

Realism brings intimacy

Western Oregon presents 'Book of Days,' tale of mystery, murder and cheese

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Even small-town America is subject to greed, political and religious corruption.

The residents of Dublin, Mo., are finding that out as a suspicious death clashes with a cheese factory and community theater production.

Thinking about that circumstance may induce a smile, but director of Western Oregon University's production of "Book of Days," David Janoviak, assures that this is more of a drama than a comedy. The play opens Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

"It's 'Our Town' meets 'Blue Velvet,'" he said.

American Playwright Lanford Wilson uses the town of Dublin "as a microcosm of the rest of the country," Janoviak said. "He makes a broader statement about the American dream, about the rot that lives beneath the Mayberry veneer."

In the play, Walt Bates, the owner of the cheese factory, dies in a hunting accident.

"I don't think there's been a murder," said Zach Warner, who plays Sheriff Conroy Atkins. "Janelle's character talks to some people and I tell her don't worry about it, I have the facts."

Janelle Davis plays Ruth Hoch, the bookkeeper at the cheese factory and budding actress at the community theater. She suspects foul play, and, in her search for justice, creates dissension in the little town.

Ruth lands the role of Joan of Arc in the play, "Saint Joan," making "Book of Days" a sort of play within a play.

Davis said she enjoys that aspect of the production.



KENT NEELY/for the Itemizer-Observer
Janelle Davis and Megan Doerfler, as Ruth and Ginger, discuss whether or not Earl may have committed the murder of Walt Bates, the owner of the cheese factory.

Travel to Dublin, Mo.

What: Western Oregon University's production of Lanford Wilson's, "Book of Days," directed by David Janoviak.
Where: WOU's Rice Auditorium.
When: 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, Saturday; 2 p.m. on Sunday; 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 18, 19, 20 and 21.
Admission: General admission, \$12; students, \$7; seniors \$10.
For more information: www.wou.edu/theatre-dance/events.

"There is an audition scene, (where) I get to use Shakespeare, so that's cool to incorporate other parts of theater," she said.

Big-shot — or burnt-out — Hollywood director Boyd Middleton, played by Nick Halscher, at first enjoys the small-town atmosphere.

"He really likes it at first," Halscher said. "Because everyone knows each other

and gets along."

However, Halscher's character is soon dragged into the real-life drama of Dublin. The play calls for cinematic realism, Janoviak said. Actors are intent on being real and honest.

It's a new style of acting for the cast, but they are shining through the challenges, Janoviak said.

"I have a uniformly strong

cast," he said. "The cast is a good mix of seasoned college veterans, people in the middle of their training, and those in the beginning of their training."

Being a character-driven piece, Janoviak said, "You really get to know and get attached to these characters."

Davis said she has learned a lot about acting in the last few weeks of the fall term.

"Realism, for myself, I'm finding really difficult," she said. "It's been really great, but it's been challenging."

Warner said the production is an emotional roller coaster. The intimacy created by the acting style is compounded by the theater-in-the-round style seating and cozy set.

"Really, just let yourself immerse in it," Halscher added.

Building blocks comes to Falls City

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

FALLS CITY — Family Building Blocks (FBB) and the Wagner Community Library are teaming up to offer a monthly literary inspired "play group" at the library beginning Thursday.

FBB offers families with children 5 years old or younger home visits, play groups and seminars for parents. The organization recently opened an office in Dallas to help meet the need in Polk County.

Sara Matthews, Family Building Blocks' Polk County family outreach coordinator, said the program wanted to revive its play group sessions in Falls City and decided to host them at the library.

"We just wanted to get familiar in the area, build a presence," Matthews said. "Let people know that we are a resource."

The play group location

gave organizers an idea. "Since we are using the library space, we morphed it into a story activity," Matthews said.

The hour-long session will be the second Thursday of each month from 10 to 11 a.m. at the library, 111 N. Main St., Falls City.

Matthews said sessions will include reading a story and then doing a related activity. This month the story will be about color and combining colors, so the activity could involve painting. The program is for children ages

Parent-child story time

What: Family Building Blocks story-play time in Falls City.
Where: Wagner Community Library, 111 N. Main St.
When: Second Thursday of the month starting Thursday.
Of note: The program is for children 5 and younger and their parents, but siblings are welcome. Snacks will be served.
For more information or to RSVP: 503-877-8473 or 503-787-3521 x 319.

5 and younger and the hope is parents will stay and participate.

"We just want to strengthen family bonds and provide fun and supportive activities

parents can do with their children," Matthews said.

Though the program is intended for children 5 and younger, their siblings are welcome as well.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indy leaf pickup on Monday

INDEPENDENCE — Independence will continue its residential leaf pickup program on Monday. Leaf piles must be placed on city streets prior to Monday for pickup. Other dates are Nov. 23, Dec. 7, 14 and 28. For more information: www.ci.independence.or.us.

Nonprofit leadership training Saturday

INDEPENDENCE — The Ford Institute for Community Building will sponsor a nonprofit board president and president-elect training from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday at the Independence Event Center, 555 S. Main St.

The keynote presentation will be by John Frohnmayer. Workshops will include helping your board understand its duties; understanding financial information; introduction to risk management; how good boards make great decisions; leadership team building; and long-range planning.

For more information: www.nonprofitsteward.org, or call 541-929-9320.

Monmouth seeks 'Engaged' volunteers

MONMOUTH — The city of Monmouth is looking for volunteers to serve on four committees working on projects identified through its visioning process, "Monmouth Engaged."

The four committees are: retail/restaurant, university/community connections, bicycle/pedestrian friendly town, and community gathering places.

Applications are due by Nov. 20. To apply, go online to www.ci.monmouth.or.us.

Applications accepted for Adopt-A-Family

DALLAS — Dallas Adopt-A-Family will be taking applications starting Monday at the Academy Building, 182 SW Academy St., suite 220 in Dallas.

Applications will be taken Monday through Nov. 20 from 4 to 6 p.m. and on Nov. 21 from 2 to 4 p.m.

A program of The Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center Social Services, Adopt-A-Family provides food and children's gifts for local families in need.

Once families apply, churches, individuals and local organizations "adopt" them by providing a holiday meal and presents for each family member.

Last year, the event served more than 1,000 individuals, including 500 children.

This year, the campaign expects to serve more than 200 families, with 80 families already adopted.

More "adopters" are needed. Those wishing to adopt a family should contact Melissa Baurer by Dec. 5 at 503-798-4876 or by email at Melissa.Baurer@usw.salvationarmy.org.

For more information: 503-507-6269.

First leaf collection in Dallas begins

DALLAS — The first of two scheduled leaf pickups in Dallas will take place on Saturday and Sunday.

Republic Services will be collecting leaves left in the street. Residents wanting to have leaves collected this weekend should make sure to:

- Rake leaves in long rows parallel to the curb at least one foot away from the curb.
 - Avoid blocking driveways, bike lanes and storm drains.
 - Don't place leaves in the street until just before the collection is scheduled to begin.
- Only leaves will be collected, no trimmings, brush, grass or other yard debris.

A second leaf sweep is scheduled for Dec. 19 and 20. Also, three leaf disposal locations are open until Dec. 31.

Residents can drop off leaves at: the parking lot adjacent to Lyle Softball Fields; Southwest Allgood Street near the gate to the parks office; and the east end of Hankel Street.

For more information, Republic Services at 541-754-0444.

Sit, Sip and Shop Find your treasure!

Bazaar and Craft Fair

Saturday, Nov. 14th • 10 am - 4 pm
Oak Grove Grange Hall
2670 Oak Grove Rd, Rickreall
Take Hwy 22W, turn at Restlawn Cemetery, 3 miles to Grange Hall

Find bazaar name on Facebook for list of vendors.

Sudoku Solution

1	4	6	9	7	8	5	2	3
3	5	8	2	1	6	9	4	7
9	7	2	5	4	3	8	6	1
8	6	3	4	5	2	1	7	9
4	1	5	3	9	7	6	8	2
2	9	7	6	8	1	3	5	4
5	3	1	8	2	4	7	9	6
7	2	9	1	6	5	4	3	8
6	8	4	7	3	9	2	1	5

Happy 104th Birthday

Hourtense Marie Depweg (Bebe)
Born Nov 14, 1911

She started cooking and baking at a very young age. Hard working, light eating, non-smoker. She enjoys crocheting and reading books. Her family, Yvonne, Marlene, Carol, Lolly and their families are her life.

Love from your family!

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