

Criminal Hearts set to open at Behrend this week

by Ryan Flaherty
staff writer

The players of *Criminal Hearts* had a chance to show off their acting skills in front of an audience at Wednesday night's dress rehearsal. This premier viewing helped to smooth out any rough edges and test the readiness of the crew.

The story begins in Ata Windust's apartment. Ata is a very nervous and problematic individual with several bizarre habits. Whether she is in danger or a normal situation, she can't seem to keep quiet about her emotional problems for more than a couple of seconds, making anyone near her an unwilling psychiatrist. She is mostly distraught over her ordeal with her soon-to-be ex-husband Wib Windust, a very prominent man who seems to be responsible for Ata's current state of mind.

Ata soon befriends Bo, a female burglar, who has broken into Ata's apartment and is subjected to her ramblings. After being told Ata's life story in minimal time, Bo decides that she wants to help her out for Ata's

sake as well as for her own personal profit. Along with Bo's accomplice, Robbie, the three soon hatch a plan for revenge.

A unique aspect to this play is the selection of music before and after scenes. Each song that is played goes in sync and carries the mood of what just happened.

The cast playing their respective roles fits their characters very well. Jamie Lojewski does an excellent job as the overstimulated and agoraphobic Ata Windust. Jamie has a hilarious facial expression while doing Ata's most soothing activity, sharpening pencils. Molly Means as Bo is a good pick for the gruff voiced, foul-mouthed burglar. Even when substituting a wool knit cap and Van Halen t-shirt for a dress, she has a hard time being "proper." Bruce Waller plays Robbie, a burglar also very much like Bo. Robbie has the same "trust no one" attitude that Bo carries, however, he won't hesitate to pull one over on his partner. Tara Campbell gives the voice to the unseen Mrs. Carnahan, the nosy neighbor of Ata. Last but certainly not least is Wib Windust, played by Ryan Widrig. Widrig captures the

self-centered, very smooth Wib with great accuracy. Watching him walk and move his hands about give him a genuine look of Wib.

After Wednesday's performance, the crew was pleased with the way things went. "We needed an audience and that's what we got," commented Tony Elliot (Director) after the premiere.

"I'm glad I'm doing it, I've been obsessed with acting my whole life," remarked Waller.

Means also felt that doing this is "A lot of fun."

Mr. Elliot also teaches Theatre 100 (Art of Theatre) and Theatre 102 (Fundamentals of Acting) at Behrend, and has directed the school's plays for the last six years. "I really hope the campus comes out," stated Elliot, hoping for the well-deserved success of the play.

Criminal Hearts begins showing on March 31st, with shows continuing on April 1st, and 4th through 8th at 8:00 p.m. and April 2nd and 9th at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the Reed Union Building Desk.



Jamie Lojewski (left), Bruce Waller, and Molly Means prepare for opening weekend.

American Beauty: grand appearance at Oscars

by Kelly Walsh
staff writer

It is no surprise that *American Beauty* left the Oscars with numerous awards. While receiving Best Picture, Directing (Sam Mendes), Actor in Lead Role (Kevin Spacey), Original Screenplay (Alan Ball), and Cinematography (Conrad L. Ball), it was also nominated for Best Actress in Lead, Film Editing, and Original Score.

Producers Bruce Cohen and Dan Jinks were thrilled. They agreed that the cast, writer, and everyone involved stepped up to make this film glow. Mr. Cohen hit the nail on the head in his acceptance speech.

"...Andrew Canava sent us a screen play called *American Beauty* by Allen Ball. It dealt with sex, drugs, blackmail, homophobia, and suburban dysfunction." I would also add midlife crisis, marriage, love, and beauty to the list. This film tears at your emotions with every single one of those subjects. They explore each with such detail that it is chilling.

Kevin Spacey received Best Actor in a Leading Role for playing Lester Burnham. He is no stranger to the field of acting having played in *The Negotiator* (1998), *L.A. Confidential* (1997), and *A Time to Kill* (1996) to name a few. He has also been on stage once before, winning Best Actor in a Supporting Role for *The Usual Suspects* (1995). This time around,

however, Spacey claimed during his acceptance speech that some winners forget to thank a person or two. He on the other hand forgot to thank everyone.

American Beauty is a great film that teaches you to appreciate the things around you. A neighbor of the Burnhams says, "Sometimes there is so much beauty in the world I feel like I can't take it." No one was in question as to what he meant.

The only disappointment at the awards was that Annette Bening didn't win for Best Actress in Leading Role. Her performance alongside of Spacey was truly outstanding. She makes you sympathize with her although you hate how perfect she is.

DICK and Jane

Dear Jane,

My friends and I have been fighting for weeks about what is and what isn't sex. Is oral-sex sex? Is anal-sex sex? What is lesbian sex? Some of us agreed that penetration is sex, but does that include fingering and other stuff like that? What if there is penetration, like if a guy is inside you for a second, and that's it? Please tell us what's what.

Three girls in a funny conversation

Girls,

That's one hell of a discussion group you've got. So, what is sex? In technical terms, sex is penetration with the penis into the vagina. Isn't it boring when you say it that way? But technically, that's it. And get this, technically it is only for procreation. For once, I agree with the technical definition (other than that procreation part). Let's go through your list in technical terms, shall we?

Is oral sex really sex? Nope. Some people disagree with me (including a friend of mine from Portland who holds her ground that kissing can be sex if people are in a certain mental state.....), but oral sex involves mouths, which are not *technically* sexual organs. And chances are, if someone asks you how many people you have had sex with, you are less likely to include that oral sex incident.

Is anal sex really sex? Nope. I think you know what anuses are for.... Lesbian sex? Most of the lesbians I know consider lesbian sex a mix of penetration with various non-penis things, oral sex, and sexual closeness. Technically, that's not sex either. The key words are "non-penis things."

Is penetration by non-penis things sex? Well, if a girl is masturbating, is she having sex? There is penetration..... but it's not sex.

And last but not least, penetration, with a penis for a second...yep, that's sex. And hopefully you know that even that second can get you pregnant or give you some unfriendly STD.

All this is in technical terms, but people are rarely technical. They are emotional and opinionated. You will find people, like Angel in Portland, who think that kissing can be so sexual that it is sex. And the line on lesbian sex is drawn many different ways. The fact is that sex is not just for procreation any more. It has evolved, per se. People use it as an expression of affection & love, and as recreation. So, it will inevitably mean a lot of different things to different people.

I would LOVE to hear your opinions on what sex is. Guys, if she went down on you, did you have sex with her? Is anal sex considered sex if it involves a man and a woman?

Eagerly awaiting your letters,
Jane

Have questions about sex or relationships?? Write to Jane at dickandjane@wildmail.com or leave a letter marked "Jane" in the Beacon mailbox, downstairs in the Reed Union Building. All correspondences are confidential.

LEX
by phil flickinger (www.l-e-x.com)

H O S C O P E S

Aries (March 21-April 19). Don't let the lost feelings overtake you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Surprises will come your way soon.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Entertain your friends. They will need it.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Heads up!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Doesn't look good for you this week.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). With the sun aligned with Aquarius...ummm...have fun I guess.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Okay you can relax now.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Blueberry. It should bring a smile to your face.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's a typical situation in this typical world.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are not following directions.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb 18). Lay off the backlashes this week.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 20). Deep thought — Have you ever wondered why pink is feminine?

by Bongo the three legged monkey