

Shakespeareans plant seeds of live theater awareness

by DAN DILLON

They don't expect to turn school-aged youngsters into full-fledged supporters of live theater with one performance.

The two actors from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival who stopped last week for three performances at Cedar Ridge School just want to plant the seed of interest.

"The main thing is to get them interested in the spoken word and help build an audience for live theater," explained Bruce Gooch after he and Richard Elmore finished their final performance.

The actors, on a five-week tour through Oregon, Washington and Idaho, gave the Sandy students a sampling of theater from the ancient Greeks to 20th century American theater.

The special assemblies were paid for with funds the students raised selling stuffed animals earlier in the school year.

Opening with a scene from

"Oedipus Rex" by Sophocles, Elmore put the play in context for the students, explaining that Greek plays were presented in large, outdoor amphitheaters by actors wearing 13-inch boots and shoulder pads so they would appear larger than life.

In the scene, Elmore played Oedipus who has killed his father and married his mother. The actors were clad in traditional Greek hooded capes.

"Oedipus Rex" is "pretty heavy stuff" for the students, Gooch admitted after the presentation. "It's kind of hard to hold them, but at the same time we like to challenge them, too."

"If you challenge them too much, it's easy to lose them."

Gooch, who could not see out of his mask during the scene from the tragedy, was pleased when Elmore told him of the audience's attentiveness during the performance.

Being Shakespearean actors,

Elmore told the eighth graders in the day's final presentation, the two felt obliged to perform a work by the English playwright.

"If this had been written today, you'd probably call it science fiction," he explained, introducing a scene from "The Tempest."

Gooch explained that lately actors have taken the work of poets and turned them into one-man shows. Poetry, he said, is "some very pretty words that do belong in the theater." He and Elmore adapted poems by Stephen Vincent Benet and Robert Service.

Elmore and Gooch have used their hiatus from the Ashland stage to tour the Northwest entertaining gatherings from kindergarten to college for the past three and four years, respectively.

Like the peddlers in their closing scene from "The Music Man," they know the territory of live theater and are having fun selling their wares.

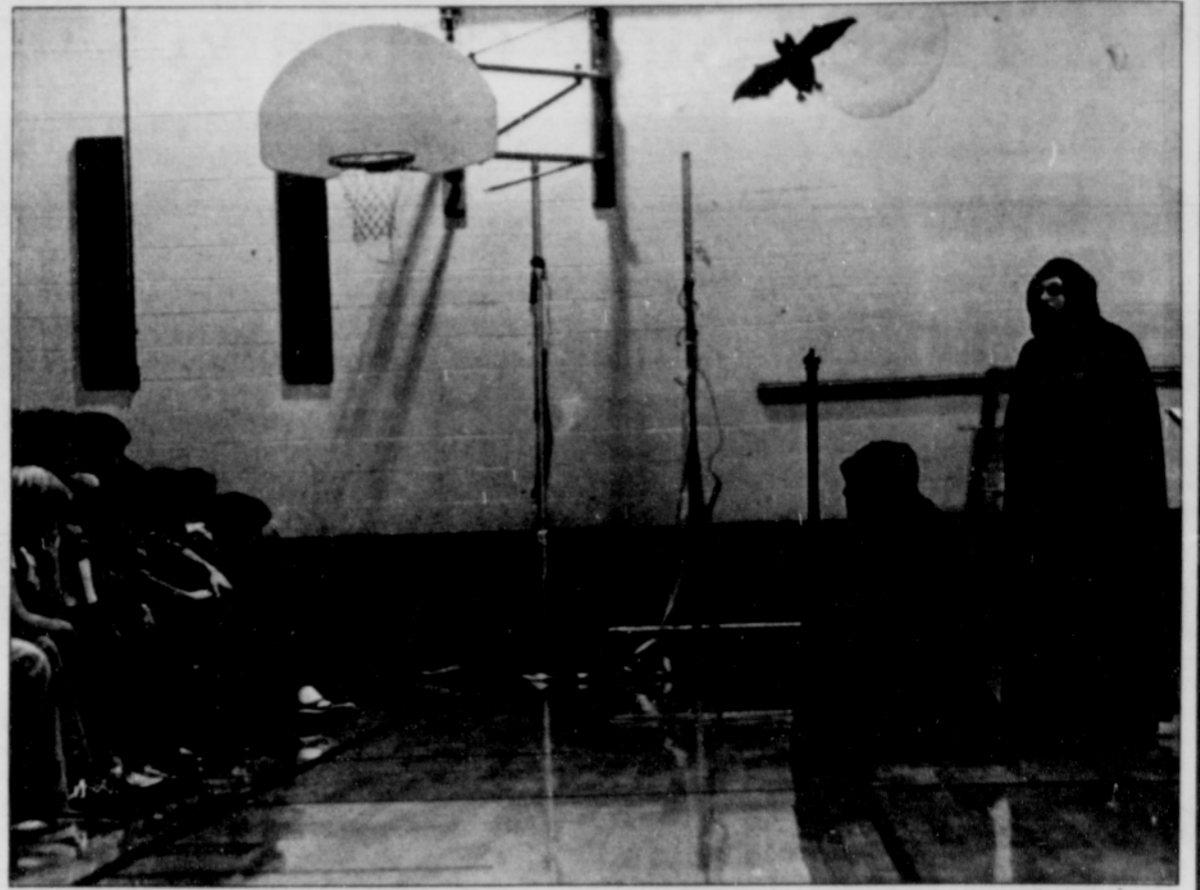


Photo by Dan Dillon

Bruce Gooch, left, and Richard Elmore gave Cedar Ridge students a taste of Greek tragedy with a scene from Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex."

inside the church

Musical evangelists plan Sandy ministry

The Musical Larrings, an internationally-known ministry in word and song, will perform at Sandy Assembly of God Church this Sunday, Nov. 14, at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The California-based husband and wife have taken their music and message worldwide. Their ministry is presented through television, radio, recordings and personal

appearances.

Johnny, a native of Norway, sings in a baritone and brings a message from the Word of God. He frequently ministers in general and district conferences, camp meetings and church revivals.

Ruth's ministry in music completes the team. Her piano stylings have brought her acclaim.



Ruth and Johnny Larring

Open house planned

Sandy Baptist Church will host an open house this Sunday, Nov. 14, to introduce the new pastor, Fred Vogel, and his family to the community.

Emphasis of the entire day will be a new beginning.

Guest speaker at the morning service will be Tom Skipper who grew up in the Sandy-Boring area and is now a missionary in Spain. He received his early Christian training at Sandy Baptist Church, when the 36-year-old church was a new church. Skipper will speak about a new beginning as seen

from the past.

The open house is the new beginning in the present. It represents the church's attempt to rebuild a bridge of friendliness with the citizens of Sandy. Tours of the three-year-old building will be provided.

The evening service will highlight a new beginning and the future with a sermon by the new pastor. Special music will be provided by Jerry Grant of Salem.

Hours of the open house are 3-5 p.m. Cake and coffee will be served.

The church is located at 34495 SE J. Jarl Road.

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