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V-Day: Finding that special gift

staff writer **JAMIE BOWMAN**

Oh, the feeling of love in the air...Cupid's on the loose and no matter how hard people try to deny it, Valentine's Day is fast-approaching.

Every year people wander in and out of stores pondering over what to give that special person in their life whether it be candy and flowers or a Ty Valentino Beanie Babe and the Titanic soundtrack.

While tradition still goes a long way, it is obvious that many people are leaning toward a different gift-giving approach, and sexual items are extremely popular.

Bill Young and David Ervin of Candy Express, Columbiana Mall, say that "Chocolate Body Paint" is their newest item.

"It even comes with a free paintbrush," Young said.

They also carry red, white, and pink colored candies ranging from pretzels to candy corn.

Other, not-so-traditional items include edible undies, fur-covered hand-cuffs, flavored body paint, and "naughty noodles" all of which are available at Spencer's Gifts.

Junior Kerri McGuire said she hopes no one gets her a cheesy gift like she got last year, "tickets to the circus."

There is also the option of lingerie, from heart-covered nightgowns to glow-in-the-dark boxers. Massage oils and lotions are also possibilities.

Among various practical gifts are coffee mugs, plants and CDs. "You can't go wrong with giving music," sophomore Thom King said.

Candles and homemade items make very romantic and sentimental presents. Carolina Candles, Five Points, carries a wide array of both scented and unscented candles as well as Valentine candleholders. They also sell aromatherapy products.

"Last year my girlfriend gave me a tape of love songs with a letter say-

ing why each one was so special. It was the sweetest gift I've ever received," senior John Turner said.

If tradition is a must, Ann's Hallmark, Columbiana Mall, is just the place. From a huge assortment of romantic cards and Russell Stover candies to Kim Anderson "Pretty as a Picture" frames and Ty Beanie Babies, a romantic gift is destined to be found.

Whether the perfect gift is homemade cookies or a book of love poems—know that the search doesn't have to be a long painful one.

Theatre USC to put on Greek epic, trilogy

news editor **SARA LADENHEIM**

One of the oldest known dramas, "Oresteia" by Aeschylus, will be staged Feb. 13 to Feb. 22 at Drayton Hall.

"Oresteia," a trilogy of Greek plays including "Agamemnon," "The Libation Bearers" and "The Furies," is based on characters and events immediately after the Trojan War. The trilogy is about the fulfillment of destiny through successive murderous generations of the house of Atreus.

The epic saga begins in "Agamemnon" with the title character's triumphant return home from his victory in the Trojan War. His wife, Clytemnestra, is still bitter toward him for the murder 10 years earlier of their daughter, Iphigenia, whom Agamemnon sacrificed to appease the Gods when his war fleet could not find winds to sail to Troy. Clytemnestra murders her husband in revenge.

In "The Libation Bearers," Orestes and Electra, the surviving children of Agamemnon, conspire to kill their mother as retribution for their father's death. In "The Furies," Orestes is pursued and driven mad by supernatural furies. Finally, the gods, who pity Orestes, decide to find a better method of judgement than vengeance by the sword. Hence, the seeds of democracy are sown by the gods in the first courtroom scene ever written.

"This is the great-great-granddaddy of all theater" said Jim O'Connor, Theatre USC's artistic director and chairman of the theatre, speech and dance department. "Aeschylus, more than any other major literary or theatrical artist, was the virtual creator of the medium in which he worked. He is known as the father of theater because his innovations permanently altered the essentials of theater."

Audiences might recognize many of the characters from Homer's epic poem, "The Iliad," and later dramatic and musical works. Many of the characters might have been real. Archaeologists have uncovered



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Theatre USC will present Aeschylus' "Oresteia," Feb. 13 to Feb. 22. Pictured (top) Robert Richmond, (left to right) Monica Wyche, William Kwapy and Mike Colter.

not only the ruins of ancient Troy, but also the actual house of Atreus at Mycenae in Greece.

The three plays, directed by Robert Richmond, have been adapted for Theatre USC's production by Peter Meineck, whose new translation of "Oresteia" from the original Greek will be published by Hackett Publishing Company of Cambridge, Mass. in September.

THEATRE USC'S ORESTEIA

WHO
Theatre USC and Director Robert Richmond

WHAT
Oresteia, a trilogy of Greek plays

WHEN AND WHERE
8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday performances and 3 p.m. Sunday performances Feb. 13 to Feb. 22, Drayton Hall

COST
\$10 for the public, \$8 for military and USC faculty and staff, and \$6 for students.

Richmond is a guest artist on loan from The Aquila Theatre Company of London, USC's company-in-residence for the 1997-98 season. Meineck, also with The Aquila Theatre Company, is a visiting assistant professor of French and the classics, and an adjunct assistant professor in theatre.

Aquila, founded in 1991 by Meineck, has produced 10 shows and is one of the foremost producers of classical theatre.

The cast includes Mike Colter, last seen as Frankenstein's creature, as Agamemnon and Apollo, Aileen Strain as Electra, Monica Wyche as Clytemnestra, William Kwapy as Orestes and Ellen Rosenberg as Athena. Other cast members include four other cast members and 15 chorus members.

Curtain times are 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10 for the public, \$8 for senior citizens, military and USC faculty and staff and \$6 for students. USC's Longstreet Theatre box office sells tickets noon to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and one hour before each performance in the Drayton Hall Auditorium. Tickets also are available by calling 777-2551.

EVENTS

► "L'I Abner," through Feb. 15, Village Square Theatre (Lexington). Public, \$12; students, \$10. Call 359-1436.

► African American Acting Workshops interviews, thru Feb. 19, Trustus Theatre. Interviews for admission to a series of free acting workshops in March and April for aspiring African American actors. No acting experience necessary; workshops are open to ages 18 and up. Call (254-9732) by Jan. 31 to set up an interview.

► "The Joy of Going Somewhere Definite," through Feb. 21, Trustus Theatre. Students, \$10. Call 254-9732.

► "The Star-Spangled Girl," through Feb. 21, Chapin Community Theatre (downtown Chapin). Advance reservations are recommended. Call 345-6181.

► "The Oresteia," Feb. 13-22, Drayton Hall. Public, \$10; students, \$6. Call 777-2551/2552 for more information.

Muses Night Out presents Fiction Reading, 7-9 p.m., Feb. 11, McKissick Museum.

► Columbia City Ballet presents Romeo & Juliet, Feb. 13-14, Koger Center. Call 251-2222 for more tickets.

CONCERTS

► El Buho, Feb. 11, The Library

► Electric City Blues Band, Feb. 13, Sundance Grill

► Sourwood Honey, Feb. 13-14, Elbow Room

► Frank Smoak & The Amazing Buddy Ray, Feb. 14, Sundance Grill

► Fresh Air, Feb. 14, Hemingway's

► Jimmy Buffett and The Coral Reefer Band, 8 p.m., Feb. 14, Charlotte Coliseum.

SITE OF THE DAY

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<http://www.hotwired.com>

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