LLOYD'S PRAYER

by Kevin Kling

Presented by Central Theatre Ensemble

Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 at 7 p.m.
Oct. 29 - 30 and Nov. 5 - 6 at 8 p.m.
Discount Sunday Matinee Oct. 31 at 2 p.m.
www.cwu.edu/~theatre

TICKETS: $8 Students, $10 Seniors, $12 General Admission
Discount Sunday Matinee Oct. 31 at 2 p.m. All seats $8

BOX OFFICE: (509) 963-1774
Milo Smith Tower Theatre

Produced by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.
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Theatre students put their faith in "Lloyd's Prayer"

by Brandon Sanford
Staff reporter

A boy raised by raccoons, a lifelong con man, and an angel will all be packing their things and heading off to Oregon this month. It's the result of the hard work of Central Washington University's Theatre Department and their chance to compete nationally with theatre departments across the country.

This year, Central's Theatre Department has been given a highly prized invitation to compete in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) at Southern Oregon University, with their off-beat and hilarious comedy "Lloyd's Prayer."

KCACTF was started in 1969. Since that time, the program has become a national festival involving 18,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide.

"It's a tremendous honor for the Theatre Department to be competing," said Leslee Caul, Theatre Arts director of marketing and development. "It says a lot about the quality of our theatre program."

Regarded as a satire and heartfelt character study, "Lloyd's Prayer" was shown in the Milp Smith Tower Theatre in late October 2004. Featuring Bob, a boy raised by raccoons, "Lloyd's Prayer" played host to a variety of peculiar characters such as con man, Lloyd, an angel and Poropy, who wears a giant fish suit.

"It has an interesting combination of zany humor, with a religious message," said Brenda Hubbard, Central theatre Arts professor and the show's director. "It's whimsical, fun and insightful. It's a show that will appeal to people of all ages."

"Lloyd's Prayer" was written by noted literalist, playwright and public speaker Kevin Kling, and has been workshopped at the Sundance Institute. Kling's other works include "2IA" and "Fear and Loving in Minneapolis." His work has also been showcased in Seattle, the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis and off-Broadway.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune called "Lloyd's Prayer" a comedy that "seeks just close enough to reality to be extremely charming and funny."

"It's a fun play. It's a comedy that's quirky and upbeat with some real good acting in it," Caul said.

In order for "Lloyd's Prayer" to receive an invitation to KCACTF, Central had to compete with colleges and universities across Washington state, including the University of Washington and Washington State University.

Central's theatre department has been to KCACTF once before with "Cloud Tectonics" in February 2002.

"The theatre department's transfer student numbers have more than doubled in the last two years," Caul said.

From a KCACTF region that is comprised of seven states, "Lloyd's Prayer" is one of only four plays to be competing. In addition to plays, KCACTF will also be hosting a variety of other competitions that many of Central's theatre students will be individually competing in. Competitions will include every area of theatre including acting, design, stage management and critical writing.

"About 80 people from our department will be going to the festival," Caul said. "There's a bunch of things going on and there will really be something for everyone."

Roughly 1,000 theatergoers are expected to attend the festival. The festival will take place Feb. 15-19.

Photos courtesy of Theatre Arts re
Central Washington University's Central Theatre Ensemble will open the 2004-2005 season with "Lloyd's Prayer" Thursday, Oct. 28, in the Milo Smith Tower Theatre. An offbeat and hilarious comedy, "Lloyd's Prayer" is equal parts pointed satire and heartfelt character study.

"It has an interesting combination of zany humor with a religious message," said Brenda Hubbard, CWU theater arts professor and the show's director. "It's whimsical, fun and insightful. It's a show that will appeal to high school and college students, to people of all ages."

Bob, a boy raised by raccoons, is adopted by a flighty mother, who spends her time living in the past, and a father who's in love with his dog. Abandoned soon after he is adopted, Bob meets Lloyd, a lifelong con man. Wanting to make a quick buck off "Bob the Beast Boy," Lloyd turns Bob first into a sideshow attraction, then the center of a religious scam. An angel of the Lord arrives from heaven to show Lloyd the error of his ways, and a battle for Bob's soul erupts.

The quirkiness and whimsicality of "Lloyd's Prayer" is not limited solely to the script. One character makes an entrance on a motorized scooter, while another character named Porpy wears a giant fish suit. Even the scenic elements take on a certain absurdity, with
raccoon boy Bob is abandoned by his adoptive mother and meets up with Lloyd, an ex-con huckster, who turns first to a sideshow then to religion as a means of earning a quick buck off "Bob the Beast Boy."

The show, which contains adult situations and themes, opens at 7 p.m. Thursday in CWU's Milo Smith Tower Theatre, off East University Way in Ellensburg.

Performances continue at 8 p.m. Oct. 29-30 and Nov. 5-6; 2 p.m. Oct. 31 and 7 p.m. Nov. 4.

General admission is $12 for adults, $10 for seniors and $8 for students with ID. All seats are $8 for the Oct. 31 matinee. Tickets are available at the door or by calling the box office at 963-1774.


Bob (Andrew Kunellis) falls in love with a Beauty Queen (Amanda Rubeck) on his journey of faith in the Central Theatre Ensemble comedy "Lloyd's Prayer," which opens Thursday in Ellensburg.

Theatre Ensemble launches this year's season Thursday with the quirky comedy "Lloyd's Prayer." In the Kevin Kling satire,"
Prayer: Performances begin Oct. 28

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a central piece being a tree comprised of an abstract pile of acting blocks.

"This is really Bob's story, so the show needs to be seen through the filter of Bob's eyes," says set and lighting designer Christina Barrigan. "The tree is the central symbol of the play and Bob's life. It's where he's most comfortable."

Written by noted literalist, playwright and public speaker Kevin Kling, "Lloyd's Prayer" has been "workshopped" at the Sundance Institute. Kling's other works include "21A" and "Fear and Loving in Minneapolis," and his work has been showcased in Seattle, the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, and off-Broadway.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune called "Lloyd's Prayer" a comedy that "sticks just close enough to reality to be extremely charming and funny."

Performances of "Lloyd's Prayer" are Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 at 7 p.m., Oct. 29-30 and Nov. 5-6 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 31 at 2 p.m. in the Milo Smith Tower Theatre. Tickets are $12 for general admission, $10 for senior citizens and $8 for students. This season CTE is offering discount matinees. On Oct. 31 all seats for the matinee are $8.

The box office is open from 1 to 5 p.m. weekdays and one hour prior to each performance. Tickets can also be purchased by phone with a VISA or MasterCard. For tickets, more information, or for persons of disability to arrange for reasonable accommodation, call the 963-1774 or (for the hearing impaired) TDD 963-2143.

"Lloyd's Prayer" is recommended for audiences ages 13 years over.
Thursday:

‘Lloyd’s Prayer’ aims to reach a new audience of theater-goers by appealing to the religious community.
Prayers are heard in Tower Theatre

by Allison White
Staff reporter

Premiering tonight is "Lloyd's Prayer," a comedic play touching on religion, human values and accepting outsiders into society. It is the first Central Washington University theater production of the fall season. Director Brenda Hubbard said it's a "religious Saturday Night Live with serious undertones."

Fueled by humor and satire, the play is set against a backdrop of golds, browns and greens, simulating a forest that is Bob the Raccoon Boy's home. Bob is a stereotypical outsider. He is shunned by society and cast as a freak show display because of the hair that covers "95, yes! Ninety-five percent of his body." Lloyd tells the audience:

"Each character is a stereotype of a theme," said Hannah Schmabel, senior Theatre Arts major, who plays Bob and Mom. "It's about acceptance of what is odd and different."

The story is a "coming of age" for Bob as he struggles to be accepted into society and be treated with respect.

"We don't get to address the issue of God often. It's nice to do a play in a welcoming, all-encompassing way," said Matt Milton, senior Theatre Arts major.

Milton plays Dad, who finds Bob and is forced to take care of him after Mom leaves him, but he would rather pay attention to Princess, his beloved dog. Bob doesn't trust many people because, as he tells the audience, he was taught to "never trust a smile. That's right before something bites."

"Lloyd's Prayer" may be thick with long character monologues, but they add to the feel of the play and are broken up by the Angel of the Lord urging the characters and the audience alike to "Be Amazed!"

The cast is excited for the show and to kick off the theater season. "Lloyd's Prayer" is a good play to open the doors, with playwright Kevin Kling's wacky humor and "light reminders that God forgives," as Jeremy Guevas, sophomore Theatre arts major said.

The rehearsal exhibited appropriate times for laughter and participation from the audience, but the main message is not lost within the humor. "Don't take all your love and keep it to yourself," said Shayne McNell, senior Theatre Arts major, who plays Lloyd, "But share it."

Amanda Rubec, top left, plays a beauty queen and main love interest of Bob in the upcoming theatre production, "Lloyd's Prayer," Bob, Andrew Kunellis, above, tries to wake up common Lloyd, Shayne McNell. Connon Lloyd, left, turns to religion as a means of exploiting "Bob and the Beast Boy." Far left, Bob caged and turned.

Central clubs get scary at Boo Central

by Desiree Michel
Staff reporter

Get out the face paint, black witch hats and goofy clown wigs. But leave the lawn masks and fake blood at home—Boo Central is for the kids.

The annual event is set to make its 12th run Halloween night from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Central Washington University Union, Union Building.

Welcoming local school children kindergarten through fifth grade, Boo Central provides a safe environment for all sorts of Halloween fun. Rebekah Varghese, special events coordinator for Campus Activities, said Central student volunteers enjoy seeing and interacting with the children who attend.

"There's always little ghosts, goblins and pirates—it's great," Varghese said. "They're so cute."

On Halloween night, eager youngsters will run and bound from one room to the next to visit the many Halloween-themed booths, each run by students of a school club or organization.

Adam Criswell, also an event organizer for Campus Activities, said this year's Boo Central will include a haunted house, live painting, a cucumber-caterpillar, cuddly "professional curiosity arts."

"It changes a lot every year because different clubs do it every year," Criswell said.

The Chemistry Club will be back with its popular science booths where children can make slime. Club President Nathan Ullom said he and other club members get into the Halloween spirit with experiments that are gross and sometimes even a bit frightening.

"We try to have a lot of fun while exciting the kids about learning," Ullom said.

Last year's Boo Central brought in about 450 children, and Varghese said that number grows each year. The non-profit event is advertised to area school children and to local businesses that donate decorations, supplies and candy for the kids.

"It's a great community thing," Varghese said.

While it's too late for more clubs to volunteer, individual students can volunteer to be placed when help is needed. To volunteer, call Adam or Rebekah at 963-1450.

Members of the CWU Chemistry club directed experiments during last year's Boo Central.
Play aims to reach new audience

Tickets, please
• $12 general admission, $8 students, $10 seniors
• Discount Sunday matinee Oct. 31, all seats $8
• "Lloyd's Prayer" will show
  tonight and Nov. 7 at 7 p.m., Oct.
  25, 30, Nov. 5 and 6 at 8 p.m.
• Tickets are available at the Mio
  Smith Tower Theatre from 1 to 5
  p.m. or by calling 963-1774

Play kicks off
season and opens
tonight

By LIZ BRYSON
staff writer

Central Washington University
theater arts professor Berenda Hubbard wants to
tap in to a new audience.
"I wanted a play that would appeal
the faith community," Hubbard
said. "Lloyd's Prayer," written by
National Public Radio commentator
Kevin Kling, delves into the
world of human nature and how it
shapes behavior. "It's a story of a man,
Bob the Beast Boy, raised by
raccoons. It's a story of a man who
tries to guide his brother into doing
the right thing."

Hubbard said the play will appeal to
those who are 13 and over, and
she added, "It opens tonight at 7
p.m. and will be performed at the
Milo Smith Tower Theatre.

The role of the boy is played by
Andrew Kunellis, who plays the part of
Bob and Shayne McNellis, who plays Lloyd.

Kunellis, a 21-year-old theater arts
major from Vashon Island, studied many
videos of raccoons to get their movements
and habits down.

The role is "very physically
demanding," Kunellis said. "I had
to make sure it was realistic."

Hubbard said Kunellis really
captured the part of Bob.

"Andrew is very good in it. He's
agile and small, and he's got a lot of
the quick animal movements down."

Photos by David Dick/Record Daily

Local author to
Art decks the halls at Clymer
Prayer: Lloyd is a ‘charming slime ball’

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McNeill said he enjoyed having the opportunity to play the antagonist. His last role was as Pinocchio.

Lloyd “has these tendencies to be a jerk,” McNeill said. To prepare for the part, McNeill watched movies like “The Apostle” and “O Brother, Where Art Thou” to “find the charming slime ball in Lloyd,” he said.

The 23-year-old theater arts major from Enumclaw was drawn to the “absurd comedy” and said he feels ready to perform tonight.

“I’m getting a little more ready each day.” Shayne “is tall, skinny and wiry. He’s a great kid with beautiful comic timing and a very expressive face,” Hubbard said. Along with student actors, the play has many more students behind the scenes working on lights, audio, sets, costumes and makeup, Hubbard said.

There’s a good deal of gospel music in “Lloyd’s Prayer” as well as some creative sound effects.
Thank you to the students of CWU

I am so proud of our students and how they organized and expressed themselves so eloquently to the “Phelps People.” The students took the lead and showed the rest of the campus how to do it, by making good responsible choices and speaking with a united voice in passion and eloquence. Nate Harris, in particular, is my hero.

You all took your stand in a non-violent way and made me proud to teach you and work with you.

I was also grateful for your support of THE LARAMIE PROJECT. Again my thanks to all who took a stand. You all rock.

Brenda Hubbard
Producing Artistic Director
Lloyd's Prayer
by Kevin Kling

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Department of Theatre Arts  
400 East University Way • Ellensburg WA 98926-7460

You'll "BE AMAZED," by this quirky, modern comedy by Kevin Kling. Bob, a boy raised by raccoons, is adopted by a mother, who runs away with her therapist, and a father, whose smile incites fear and violence in the boy. Abandoned as quickly as he is adopted, Bob meets Lloyd, an ex-con and hustler who turns first to a sideshow, then to religion as a means of earning a quick buck off of "Bob the Beast Boy." Only an intervention from the Angel of the Lord can help these two unlikely friends find their hearts and learn to "BE AMAZED."

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