



Photo by Brad Heineke, The Clackamas Print

Sam Munger(left), acts out a scene with other members of the cast in 'The Crucible' in which John Proctor refuses to sign his name on a confession that he knows is a lie.

## 'The Crucible' brings witch trials to stage

By Brad Heineke  
Ad Manager

Lust, greed, jealousy and fear. These are some facets of human nature which can bring out the worst in people. Public panic and hysteria can have dangerous results as demonstrated in "The Crucible," the current play of the Clackamas Community College Theater Arts Department.

The play, written by Arthur Miller, focuses on the Salem Witchcraft trials of 1692.

Miller wrote the play in 1953

during the House Committee on Un-American Activities hearings and it parallels to the unfounded panic and "witch hunts" of McCarthyism. CCC's striking poster for the play also acknowledges this tie. The hundreds of names on it are many of those of some who were blacklisted as Communists during this time of "red-baiting." Miller himself was one of those listed as he refused to identify people who were present at meetings he had attended.

It brings to light questions of pride, guilt, reputation, and faith,

which is part of what makes this play so powerful and enduring.

The set, costumes and strong performances produced by the theater department capture the era of the Puritan New England town during this dark time in American history. The talented cast is fairly large at 24 and strong with acting experience. They do an excellent job in this dramatic production.

The play is directed by David Smith-English, who has directed more than 50 plays with the college.

"The Crucible," along with another play during the spring term, will be the last that Smith-English will do with the college; he is retiring after the school year. Smith-English has a great legacy at the college in 1989, and has been the Director/Instructor of the Theater Arts Department since 1994.

"He will certainly be missed," said Chris Whitten, who handles the theater department's set and lighting design among his many faculty duties. "David is not old

enough to be my father, but I wish he was ... he's glad that he is not," said Whitten with a sparkle of jest in his eye.

"The Crucible" runs through March 11 with shows Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the Osterman Theater located in the Niemeyer Center. Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors. Tickets can also be purchased online at [www.TheaterCCC.org](http://www.TheaterCCC.org).

## Transforming Seuss' 'The Lorax' from book into 3D film

"The Lorax" was originally published in 1971 by Dr. Seuss, is a wonderfully hand drawn tale of the dangers of industrialization and corporate takeover

By Katherine Sudyam  
Copy Editor

How would you feel if the world lost its sheen? If there were no trees left to be green, if the world was dark and gray? If the sun didn't shine all day?

In the world of Dr. Seuss, "The Lorax," it's been a long time since the townspeople had seen natural green. That is until the main character, known only as "you", decides to find out what happened to make his sad little town so unequivocally depressing. I don't know exactly what route the new theatrical release of "The Lorax" will take the end of this Seussian story to, but I'm hoping that some of the bright colors I saw in the commercials will be a part of the climax.

This book, originally published in '71, takes an environmentalist's protest and translates it into child friendly text. In fact the newest edition is notably printed on recycled paper, as the logo on the cover dictates.

The gloom and doom story of the Once-Ler's greed tells of him causing a catastrophic chain of events. The happy town thick with unencumbered odd animals of the typical Seuss style is altered into such a dismal place that it's nearly unidentifiable.

The Once-Ler's story begins and ends with the chopping of a Truffula Tree, a beautiful tree that looks sort



Courtesy of Random House Inc.

Written and illustrated by Dr. Seuss, "The Lorax" was one of his first books to be originally illustrated in color.

of like palm with a brightly colored tuft. The Once-Ler, a character synonymous with human greed, decides to cut down these trees to make a thneed, something he thinks everyone needs. As soon as he is finished making his first thneed the Lorax appears, an ugly short animalistic creature that does not agree with the Once-Ler's Thneeds.

The Lorax speaks for the trees and the animals in the community. One by one he sends them away; he doesn't want to see them starving and coughing all day. Each group of happy animals turns into melancholy versions of their past selves as they leave their home with an uncertain destiny. Even the Humming-Fish walk away on their fins.

As the last Truffula Tree is chopped down the town turns

completely gray, except for a certain spot in the sky where the Lorax is 'lifted away,' which is soon covered up with smog. The Once-Ler is left all alone, with nothing but a pile of stones that the Lorax left him, saying "UNLESS."

The story never goes into when humans began to inhabit this sad little place, or why they would want to live there. In the end the Once-Ler pushes off his guilt onto 'you,' the nosy main character.

He is left with the very last Truffula Tree seed, a very great responsibility indeed. 'Grow a forest,' the Once-Ler did say. Making certain that for his crimes the child will pay. Isn't that, after all, why the Lorax left the message "UNLESS" where he was lifted away?

"The Lorax in 3D," from the director of the acclaimed 2010 animated film "Despicable Me," was released in theaters on March 2

By Isaac Soper  
Arts & Culture Editor

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Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.”

Dr. Seuss  
"The Lorax"

"The Lorax" is a revamp of the classic Dr. Seuss tale of the same title. The story has seen multiple incarnations, first the book, published in 1971 and the latest being the new film, which came out to theaters last Friday.

Directed by Chris Renaud, the acclaimed animated filmmaker behind "Despicable Me," his new film is entertaining, dramatic and informative. It features many musical numbers as well.

As a new take on the classic, the film adopts an evil corporation that is behind keeping the surreal, dystopian city of

Thneed-Ville the way that it is. The company, named O'Hare's, makes its money off of selling purified air to the masses, in plastic bottle form, no less.

On the outside of the city's walls, a desolate landscape is found. There isn't a Truffula Tree in sight, the animals have left the area and the air has become sour. Within Thneed-Ville, trees have been replaced by mechanical decorations that resemble trees, which have light bulbs instead of foliage, the latest model doubling as a disco machine. The majority of the denizens in the futuristic town like it the way it is and have been convinced that trees are vile, dirty things.

Produced by Universal Pictures, "The Lorax" is a 3D computer-animated film, unlike its two predecessors, though it is available to view in 2D theaters.

"The Lorax" is worth seeing in 3D, especially if you are a fan of Dr. Seuss or computer-animated films. The only downside to the film is that it seems to come to somewhat of an abrupt ending.

The film succeeds in reinforcing ideas of environmentalism to the viewers while ranging from lighthearted to mildly dark, much like the 2008 post-apocalyptic Pixar film "WALL-E." The 3D is surprisingly effective, unlike recent film trends.