

Actor Turns Gray Over 'Daisy' Role

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Principals utilize personal histories for their characters

BY BOB HICKS
OF THE OREGONIAN STAFF



PHILLIPS

In America, where the Method is the accepted madness of the stage, acting is an internal affair. You feel it, and that makes you show it.

But sometimes it works the other way around. Laurence Olivier always fussed about his exterior appearance first: hairline, makeup, posture, prosthetics. That settled, he'd begin to burrow inside the character he was playing.

Maybe that's what J.P. Phillips had in mind when he talked his barber son into giving him a prematurely receding hairline.

"My 'Iceman Cometh' haircut," Phillips said with a laugh, patting the freshly mown half-moon on top of his

head. "It makes it a lot easier to gray your hair if you have less hair."

Phillips has been through this before, when he acted in O'Neill's "The Iceman Cometh" a few seasons ago at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

This time, he's "aging up" to play Hoke Coleburn, the put-upon chauffeur in "Driving Miss Daisy." Alfred Uhry's sentimental hit receives its Oregon stage premiere on Thursday at Portland Repertory Theater.

"Daisy," the story of a cantankerous Southern white widow and her black chauffeur, is a blend of odd-couple warmth with an overlay of social consciousness. It won the Pulitzer Prize and Obie Award in its stage version; as a movie starring Morgan Freeman and Jessica Tandy, it won several Oscars.

Susan Corzatte, fresh from the Rep's production of "The Cocktail Hour," co-stars with Phillips as Daisy Werthan, a woman of fierce independence whose son forces a driver on her.

"She stonewalls this poor guy, quite effectively for quite a while," said Corzatte. "And he just gently wears her down."

That wearing-down process-the gradual resolution of dissonance into harmony-is at the heart of "Daisy"'s popularity. The script is simple, leaving a great deal to be filled in by Phillips, Corzatte and director Clayton Corzatte, Susan's husband.

"You can't ever turn to mush," said Susan Corzatte. "To the bitter end. I think the biggest problem we've had is that Clayton keeps saying, 'You're being too nice to each other. You're being too nice to each other.'"

Both actors, almost by accident, have found themselves drawing on personal history as they build their characters. Susan Corzatte hears her own mother in the things Daisy says. Phillips goes home from rehearsal and finds himself echoing his father-both in ideas and elocution.

"It's shocking," he says. "Those genes you forgot about, you can't avoid."

"Driving Miss Daisy" opens at 8 p.m. Thursday and continues Tuesdays-Sundays through Feb. 9. For ticket information, call 224-4491.

Stark Raving Shylock: Intolerance is the theme of the week. While a black man and white woman learn to look past race and class in "Driving Miss Daisy," the little Stark Raving Theatre raises the ugly little question of anti-Semitism in Shakespeare.

The theater calls its new show "The Jew of Venice," a "free-wheeling deconstruction" of "The Merchant of Venice." It will put the play's treatment of Shylock in historical perspective.

Anti-Semitism unquestionably was rife in Shakespeare's society, and Shylock has undergone severe revisionism over the centuries. Modern interpretations tend to cast him as the most sympathetic character in the play. But is that what Shakespeare himself had in mind?

Hatfield Reacts To State Of The Union Address

Senator Mark Hatfield made the following comments following President Bush's State of the Union Address:

"At a time when our nation is deeply engaged in the uncertainties of war, I am encouraged by the President's renewed commitment to support domestic programs that are so badly in need of our attention. The President has demonstrated that our nation's security is deeply rooted in the domestic agenda. We must not forget that this great nation is only as strong as her citizens.

With drug-related crime continuing to cut a path of violence through our nation's cities, I fully support the President's commitment to step up the war

Ebony Salutes The Most Promising Black Women In Corporate America



Although 1989's U.S. labor figures report that Black women occupied only 2.9 percent of management positions, EBONY proves that the females who are successful are among the country's brightest executives, as it salutes "100 Of The Most Promising Black Women In Corporate America."

From Dr. Reatha Clark King, the president and executive director of the General Mills Foundation and vice presi-

dent of General Mills, Inc., to Karen P. Gibbs, vice president and senior futures analyst at Dan Witter Reynolds, Inc. in Chicago, the country's top Black female executives radiate determination, self-confidence and individualism. Marilyn A. Davis, vice president of risk financing for American Express Company, reports that "The four keys to success are extreme competence, strong interpersonal skills, good politi-

cal instincts and luck," while Glynice Coleman, a vice president for EMI Records, advocates "...turning the negatives into positives and learning from your mistakes..."

Selected by their peers and officials at their respective companies, the nation's top Black female executives are proving that with determination and drive, they too can achieve success in fields dominated by White males.

Northeast Portland Woman To Give Special Valentine

February 9-18, a local woman with heart disease will join approximately 16,500 other American Heart Association, Oregon Affiliate volunteers to give their neighbors a very special valentine-information about how women can prevent heart disease.

Mayetta Mitchell is one of several local volunteers who will distribute information to their neighbors about women & heart disease during the American Heart Association, Oregon Affiliates' annual neighbor-to-neighbor residential campaign. They will also raise funds for the organization's research and educational programs.

Mayetta Mitchell, a 52-year old Northeast Portland resident, has exper-

rienced many of the problems of heart disease. She had her first heart attack at 42 and is a diabetic. She has successfully reduced her smoking and is trying to gradually improve her health.

An equal opportunity killer, heart disease is the leading cause of death among American women. It takes 500,000 lives each year.

Last February, 13,000 Oregonians raised \$175,000 during the Neighbor-to-Neighbor campaign. This effort, combined with other Oregon fundraising projects, provided \$2 million in 1989-90 for lifesaving research, public and professional education and community service projects to combat the "equal opportunity killer" in our state.

develop a strategy that focuses on conservation and efficiency. Moving our nation away from oil dependence and toward the development of renewable

energy sources is critical for the environment, and for our nation's energy security."

Portland Police Pledge Contributions

On Tuesday, February 19, 1991, at 0830 A.M. Chief Tom Potter and members of the Portland Police Special Contributions Committee will present pledges and checks to the various organizations and charities listed.

The presentation will take place in the Sullivan Room Auditorium, which is located on the 14th floor of the Justice Center at 1111 SW 2nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

The amount listed next to the agency is the amount of the pledge for this year and checks for the first quarter installment will be presented at that time.

The source of the funds are voluntary deductions from the salaries of members of the Police Bureau, both sworn and non sworn.

1. Chaplain's Office	\$3,000.00
2. Loaves and Fishes	\$2,500.00
3. Oregon Special Olympics	\$2,500.00
4. Crippled Children's Division	\$2,000.00
5. Police Activities League	\$2,000.00
6. Bob Miller's Needy Kids Funds	\$1,500.00
7. Mother's Against Drunk Driving	\$1,500.00
8. Oregon Burn Center Emanuel	\$1,500.00
9. National Multiple Sclerosis	\$1,250.00
10. Kidney Assoc. of Oregon	\$1,250.00
11. Muscular Dystrophy	\$1,250.00
12. Disabled American Veterans	\$1,250.00
13. American Lung Association	\$1,000.00
14. Oregon Lions-Eysight Program	\$1,000.00
15. Parents of Murdered Children	\$1,000.00
16. Salvaton Army	\$1,000.00
17. Officer Alive Law Enforcement	\$ 500.00
18. Portland Police Sunshine Division	\$ 500.00
19. Police Historical Society	\$ 500.00

Children Face Possible Exclusion

This is an important time for parents and guardians to assure their children are appropriately immunized/

Exclusion letters were mailed (January 30) to the parents or guardians of an estimated 14,500 children who are not adequately immunized. On February 13, these children will be excluded from school or day care if requirements are not met. In order to protect all of our children, Oregon immunization law requires evidence of appropriate immunization against diphtheria/tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella, or that appropriately documented exemptions be on file for every child.

In Oregon approximately 500,000 children attend public and private schools and certified day-care centers. This year approximately 2.9% of these children/parents received exclusion notices, about the same time last year.

Public Service Announcement

The N.E. YWCA is holding a Community Meeting. Residents of N.E. Portland are invited to attend and make recommendations about how the YWCA may best serve our community. The N.E. YWCA will also be recruiting Advisory Committee members. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5th from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the N.E. YWCA at 5630 N.E. M.L. King Blvd. Info: Mary Sanders Miller 223-6281.

Project HELP Spreads Warmth

As of Feb. 1, 1991, nearly 11,500 customers and employees of Portland General Electric Co. (PGE) have contributed \$253,234 to Project HELP, an emergency fuel assistance program for the needy.

In addition to these donations, PGE shareholders donated \$40,000 to kick off the campaign in November. Distribution of these funds began Jan. 1. Project HELP provides financial assistance to low-income individuals or families in PGE's service territory who need help paying their fuel bills. Customers can apply for assistance by contacting the

Salvation Army at 233-6079.

PGE is hoping to add more customer and employee support for Project HELP to help those families who do not qualify for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) administered by the state.

Project HELP was organized in 1982. Last Year, PGE raised nearly \$300,000 in contributions and helped some 3,037 of Oregon's needy individuals and families pay their winter fuel bill.

Contact: Roxanne Bailey, Public Information Representative, 464-8466

Keeping Bright Students in Oregon

For the fourth consecutive year, Portland General Electric Co. (PGE) is offering to keep some of Oregon's most promising students from going away to college.

Through the PGE Scholarship Award, PGE presents the state's best high school students with the opportunity to attend college in Oregon. The award fund pays up to \$9,000 toward educational costs at one of Oregon's independent colleges. Both PGE and the Oregon Independent College Foundation (OICF) sponsor the scholarship program.

Applications will be available to students beginning Feb. 15. The deadline for turning in entries is Mar. 29 of this year.

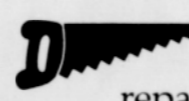
The scholarship applicants will be selected on the basis of merit: students must demonstrate outstanding personal and academic leadership qualities. One scholarship will be awarded at each of the eight OICF colleges including Linfield College, Lewis and Clark College, Pacific University, George Fox College, Williamette University, Reed College, Warner Pacific College, and the University of Portland.


Currently, the PGE Scholarship Award program is helping 24 students pay for their education - three are attending at each of the eight OICF schools.

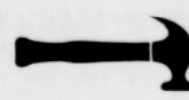
Contacts: Roxanne Bailey, Public Information Representative, 464-8466, Kathy Carison, Corporate Relations Specialist, 464-8535.

H O M E O W N E R S

FREE HOME REPAIR LOAN WORKSHOPS

 The Portland Development Commission is offering home repair loans with very low interest rates to eligible homeowners in King, Vernon, Humboldt and Boise neighborhoods.

 If you are a homeowner living in one of these neighborhoods, and you meet income guidelines, you may qualify for a 0%, 3% or 6% home improvement loan.


 PDC will hold two free workshops on the loan program: Tuesday, February 12, 10 a.m. to 12 noon OR 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 N.E. 7th.

HOMEOWNERS MAY QUALIFY IF:

- You own the home you are now living in
- Your home needs city-approved repairs or improvements
- Your household's annual income falls below a certain level

THE WORKSHOPS WILL FOCUS ON:

- How to fill out a home repair loan application
- How to select a contractor to make the repairs
- Home maintenance tips for homeowners

 Find out if you're eligible today so you can begin enjoying the benefits of your home repairs.

Call PDC Home Repair Loans at 823-3400