Heathen Valley: A story of simple people

by Michelle R. Gruendl Copy Editor

"Poor folks have poor ways" was the phrase that rang through my head repeatedly while watching the dress rehearsal of "Heathen Valley" last night. A definite must see, it portrayed poor, simple Appalacian folk

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THE TECHNIQUE

NOTHING!

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who have gone astray from religion.

In an effort to find God, a bishop (Tracy D. Lee) goes to the valley in the mountains to "save souls". He takes with him Starns (Mike Rush) and Billy Cobb (Bond Davis).

Starns, born in a town close to

NOTHING CAN STOP

ME FROM PUTTING

THIS BALL THROUGH

THE HOOP!

by Charles M. Schulz

Heathen Valley, is an ex-convict janitor that becomes "learned" through the teachings of Billy, an orphan schooled by the bishop's church. Starns is ordained Deacon and acts as a guide for the journey into the mountains.

When they arrive, they meet Cora (Diane Hardner), Juba (Rebecca Wolford) and Harlan (Robert Connick). Harlan, who is plagued with witches and ghostly visions, has just shot his cousin Daniel in retailiation for Daniel shooting his wife/sister Margaret and his children. Cora is trying to persuade Harlan to give her their child Jean while Juba, the midwife, is preparing Daniel for burial.

The bishop is bold, confident of his religion and duty in life, something that the people in the valley can't understand. Starn acts as mediator, who tries to bridge the gap between the bishop and the people.

Left in charge of the missionary in Heathen Valley, Starns deals with "converting" the people by his own simple ways of understanding christian religion. He "civilizes" each character using their own personalities and ways of life, and as a result, the comunity prospers economically and spiritually the best way they know how for three years.

Unfortunately, the bishop is not satisfied with the changes he sees. He doesn't view life as Starns and the people of Heathen Valley do, and as a consequence,

A night at the Theatre: Heathen Valley opens tonight. It is a free preview for Behrend students. It runs November 3, 4, 9, 12 and 11 at 8 p.m. and November 5 and 12 at 2:30 p.m.

things change.

The story is told through the eyes of Billy as a means to make sense of his life, to figure out what went wrong in the valley he came to know as home. It leaves the audience without an answer. Tony Elliot, the director, replied, "It's open ended. It leaves you with questions, that's the idea. It's something to think about. something to discuss afterwards. I don't think the character who has the final lines knows how to

feel at that moment."

A powerful, touching and thought provoking play, the cast portrays their characters with passion and feeling. Robert Connick expressed his feelings of portraying Harlan. "It's just fun to be able to go up and act crazy in front of everybody and not have worry about anything."

The fall production begins tonight at 8 p.m. Admission is \$5 for the general public and \$3 for students.

Powder: Humanity surpasses technology

by Ryan Bogart

The film "Powder" may not get a great review from the big names in Hollywood, but I've formed my own opinion. Sean Patrick Flannery plays Jeremy Reed (Powder), the teenager

whom all his life has been hidden his grandparents on a farm. He is different than normal boys his age. He is an albino with no hair and great energetic powers. At birth, his mother was struck by lightening and died,

thus causing Powder to be born forcibly.

he is born, his father is ashamed and leaves the hospital crying, "he's not my son." This comes back to haunt Powder. When his grandfather dies, Powder's whole life

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knows is home.

blatantly stopped in the hallways of touching him. to look at him. This created a for him.

him by smashing the generator peacefully. causing Powder to crash to the through.

people forever.

throughout the movie. Goldblum film!

changes. Jessica Caldwell, a becomes his best friend when he psychologist from a mentally informs Powder of Einstein's handicapped boys' school, takes theory of energy- "all matter is him from the only place he made up of energy, thus the higher IQ, the more energy one The movie is set in a possesses; Powder is all energy." typical, small town in Texas, He takes an IQ test and scores off where everyone knows each the record, the highest ever other, which becomes the biggest recorded in human kind. problem for Powder. His first day Goldblum teaches him how to in public school was a mentally shake hands, something which crushing experience. Students his grandparents never did for fear

He has the power of path lined with curious teens. He reading people's thoughts and gets picked on, as any other emotions. Lance Hendrikson weird" kid in high school might, plays the sheriff in the small town, and his wife is on her death bed. Powder comes to relay the Science class becomes a message that she wants to tell disaster when the science teacher, him before she passes. Which is played by Jeff Goldblum, turns that Hendikson and his son must on an atomic generator. The resolve their arguing and make electricity streams toward up. Through Powder, the sheriff Powder, lifting him several feet and his son make up which off of his chair. Goldblum saves enables the sheriff's wife to rest

This film is very floor. This only adds to the touching because Powder heals humiliation which he goes everyone and their problems throughout the film. Powder has an amazing Emotionally, he has power to effect on people when he touches change people's lives forever them. Goldblum says he feels which he does several times. like he's eighteen again, after he Goldblum said it best... "It is touches Powder to see if he's clear that technology has alright. This touch changes surpasses humanity. Powder is the human of the future. We have He is all energy and this a chance to have humanity mystery is slowly unraveled surpass technology." Go see this