Children’s classic ‘The Lorax’ hits theaters

By ISABELLA OHLMeyer

Two Ohlone College students will star in a humorous parody of the “Harry Potter” books and films in “A Very Potter Musical” on March 16 at Faith Ringgold School in Hayward.

Ohlone chemistry major Mike Tran will star as the adorable dorky character, Ron Weasley.

Tran said that his stage character is not a far stretch from his personal characteristics.

“I can definitely related myself to Ron. In the show he is a giant dork and eats all the time. I would say that this is ‘me’ as well,” Tran said.

“I’m playing Neville Longbottom,” said Matt Busbee. Both Ohlone students’ friends encouraged them to audition for the local musical.

The protagonist of the film, Ted (voiced by Zac Efron), wants to impress a very special girl by the name of Audrey (voiced by Taylor Swift) in the hopes that she will marry him. For her birthday, Audrey wishes to have a tree of her own, as she has never seen one in her life. Ted immediately heads out of town to find a person known as the Once-ler (voiced Ed Helms), who is the only individual who knows what happened to the trees. Once Ted finally meets the Once-ler he explains how he had caused the death of all trees, and how he had summoned the being who speaks for all of the trees, the Lorax (voiced by Danny DeVito), and how he had failed to listen to him.

The film somewhat portrays the strong message of the need to preserve what little we have left of nature today, and that by succumbing to greed it only hurts the people around you. Unfortunately, the plot gets quite convoluted along the way.

The film loses sight of what Dr. Seuss was originally trying to convey about corporate greed.

When the plot focuses on the Once-ler and his time in the forest, the film takes a large step backwards.

The film almost entirely focuses on the silliness of the forest animals and simply relies on the “cute-ness factor” to keep the audience entertained, particularly appealing to children.

Then of course there is the unnecessary love story, which also shows Ted coming to the conclusion far too late that perhaps we shouldn’t do things to benefit only ourselves, but for society as a whole.

Despite high production values, a great voice cast and a couple catchy musical numbers, “The Lorax” ultimately fails to leave you with the message that the book had originally intended. However this movie is generally geared to appeal to a younger audience, and in that respect, it is a success.

Expelliarmus! Ohlone students prepare theater version of ‘A Very Potter Musical’

By ISABELLA OHLMeyer

Amelia Loredo (Hermione), Kristin Hwang (Pansy) and Laura Shea-Clark (Helms), who is the only one other performance showcase of the musical and that was at Monte Vista High School in Danville.

“I love being Hermione. It is totally awesome. Everyone in the show is highly dedicated and I hope everyone gets a chance to see it,” Tran said.

Admission to the show is free, but there is a $10 donation for those sitting in the VIP area and $5 donation for those seated in the non-VIP area.

To reserve seats, call (510) 862-0987. To find out more about the parody, visit www.avpmcv.org for further information.

Brass Band presents an array of old and new

By ASHLEY LAM

Ohlone’s Brass Band, formerly known as the Mission Peak Brass Band, will present an array of upbeat music ranging from opera overtures to popular musiques at 8 p.m. March 8 in the Simley Valley Library.

This year it is expected that there will be around 100 attendees, coming from all age groups.

“The music that will be played includes live played songs in tribute to the classic oldies in addition to some modern-day popular music.

“Our concert features toe tapping, fun music, including ‘Sweet Georgia Brown,’ ‘Cartoon Music,’ ‘Beatles Go Brass,’ ‘Suite from Porgy and Bess’ and ‘Dance of the Tumblers.’

Cliff Mercer will be our soloist for the evening, playing ‘Send in the Clowns’ on flugelhorn, said Shea-Clark.

“I would recommend any one attend the concert that likes band music or brass ensembles. There is a lot of good music out there that people should hear,” said Whitehouse.

Tickets can be purchased now at the Ohlone Smith Center Box Office.

Ohlone staff and faculty admission tickets costs $10, adult tickets cost $15 and admission is $8 for children under 12.