Portland Miracle Theatre Group schedules two performances at RCC

“Duende de Lorca,” an original bilingual dramatic production, will be performed Feb. 24 at Rogue Community College in Medford and Grants Pass.

Written by Dañel Malán and directed by Matthew B. Zrebski, the performance will feature actors from Teatro Milagro, the Miracle Theater Group of Portland.

Shows are scheduled from 11 a.m. to noon in the Student Center on the RCC Redwood Campus, 3345 Redwood Hwy., Grants Pass, and again from 7 to 8 p.m. at the RCC/SOU Higher Education Center, Room 132, 101 S. Bartlett St., Medford. Admission is free and open to the public; seating is limited.

“Duende de Lorca” is the story of Federico García Lorca, an internationally recognized Spanish poet, dramatist and theater director who lived from 1898 to 1936. Lorca is believed to have been shot by anti-communist death squads during the Spanish Civil War.

At age 27, he was a struggling artist living with his parents, writing puppet plays that were laughed off the stage by critics. His need for freedom fueled his desire to succeed, and his travels through New York and Cuba quickly became a quest for cultural integration and acceptance. In the Americas, Lorca fused his cante jondo – a flamenco vocal style – with another music style – Afro-Cuban son – to create a new rhythm of powerfully poetic drama.

Two “Journeys” workshops led by Teatro Milagro cast members also are planned: the first at 1 p.m. Feb. 24 in the Backroom Café, Student Center, Redwood Campus; the second at 10 a.m. Feb. 25 in Room 120 of the RCC/SOU Higher Education Center.

For over 20 years after his death, Lorca’s name was taboo and his work was banned in Spain under the dictator Francisco Franco's rule, partly due to his political leanings and because of his sexual orientation. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to discuss taboo issues that can lead to loneliness and despair, such as those Lorca often felt living in a society where being gay was abhorrent.

Teatro Milagro’s “Journeys” workshops use a combination of popular education and role-playing techniques to engage participants as “actors” in a dialog that provokes self reflection. With the addition of poetry, music and dance inspired by Lorca’s work, the workshops create a relaxed environment in which to address sensitive issues, discover solutions to interpersonal concerns and celebrate individuality.

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The RCC Diversity Programming Board is sponsoring the performances and the workshops. More information is available from Tammi Spencer at 541-245-7559 or tspencer@roguecc.edu.

For directions to either campus, visit www.roguecc.edu/maps.

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