Poticha; Arch 484-584 Spring 2015 Design Studio ... University of Oregon
Note: Monday 7:00PM-11:00PM, Wed/Friday 1:00 PM-5:00 PM
First Class, March 30th class will be 1:00PM-5:00PM

Design and study, alternative strategies and phasing for
The Existing Community Performing Arts, “Very Little Theatre”.

To explore and design an eventual integrated performing theater on the present site that will incorporate all or some of the existing building components.

The Very Little Theatre got its name on March 3, 1929, when eight Eugene theatre enthusiasts were formed. One person said to the others, “There are hundreds of little theatre groups up and down the country, but this is certainly going to be a very little one! Born in the Great Depression, The Very Little Theatre survived difficult economic conditions, World War II, changing consumer tastes, and increased competition to become the oldest, continuously producing community theatres in the United States.

**A Building of Their Own:**
Through a number of iterations and locations in Eugene, in 1950 the present property, located at 2350 Hilyard St., was purchased from the City of Eugene for $3,000. The Very Little Theatre then designed and constructed a 220-seat auditorium. Several years later, a workshop, dressing rooms, green room, rehearsal space and small service kitchen were added.

**Now:**
Over these years’ additions, repairs and improvements have occurred. In 2008, the board and membership explored a new building but were limited in this approach by projected community fund raising limitations. This limitation has altered the membership’s approach in solving their goal of a complete new facility but not their goal of an improved and integrated facility, which will offer greater performing opportunities.

**Next:**
The current exploration and our studio’s exploration is to make over much of the existing, add flying stage storing space, increase the seating rake and enlarge and improve the lobby, the workshop, the dressing rooms and all of the other support spaces. This studio will assist with a master plan and study the possible phasing of constructing the other improvements as funds become available with the a complete and integrated functioning community production theater.

Representatives of the building committee have committed to working with the studio offering expertise and studio input as a real client.