



Staff photo
Lisa Read and Larry LaMarsh bring life to "The Woolgatherer," presented by Sandy Community Players in the Backstage Studio at the theater. The play continues Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. each night.

'Woolgatherer's' chemistry perfect

by VON BRASCHLER

Why is it some of the best scenes are played out like secrets in closet-size rooms and back alleyways? Sandy Community Players' "The Woolgatherer" fits that description, with the intense two-act play staged in the old, dusty brick backstage area at the local theater. Recent Sandy High grad Rob Lawson, in his directing debut, went back to basics to stage this play: Just two actors, one simple set and an audience. The chemistry is perfect, because the 40-50 viewers crowded in the alleyway feel the loneliness and nerves of the characters, as they push each other out of their drab lives and learn to touch and love.

Review

Yes, there's some R-rated language in this adult drama, but only fitting street talk for main character Cliff, a beer-guzzling truck driver. He goads recluse Rose to break out of her shell—hard to do if you're a hemophiliac both physically and emotionally.

The whole play is set, then, in the young girl's dingy walk-up apartment. There she recounts the danger of going outside, noting that the previous girl tenant committed suicide in her room after "getting involved."

Rose once took a quiet little outing alone to the zoo only to witness an endangered species of weak-legged birds murdered by uncaring boys casting stones.

Another time she went to the museum only to be saddened by the disappearance of the once-glorious woolly mammoths.

So she stays in her boarded-up room with no phone and gathers wool from each passing stranger she only daydreams about knowing better.

Cliff bursts into her quiet room, tired from the road

and randy for a little action. He teases her and antagonizes her, but knows soon after he leaves that he needs her as badly as she needs him.

The return of veteran actor Larry LaMarsh to the Sandy stage is long overdue. Clearly he's one of the best actors around. His theater skills are so diversified, however, that SCP has kept him hidden backstage on technical assignments.

Now the SCP co-founder is backstage again on center stage as loudmouth Cliff. LaMarsh brings intensity and depth in character development to the role. He communicates a lot even in his non-speaking scenes, as he tugs on the jeans over his wooden leg as clue this tough-talking man is just as crippled as the girl he threatens to reform.

We tend to forget the nice things about one Larry LaMarsh, like how he and wife Laura brought live theater out of a trailer where Community School kids under their wings frolicked with wood swords and thrilled at being made-up in grease paint.

Yes, SCP has come a long way since the children's play, "Beauty and the Beast," but the schools that outlived Community School still play a major role upstage and backstage.

Feeder school for much SCP talent these days seems to be Sandy High which has given "The Woolgatherer" not only a daring director, but also an emotion-charged female lead in one Lisa Read.

Miss Read cries real crocodile tears at the end, after LaMarsh violently throws clothes at her across the room.

A few items even tumbled off the stage into the front row of seats during opening night. For the audience this had to be a real thrill to be so close and feel so involved.

Unfortunately, even the limited seating for 50 found a few chairs empty. It's guaranteed that folks who fill the next 50 seats won't be left feeling empty.

Keeping posted:

Scout sign-up scheduled Thursday

THURSDAY, SEPT. 9
The State Textbook Commission will meet today and tomorrow at Cedar Ridge School in Sandy. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. both days.

The Dover Extension Study Group meets from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the home of Aulikki Dubrowsky, 43900 SE Music Camp Road. For more information, call Linda Thoreson at 668-5018, or Louise Bell at 668-7000.

Sandy Golden Age Club hosts a potluck luncheon at noon at the Sandy Senior Center.

The Bull Run School Board meets in the school cafeteria at 7 p.m.

The Sandy Parent-Teacher Club kicks off the school year with a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Sandy Elementary School gym.

The Sandy Rebekah Lodge meets at 8 p.m. at the I.O.O.F. Hall in Sandy.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 10
"The Woolgatherer," presented by Sandy Community Players, will be staged in The Backstage Studio at Sandy Community Theater at 8 p.m. Entry to the studio is by the drive-in teller at Clackamas County Bank.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 11
"The Woolgatherer," presented by Sandy Community Players, continues its run at The Backstage Studio at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 12
The Sandy Business and Professional Women's Club hosts a "Memberthon Pink Tea" from 2 to 5 p.m. at the home of District Director Chris MacDonald, 14401 Shalimar Ave., Sandy.

MONDAY, SEPT. 13
A beginning aerobic

dance class starts this evening at 7 p.m. at the Sandy Elementary School gym. Lessons will be held Mondays and Wednesdays for 10 weeks. To register, call Sandy Recreation Department at 668-5569.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 14
Doug Moy, of Western Evaluation Company in Lake Oswego, will speak to the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce on "Money Management and Estate Planning." The luncheon meeting will be held at the Tollgate Inn at noon.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 15
The Sandy TOPS Club meets at 9 a.m. in the San-

dy Community Action Center.

There will be a room mothers meeting at Sandy Grade School at 3 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Auditions for "The White Sheep of the Family," a Sandy Community Players' production, will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Sandy Community Theater. Tryouts continue Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 16
There will be a sign-up for Cub Scout pack 663 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Sandy Grade School. Sign-up for Girl Scouts will also be held at 7 p.m. in the school's gymnasium.

Drawing winners named

Nine Sandy youngsters won prizes recently in a kids' days drawing at Sandy Sentry.

Bikes, stuffed animals and gift certificates were awarded in the statewide Sentry Stores giveaway.

Local winners 4-6 years of ages are Jacob Sexton, 5 (first), Amber Plymate, 5 (second) and Tracey Roberts, 6 (third).

Sandy winners 7-9 years of age are Kris Herrell, 7 (first), Mike Epley, 9 (se-

cond) and Russell A. Myers, 9 (third).

Winners 10-12 years of age are Phillip Hansy, 11 (first), Mat K. Borges, 12 (second) and Jill Teeples, 10 (third).

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James M. Martin

Jim graduated from Gresham Union High School and entered the Army where he remained for six years. He later attended Portland State University as a pre-med student and continued to Mt. Hood Community College to study psychology.

Jim began his law enforcement career as a reserve for Gresham Police Department in 1976 and was hired as a full time sworn officer in 1979. He is one of the department's "in-field" Crime Scene Investigators and has assisted with the Crime Prevention Program at local schools.

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Textbook commission to meet here

The State Textbook Commission meets today and tomorrow at Cedar Ridge School in Sandy.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. both days, according to Cedar Ridge Principal Randi Leuthold, a member of the commission. Today's session will last all day. The commission will meet during the morning hours tomorrow.

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