

# Grab tickets to the show, get to know your local Beaux'



For David Smith-English's final show, the ensemble cast made up of current and past CCC Theatre Arts performers come together to send the director off in glorious style.

**By Steven Weldon**  
The Clackamas Print

What do you call a duo of broke journeymen chasing women with dowries worth triple their weight in pounds? The main characters of "The Beaux' Stratagem," of course. Originally written by Irish playwright George Farquhar in 1707, "The Beaux' Stratagem" was modernized in 1939 by Thornton Wilder. Wilder never finished the play and it would eventually fall into the hands of Ken Ludwig, who finally put it back on stage in 2006.

The Clackamas Community College Theater Arts department has debuted "The Beaux'

Stratagem" as its final production of the 2011-2012 season. Regrettably, it will also be the final play under the direction of David Smith-English. After 18 years as the CCC Theatre Director, Smith-English will be retiring on June 30. However, while he is finished at the collegiate level, Smith-English will continue his position as Artistic Director of the Clackamas Repertory Theatre.

"This is special, because it is my last play. With a group of wonderful and dedicated students, we were able to create something I'll always be proud of and I'll always remember," Smith-English said. "I'll remember this as a wonderful ending to my career."

"The Beaux' Stratagem" is the amusing tale of Jack Archer and Tom Aimwell, played by actors Donovan Ellert and Brandon McFarland, as they attempt to woo the hearts of rich heiresses across the English countryside. When Archer and Aimwell meander into an inn to discover the town's resource of young, well-endowed women, the men dupe the inhabitants into believing they are worth more than they actually are. In the process of trying to find their lady-in-cash, Archer and Aimwell encounter offers they cannot refuse, women who are almost irresistible and many people trying to realize their real intentions.

Among the enlighteningly

funny cast is former artist in residence Heather Ovalle, who plays Cherry, the overzealous and hypersexual daughter of the innkeeper, and Boniface, who was portrayed by Dylan Marchek. Ovalle returned for the final show of Smith-English's career at Clackamas.

"It was great [to be back] for David's last show. He was a little more relaxed and chill than I remember him being," Ovalle said. "After being in his program for several years, you

kind of know what he wants."

Ovalle was joined by Travis Nordurft, another alumnus who returned for Smith-English's final show.

The ensemble cast of current and past CCC Theatre Arts performers delivered witty lines, interesting situations and surprises. "The Beaux' Stratagem" is an enjoyable experience and as a result, is a fitting ending to the CCC career of Smith-English. The show runs through June 3.



A country lady played by Kiah Hart (center) is having a hard time coping with courtship, while her friends Dorinda (left), played by Shannon O' Shaughnessy and Mrs. Kate Sullen (right), played by Annie Scharich, always stand behind her — they seem to have had enough of her dramatics.



Jack Archer (left), played by Donovan Ellert is a little bit confused, but luckily his wingman Tom Aimwell (right), played by Brandon McFarland, is by his side to guide him through the follies of love.

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