

Comedy on campus

By Mandie Gavitt
Associate Arts & Culture Editor

Clackamas Community College's theater department never fails to offer up a good time. This term's Student Performance Showcase was no exception.

The showcase, featuring student directed one-act plays, comedy improvisation and stand-up comedy, is an event that takes place every term. This spring's event was held May 24 through May 26 in the Osterman Theatre located in the Niemeyer Center and showcased two skits along with a number of other comedic offerings.

The first of the two skits was "The Prince and the Dragon," written and directed by student Dylan Marchek.

In this skit, a prince with no arms by the name of Tommy (Michael Lissman) must save his one true love, Princess Fernypoo (Justin McDaniels). To save the princess, Prince Tommy must somehow find himself a pair of arms. He is approached by a sorceress (Heather Ovalle) who tells him if he finds her sexy rocket boots she will give him robotic arms.

Prince Tommy, unsure of how to find the boots, sits to watch some television and think. While watching TV he spots Lady Gaga wearing the very boots he seeks. Hilarity ensues as he sets off on a wacky quest to save his love.

McDaniels never failed to get laughs from the crowd as the princess. The queen, played by Jennifer Schwartzman, brought an equal number of laughs. Overall this skit was my favorite of the two; I appreciated the light-hearted humor and the acting was superb.

The second one-act was a little more serious in nature

as students performed the play "Loyalties," written by actor/author Murphy Guyer. The skit was co-directed by Emily Robison and David Burke.

In the play, two sisters, Katrin (Ovalle) and Monika (Kiah Hart), and their husbands, Jacob (Lissman) and Rudy (Branden McFarland), are sitting down to dinner when an argument breaks out between the men. Jacob is a poet while Rudy is a patriotic soldier, and the two argue over the war and whether or not fighting in a war makes someone brave and noble.

Student Donovan Eilest performed a piece during the stand-up part of the show, which came after the skits. Some of the comedy bits were hilarious while others were just so-so. Two of the most amusing sets were performed by Eilest, who explained why abandoned shopping carts in grocery stores make him question alien abduction, and Michelle Nguyen, who made fun of her Asian culture and taught the audience proper nail salon etiquette.

The show saved the absolute best for last: a section devoted entirely to improvisational skits. The improv team asked for suggestions from the audience for details to put in games they were going to play, including "Questions" and "Complaint Department." The games were played in a similar style of the show "Whose Line is it Anyway?" and involved a happy cow being returned to a store, three ducks in a human suit and a carpet that cleans itself, amongst other amusingly random things.

All in all, the Student Performance Showcase is a worthwhile endeavor, especially for a free show, and I look forward to seeing what the students do fall term. Make sure you look out for shows taking place during the upcoming terms and if you are interested in participating in the future, look into course listing TA-295.



Brad Heineke Clackamas Print

Actors Michelle Nguyen and Colton Hartill invoke laughter on and off stage during the improv game 'freeze.' Both students gave stellar stand-up comedy routines at the student showcase.



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Hobbies turn gothic

By Mandie Gavitt
Associate Arts & Culture Editor

Leslie Ormandy wanted a photo of herself in a coffin, so badly she started her own business when she couldn't find the opportunity offered elsewhere.

Ormandy, part-timer at Clackamas Community College, began the process to start her own business, Grave Images, back in February. The business offers people the chance to take photos of themselves wearing capes and fake teeth inside a coffin.

To take one photo in the coffin costs \$8.95 or you can pay \$16.95 to have your choice of capes and to have a friend take as many photos as you want. The business opened up to the public for the first time on Saturday, May 28 at the Multnomah County Fair.

"This whole business is about me getting my picture taken in a coffin," said Ormandy. She said movies never show vampires walking in and out of coffins because it is ungraceful, which is why there was no way to get her photo taken previously. However, all of the coffins used in Grave Images are custom built to allow easy access.

The coffins were built by Ormandy's brother-in-law, Brian Marooni. When Ormandy approached him with the idea he "thought it was kind of goofy." However, once Ormandy and Marooni's wife Sandra Ormandy decided on a solid plan on how to start the business, he was on board.

"I'm not on board with the subculture," said Marooni. "I'm on board with the business."

He found that the best material to make the coffins with was hollow-core wood, the same material used to make closet doors.

"When Leslie approached me asking me to make a romantic coffin, it went over my head, but I think it turned out nicely," he said. Currently there are only two coffins but Marooni said they are planning on building more.

Marooni also said the business has led to him being commissioned to do other building outside of Grave Images. One customer asked him to build him a light box that could be used to take photos for things being sold on eBay. Marooni said he is curious to see if he will be asked to do any other buildings.

"They weren't hard to make," he said. "There's nothing a handyman can't do."

Sandra Ormandy, Leslie Ormandy's sister, helped with the artistic side of getting started, including costumes and sets. She said that she originally did have her doubts as well, but the idea grew on her.

"I'm hoping that it will turn into a part-time, seasonal business," she said.

The team did their first photo shoot with their niece, Rosalyn Huard, pictured above. Though the shoot was successful, the group still doesn't know what to expect.

"There's nothing else like it so there's nothing to compare us to," said Sandra Ormandy.

"I'm just looking to have fun and make back the money spent," said Leslie Ormandy.

Ormandy will be teaching Literature of Vampires (ENG 126) this summer term.