somber effect on me, as did the ingenious placement of a receptacle to ditch your cigarette pack, next to a sign that encouraged visitors to do so. There was also a list of the immediate and cumulative benefits to your body from giving up the dang cancer sticks. Examples of the fatty plaques that develop inside arteries and the heart were enough to make me seriously think about becoming vegan. Need I describe the liver display? I should have visited here before the New Year!

The example of the brain and nervous system is a ghostlike, almost alien display that was one of my favorites. The plastination of a giraffe can only be described as "WOW." I can't even imagine how they got that huge naked animal inside or even able to hold itself up. And just like the human specimens, he was anatomically correct.

Several examples of genitalia and reproductive organs are pretty much unavoidable to see. You may want to think about that when bringing your children. You WILL be asked lots of questions.

Especially striking were the circulatory system displays. The blood vessels of a human arm and lungs were next to the complete vascular network of a lamb and rooster; all rendered in a scarlet brilliance. A teen skateboarder, soccer player and two ice skaters all posed in their respective activities were all very interesting displays. Also very cool were what I call the "cyborg displays." These were the bodies of people who had knee and hip replacements, or other shiny pieces of stainless steel in their bodies when they died.

All of the exhibits are numbered to use the audio device that will cost you an extra \$4. The recordings were very informative as well as the signage next to each of the specimens. The whole body displays have detailed diagrams that describe the different organs and features shown. Poignant quotes from great thinkers of the world are inscribed on huge pictures of people in various landscapes to add to the power of the overall experience. All in all, I have to say this has been a greatly enjoyable and educational experience and very worth of the trip.

The exhibit runs from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The ticket price includes general admission to the other OMSI exhibits.

For more information, call 503-797-4661. Internet users can visit www.omsicom or www.bodyworlds.com.



Brad Heinke The Clackamas Print

A plasticized human body imitates a statue. All the bodies in the exhibit were donated to science. Get to OMSI before March to see this unique exhibit!

Trails End Saloon
1320 Main St. Oregon City 503-656-3031

Blues Therapy with Rae Gordon
Blues Jam on Wednesdays & Sundays
NW Blues Bands Friday & Saturdays

Full Service Blues Bar and Grill

Voted Oregon's Best Blues Venue
By Cascade Blues Association

Theater dusts off old costumes in preparation for director's final fundraiser

By Isaac Soper
Arts & Culture Editor

The practice schedule is intense; actors rush to relearn their lines from 10 years ago. Costumes are taken from the archives and repaired if necessary; others that are too far gone are remade. Cast and crew are in a flurry to prepare for the one-night-only performance of, "The



Photo by Travis Nodurft

Travis Nodurft acts as John Worthington and Jayson Shanafelt as Algernon Moncrieff in a production of "The Importance of Being Earnest."

Importance of Being Earnest."

Clackamas Repertory Theater is starting its eighth season this year. At the beginning of every season, CRT puts on a fundraiser, which in this case is a one-night-only show taken from the 2002 season.

The preparation for the fundraiser is very fast-paced; according to Theater Instructor and Director, David Smith-English, the whole production takes only two weeks to arrange. "It's about a 90-page script and we were within 17 pages after five rehearsals. It's a quick process," said Smith-English. "These guys are really good and really quick. They come in knowing all of their lines and some of them have done the show before."

Chris Whitten, set and lights designer and tech theater instructor, is in the process of creating the set for "Earnest" so that it can be used for the fundraiser and the upcoming student production of "The Crucible." Though the lights aren't finished for the upcoming production, Whitten said that particularly in Act II, "lighting can help [tell] the story."

Whitten has worked with Smith-English in the theater department since 1996.

"It is a very flexible and very clever way that he's created the set," said Smith-English.

The fundraiser is meant to bring in money for CRT's upcoming season, which consists of three productions that will be revealed on the night of the fundraiser.

"[It will bring in] a nice chunk of money, but it's

nowhere near what it costs for a season, because everybody gets paid at Clackamas Rep.; we bring in professional actors from all over the place," said Smith-English. "There's a lot of money involved, so this is just a small portion, but it's a nice portion."

All of the actors and theater techs in CRT are professionals, meaning that they are paid for their efforts; it is an extension of the college program that provides jobs that pay from approximately \$500-\$2,100, according to Smith-English.

Alva Bradford, has been the costume designer for the theater department since 1993. She has been working hard with her staff to prepare all of the costumes for the upcoming show.

"Several [costumes] are from 10 years ago — mainly the women's," said Bradford.

On the CRT Facebook page, they have taken old costumes out of the archives and spoofed many musicals and stage productions to tease their followers. Of these false productions, they have included such productions as "Cats" and "Grease."

The fundraiser will take place on Saturday, Feb., 4. and to the happiness of Smith-English, it is currently sold out.

"We [will] have a party after the show, we also announce our season, which has been a secret up to this point and then people can start buying season tickets right after that."

Season tickets for the upcoming season cost \$36 for youth (aged 26 and under).