Clackamas Community College takes on powerful subject in 'Shadow Testament'

Clackamas Community College will present a play, loosely based on a true story, about a young woman who must come to terms with a crime she committed in the name of love and God.

PHOTO BY JENNIFER WHITTEN - Molly Bowman (playing Clara), Nicola Sampair (as Jane), Beth Dodge (as Isabella) and Sam Levi (as Joshua) star in 'The Shadow Testament' opening Thursday in Oregon City.

“'The Shadow Testament’ takes place in Corvallis and Seattle during the turn of the 20th century. As she sits in her asylum room, the main character, Jane, revisits the past as she experiences a night of visions, dreams and conversations with ghosts.

English instructor Sue Mach’s powerful and moving third play, “The Shadow Testament,” received a Women Writers Fellowship from Literary Arts Inc. This piece was vetted by Artists Repertory Theatre in Portland, Contemporary Theatre in Seattle, Boston Playwrights’ Theatre, and JAW/West. It was produced by Portland World Theatre as part of the Fertile Ground Festival.

Featuring CCC students under the direction of Artistic Director James Eikrem, scenic and lighting design by Chris Whitten, and costumes by Alva Bradford, “The Shadow Testament” brings to light a part of Oregon history that is still difficult to discuss.

“I was fascinated by the story of the Holy Rollers and found it particularly interesting that Esther (the inspiration for the main character in the play) never really got to tell her side of the story,” Mach said. “I wanted to give her a voice, to let her determine if she was a good person or a bad person, to let her figure out if what she did was right or wrong.”

The play contains brief nudity, adult content and gun violence. There will be two panel
discussions after the March 4 and 5 performances. Audience members will have the opportunity to interact with the cast members, Eikrem, Mach and Theresa McCracken, who is the author of “Holy Rollers” (a book about the actual events).

'The Shadow Testament'

What: CCC Theatre Arts Department's winter-term mainstage production

When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25 through March 6, with a "pay what you can" performance at 10 a.m. Friday, March 4

Cost: adults $11, seniors $9, students $5 online or "pay what you can" at the box office

Where: 19600 Molalla Ave., Oregon City

More: Visit clackamas.edu/theatre or call 503-594-3153.