

PLAY: 'Schemes' break the silence



Above: Jake Dannen, left, plays Sylvestro who is the servant to the Argantini family. He is in charge of taking care of the children. Derek McNeil, center, plays Ottavio who is the son of Argantini. Jayme S. Hall, right, plays Scapino who is the main character and a trickster. Below: Ottavio eloped with the beautiful Giacinta who is played by Kiah Hart. They share a romantic kiss on stage.



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The acting and casting was phenomenal. Props to the director, James Eikrem! He did a stellar job making the physical, complex tale look smooth and trouble-free. There is non-stop action and Eikrem pulled the audience into it. The actors looked like they were having a blast and it almost felt necessary to have at least as much fun as they were having.

The silent movie era is when this play was originally written and it is quite obvious in the talented use of silent acting and comedy similar to Laurel and Hardy. At first, the acting seemed a bit over the top, but as the production went on, it all fit together like puzzle pieces.

Each of the actors had their own little quirk that made their character their own. Some went unnoticed and others were blatantly obvious.

Jayme Hall, who played Scapino, added so much to the production. He was wildly energetic with his schemes and cons, charm and charisma. Hall is a bundle of energy and comic ingenuity, but doesn't overpower the show. Instead he makes it explode and burst like fireworks. His facial expressions,

use of alternating characters and ability to act a whole scene by himself, while pretending to be multiple different characters, really showed Hall's experience and theoretical genius.

Sam Levi, who played Argantini, father to Ottavio, added brilliant little touches to his character. He definitely played up his cane and over used it in any way possible. Whether sitting or standing, he slumped over his cane like a sack of rice. However, when he got wound up, he was all over the place. It seemed a bit over done, but for his character it worked quite well.

There is no small actor. However, the minor actors added comedy in their cameos or off stage sounds and remarks. Nicholas Hadley as Giulietta, lured people up to the whorehouse, producing fits of giggles from the audience. Clayton Hiatt played a few different characters and the audience found him quite humorous.

Clackamas Community College Theatre Arts Department is presenting a fun-filled evening of comic theater that should not be missed. The Schemes of Scapino runs through June 2 in the Niemeyer Building in the Osterman theater.

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