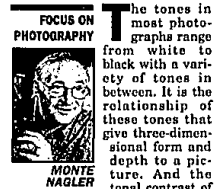


Sunday, June 9, 2002

Lighting reflects tonal contrast



FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY
MONTE NAGLER

The tones in most photographs range from white to black with a variety of tones in between. It is the relationship of these tones that give three-dimensional form and depth to a picture. And the tonal contrast of an image is usually affected by how a subject is lit.

With color, the same principal applies, but adjacent areas may also be differentiated by color rather than brightness.

A photographer's skill lies in making a two-dimensional photograph appear with a third dimension. A full tonal range will make this possible. For instance, a solid white ball lit directly from the front will have no shadows or highlights. It will appear as a solid circle of white in a photograph. But move the light to the side in order to create shadows and the difference will become immediately obvious. The ball will develop a complete range of tones from white on the lit side, gradually darkening gray in the center, to black in the deepest shadow. The ball will now appear three-dimensional.

Thinking of the ball as an example, become aware of tone in everyday life. Take a friend outdoors and notice how a hard source of light such as direct sun creates solid tones on the face with clearly defined steps. The



Captured moment: Monte Nagler felt that high contrast would best capture the mood he wanted in this picture. Late afternoon lighting did the trick.

soft light on an overcast day produces mildly changing tones on the face with barely noticeable edges.

There is a strong connection between the tones in a photograph and mood it conveys. A picture with mostly light tones is called "high-key" and has a delicate, often romantic quality. Photos with dark tones, "low-key," create a somber, serious, often moody feel.

Photographs with a full tonal range, bright highlights and crisp shadows, create normal, easily accepted images.

Contrast is the relationship between the lightest and darkest tones. A picture that is dominated by extremely light and dark

tones is described as high contrast. Where there's only a small difference between the brightest and darkest tones, you have a low contrast image. A photograph with full range of lights and darks is considered to be normal contrast.

Contrast is primarily controlled by lighting. Bright sunlight will create high contrast subjects while soft lighting...an overcast day...creates a softer contrast image.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. His fax number is (248) 644-1314.

Raw scripts to light up the imagination

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

No costumes, fancy lighting, music or elaborate props, just the words and the imagination will take center stage as local playwrights present their works in raw form at Playscape, a festival celebrating original full-length plays.

Presented by Heartland Theatre Company and Oakland University, the three-day event will feature staged readings of scripts written by local talent and a "Imagery in Playwriting" workshop conducted by Stephen Svoboda, an assistant professor at the University of Miami.

The festival, to be held at Oakland University's Lab Theatre in Varner Hall Friday-Sunday, June 14-16, will offer an educational forum for local playwrights and audience members who will be invited to offer feedback following each reading.

"The Big One," written by Beverly Hills playwright Kim Carney and directed by Mary Lockery, is among the theatrical works to be presented at the festival. The two-character romantic comedy is set in a Beverly Hills, Calif. mansion, where an attractive real estate agent accompanies a handsome prospective buyer. The two are trapped in the wine cellar following an earthquake and embark on personal journeys and resurrection.

Carney, whose 13th play will be produced late summer in New Jersey, said the staged reading will be nothing more than two people on a stage with two chairs.

"It's bare bones, that's for sure," Carney said. "It's about



Creative process: M.V. Patton (left) author of "Freeman's Grounding," and Mary Rychlewski, co-producer of Heartland Theatre Company, discuss Patton's play, one of the original works to be featured during Playscape.

the script."

It will be the first time the script is read for a general audience. The staged reading is an integral part of the creative process, said Carney. Each of her produced theatrical works stemmed from such readings. She sits in the audience and gages body language, emotions and reactions. The audience feedback session is also vital, she noted.

Educational

"It's educational, especially for the playwright," she said. "Sometimes you lose your perspective on the script, so it's nice to hear it again through somebody who has never heard it before. A lot

of that is real helpful. It's just really invaluable."

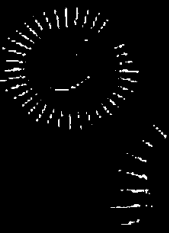
Other works presented at Playscape include, "Freeman's Grounding," a play set in 1795 that explores the meaning of freedom, written by M.V. Patton, of Ferndale and directed by Stephanie L. Nichols.

"Innocence, Peppermint," a story of a couple's feud over "protecting" their daughter, written by Steve Daut, of Chelsea and directed by T. Andrew Aston, will also be presented for the first time to a general audience.

Svoboda will present his current work, "Reconstructing Mama" in a staged reading. An

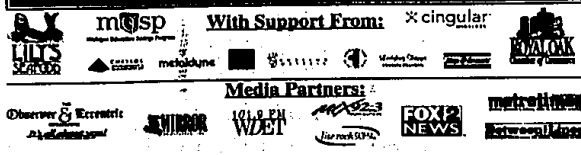
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