

WEDNESDAY
May 17, 2006

ARTS & LEISURE

The Chronicles of Narnia, explained

C.S. Lewis Academy players will debut 'The Magician's Nephew' on Thursday

The White Witch. Aslan. The wardrobe.

Anyone who has read the "Chronicles of Narnia," written by author C.S. Lewis, knows the significance of these characters.

And with the 2005 release of the movie "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," even more adults and children were exposed to the world within a world.

But where did the evil white queen come from? How did the story begin?

Those who buy tickets to the C.S. Lewis Academy play, "The Magician's Nephew," will have a chance to find out at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and again May 25-27 at Wood-Mar Auditorium on the campus of George Fox University.

Tickets are available at the door and cost \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and senior citizens.

The play, dramatized by playwright Aurand Harris, is an adaptation of Lewis' 1955 novel about the beginning of Narnia and the adventures of two children, Digory and Polly. Although it was the sixth of the seven "Chroni-



Students at C.S. Lewis Academy perform their parts in 'The Magician's Nephew.'

Shawna Turpen /
NEWBERG
GRAPHIC

cles" books written, its storyline predates the first novel in the series, "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," the book on which the movie was based.

Mike McConaughey, drama instructor at the academy, said with the release of the film the school felt it would be a good time to do the play.

"The story is about two young children who go to an

old dead world and end up awakening the witch," he said. "They bring her back to London, then take off to another world to get rid of her.

“It's great for all ages, a little shorter, fanciful, very much for a children's audience to enjoy.”

Mike McConaughey,
play director

That's how she comes into Narnia.”

This isn't the first time the school has dramatized one of Lewis' plays. The musical "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"

was also performed about four years ago.

McConaughey said it's also

nice to do a theater piece on C.S. Lewis' work, as it is the schools' namesake. And the play appeals to children.

The school hasn't done a children's theater piece "for ages," he said. "It's great for all ages, a little shorter, fanciful, very much for a children's audience to enjoy," he added. "We have done a lot of special effect things with lighting and moving set pieces, dance and music."

Tickets may be purchased in advance and are available through the high school and at the door on performance nights.

For more information, call 503-538-2195 or visit www.cslewisacademy.com.