

ISSUE N°07 | SEASON PREVIEW 2017

# OLY ARTS

*Your guide to culture, music, theater and visual arts*



## **DELICACIES!** **08-10**

### **Northwest Cuisine**

From Cajun to cocktails, regional chefs are setting mouth-watering tables with delicious entrees.

## **DRAMA!** **12-19**

### **Theater Preview**

Live entertainment on stage with Broadway actors, local thespians and touring shows.

## **DRUMBEATS!** **25-29**

### **Music Preview**

Tuning up new classical, jazz, and rock seasons in Olympia.

## **DANCE!** **30-32**

### **Ballet Preview**

Olympia's two resident dance troupes keep audiences on their toes.



# 2017-2018 THINKING BIG!



**October 8 • 7 pm • Opening Statements**

CURIALE - NIELSEN - TCHAIKOVSKY

*Mary Jensen, flute*

*Jeffrey Bell-Hanson, guest conductor*

**November 12 • 7 pm • Four Funerals and a Wedding**

MAHLER - RACHMANINOV - PÄRT - BERLIOZ

*Angie Zhang, piano*

**February 18 • 3 pm • Closing Remarks**

MOZART - SCHUBERT

*Oksana Ezhokina, piano*

**March 25 • 7 pm • Northern Exposure**

BRUCH - ELGAR

*Becky Anderson, violin*

**April 22 • 7 pm • Coming Full Circle**

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May 3-5, 2018

The Washington  
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Katharine Cowan of SWYDT and Pacific Northwest Ballet Soloist Joshua Grant in The Nutcracker

TICKETS

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[studiowestdanceacademy.com](http://studiowestdanceacademy.com)

# OLY ARTS

## SEASON PREVIEW CONTENTS

### AUGUST

20 Summer Wine Tasting, Basilico Ristorante  
24 August: Osage County, Harlequin Productions  
25-27 Chehalis Garlic Fest  
27 Crystal Beth and the Boom Boom Band,  
Rhythm & Rye  
27 Young Choreographers Showcase,  
Studio West Dance Academy  
31 Silent Sky, Olympia Little Theatre

### SEPTEMBER

1-3 Olympia Harbor Days  
2, 9, 16 and 30 Kiki's Delivery Service,  
Olympia Film Society  
2 TUSH! Burlesque Presents Cabaret Derriere,  
Obsidian  
7 Love Seats: An Evening of Burlesque  
and Sexy Stories, Rhythm & Rye  
8 Jonell Mosser, Traditions Fair Trade Café  
9 Sip, Savor & Stroll,  
Olympia Downtown Association  
15 Hot Club Sandwich, Traditions Fair Trade Café  
16 StoryOly Grand Slam 2017, Rhythm & Rye  
16 Underwater Forests: Exploring Kelp Canopies,  
WET Science Center  
16 Adams, Bernstein, Dvořák and Reich,  
Emerald City Music  
19 and 26 The Sandlot, Olympia Film Society  
27 Dave Mason, Capitol Theater



#### Festivals

Olympia Harbor Days  
Chehalis Garlic  
Fest



#### Food

Sip, Savor & Stroll  
Tippy Piano Bar  
Olympia Farmers  
Market



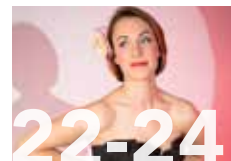
#### Theater Preview

Olympia Family  
Theater Preview  
Olympia Little  
Theatre Preview  
Saint Martin's  
Preview  
The Washington  
Center Preview  
High School  
Previews  
August: Osage  
County  
Silent Sky



#### Film

Summer Screenings  
Olympia Film  
Festival



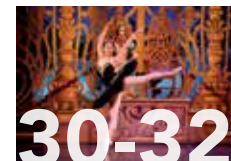
#### Books/ Words

Back-to-School  
Books  
StoryOly: Grand  
Slam  
A Paper Narrative



#### Music

Rhythm & Rye  
Emerald City Music  
Masterworks Choral  
Ensemble  
Olympia Chamber  
Orchestra  
Student Orchestras  
of Greater Olympia



#### Dance

Ballet Northwest  
Preview  
Studio West Preview



#### Visual Arts

Lynette Charters  
Susie Englestad and  
C. J. Swanson





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## OLY ARTS ISSUE No.7, SEASON PREVIEW 2017

AUGUST- SEPTEMBER 2017

**OLY ARTS** is excited to welcome you to our arts-season preview. We've worked closely with local arts organizations to provide complete information about their upcoming artistic seasons. You and your family will want to hold on to this special edition of **OLY ARTS** to ensure you experience all the best of the arts and cultural scene in the coming year. From the actors and artisans who create theatrical magic on stage at Harlequin Productions, Olympia Family Theater and Olympia Little Theatre to the amazing dancers who grace the stages of Ballet Northwest and Studio West Dance Academy to the powerful music and storytelling onstage at Rhythm & Rye and Topsy Piano Bar, we invite you enjoy the best of Northwest entertainment right in our hometown of Olympia. It's also worthy of note that for the first time in our pages, the **OLY ARTS** team is featuring comprehensive coverage of classical-music seasons from the stellar accomplishments of the Olympia Chamber Orchestra and Olympia Symphony Orchestra, along with dynamic works by Emerald City Music and the Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia. Here's to another wonderful year of arts and culture in the South Sound. Enjoy the season!--Ned Hayes, Publisher

### OLY ARTS

#### The Leading Guide to Arts and Culture in the South Sound

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DowntownOlympia.com

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# Maritime Fun at Olympia Harbor Days

By CHRISTINA BUTCHER

While Labor Day weekend marks the unofficial end of summer across the U.S., our community takes full advantage of the long weekend by honoring its maritime roots each year at Olympia Harbor Days. It's an annual festival celebrating tugboats and maritime heritage in Puget Sound. Presented by the Olympia Kiwanis Club and Squaxin Island Tribe, Olympia Harbor Days has been a highly anticipated Labor Day staple for 44 years now. "I really love planning the festival and looking at all its history," said Carol Riley, executive director of OHD. "The Squaxin Island Tribe is participating this year, bringing a cultural connection to the festival. We're building connections (like this) in our community, and that's what's really important here."

In addition to conducting opening ceremonies and blessing the three-day celebration, the Squaxin Island Tribe will hold a Salish Sea Celebration alongside OHD festivities. The tribe will present tribal art, a salmon bake, cultural demonstrations and other activities on the Port Plaza. Vintage tugboats, the highlight of OHD, will be moored at Olympia's Percival Landing throughout the weekend. The tugboats will participate in the world's largest vintage tugboat show and race on Budd Bay Sunday afternoon, and festivalgoers can purchase cruise tickets for the *Virginia V* steamship and the *Hawaiian Chieftain* and *Lady Washington* tall ships.

Boasting over 55,000 visitors each year, OHD will be packed with annual features including vintage tugboats, food court, arts and craft vendors, commercial booths, harbor tours and live bands gracing OHD stages. "I love seeing families out there, enjoying the food, music and booths," said Riley. Olympia Highlanders Bagpipers, Puget Sounders Barbershop Chorus and Samba Olywa will stroll the boardwalk. Airbound Underground will stage multiple aerial performances, and the 143-foot *Tug Comanche* hosts a floating World War II museum. Look for new features like sand-carving displays and contests and a community boat-building project. A giant slide, "walk-on-water" balls, fire-engine tours, story times with book giveaways, a civil-air-patrol flight simulator and a make-your-own "cork-boat regatta" presented by Hands On Children's Museum will keep kids entertained throughout the event, while adults can enjoy the Little Creek Casino Beer Garden by the Bay. 0



## WHAT

Olympia Harbor Days

## WHERE

Port Plaza to Percival Landing,  
222 Columbia St. NW, Olympia

## WHEN

5-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 1;  
10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 2;  
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 3

## HOW MUCH

Free

## LEARN MORE

info@harbordays.com  
harbordays.com



# Garlic Festival Features Music, Munchies and Mirth

By KELLI SAMSON

If there's one thing summertime loves, it's a festival. It seems there's one for everyone's interests. There are beer festivals. There are barbecue festivals. There's a mushroom festival. There are festivals celebrating farm-fresh food. There's even a festival celebrating ... sand. But don't forget the garlic. Yes, there's a festival that devotes the last weekend in August to lovers of the odorous allium. Chehalis Garlic Fest celebrates its 21st year with farmers from across the region showcasing more than 65 varieties of garlic. Though the cuisine will be garlic-centric and includes chef demonstrations, the festival aims to please everyone, garlic lovers or otherwise. Highlights include kids' activities, live music, vintage and farmhouse decor and a beer garden.

Two decades ago, Andi and Shawn Hamilton began Garlic Fest with a dream of a fun, community event. Their friend happened to grow good garlic, so they decided to make it the focus. They were humble beginnings, to be sure, but the event has multiplied ever since. While originally held at Sunshine Hills Farm, it now takes place at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds and boasts high-quality food vendors and local garlic farmers.

Live entertainment includes Locust Street Dixieland Band, Raucous and The Sportin Lifers. Tent and recreational-vehicle camping spots are available, and there are discounts for seniors, members of the military and children. Make plans now, because visitors are known to come from Portland, Seattle and other nations. For many, this is the best way to mark the end of summer. 0



Locust Street Dixieland Band

## WHAT

Chehalis Garlic Fest

## WHERE

Southwest Washington Fair and Expo Center,  
2555 N. National Ave., Chehalis

## WHEN

Noon - 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 25;  
10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26;  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27

## HOW MUCH

\$5 admission

## LEARN MORE

360-740-1495  
chehalisgarlicfest.com



## CHEHALIS-CENTRALIA RAILROAD & MUSEUM

### REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

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<b>SATURDAYS</b> <i>Ruth Riverview 1 3/4 hr   5pm</i>	<b>SATURDAYS &amp; SUNDAYS</b> <i>Milburn 1 1/4 hr   1pm   3pm</i>
--	---

### REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

\*murder mystery dinner trains | \*dinner trains | easter trains | pumpkin trains | \*santa steam trains  
 \*the polar express™      \*reservations required

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[steamtrainride.com](http://steamtrainride.com)  
360-748-9593



## A&L Season Schedule

**James McLurkin**



Thursday  
Oct. 19, 2017  
7:30 p.m.

### Upcoming:

Dec. 4, 2017 | Anat Cohen Tentet

Jan. 13, 2018 | Tamika Mallory

Feb. 1, 2018 | Tanya Tagaq

May 17, 2018 | Kip Fulbeck

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BOYS**



SEPTEMBER 15

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SEPTEMBER 20

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SEPTEMBER 22

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& FIRE**



SEPTEMBER 23

**MARLON WAYANS**  
COMEDY SHOW



SEPTEMBER 24

**JASON ALDEAN**  
WITH  
KANE BROWN

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# Olympia Downtown Flavors at Sip, Savor & Stroll

By JENNIFER CRAIN

On September 9, the Olympia Downtown Association will host the first-ever Sip, Savor & Stroll, a culinary tour of downtown Olympia. Kim Combs, event and volunteer coordinator, says the evening will kick off with a reception for up to 300 attendees at the Olympia Farmers Market, with Washington-sourced beers and wines plus food from market vendors, including seafood dishes from Dingey's Puget Sound Cuisine and Indian options from Curry in a Hurry. Tickets are on sale now through the ODA.

Split into groups of 25 to 30 people, attendees will weave their way through the downtown area, guided by trained volunteers who'll pause to offer bits of downtown trivia, stories and historical facts. Each group will visit five of 10 participating businesses: Batdorf & Bronson Coffee Roasters, Budd Bay Café, Chelsea Farms Oyster Bar, Dillinger's Cocktails & Kitchen, Encore Chocolates & Teas, Fish Tale Brew Pub, LC's Blackbird Mercantile & Trading Co., Three Magnets Brewing Co., Tippy Piano Bar and Well 80 Brewhouse. Each venue will offer a designated drink, such as a craft cocktail or coffee beverage, and small bites. The event will conclude with an afterparty and live auction at the Capitol Theater.

For many years, the signature, fundraising event for the downtown association was the Fall Ball, but declining participation inspired a reimagining. This year's tour is an interactive experience designed to appeal to a wider range of people. Revenue from ticket sales helps pay for projects that benefit downtown, similar to those the organization has funded in the past: new murals, graffiti removal and improved lighting. The association plans to make this an annual event. Combs says she's excited to showcase venues and introduce people to the charms of the downtown area, including recent development and renovations. "We're one of the only walkable downtown spaces along the I-5 corridor in the area," she says. "Whether it's art and culture, the food scene or the brewery scene, we're able to showcase them here." 0

## WHAT

Sip, Savor & Stroll

## WHERE

Downtown Olympia

## WHEN

5-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9

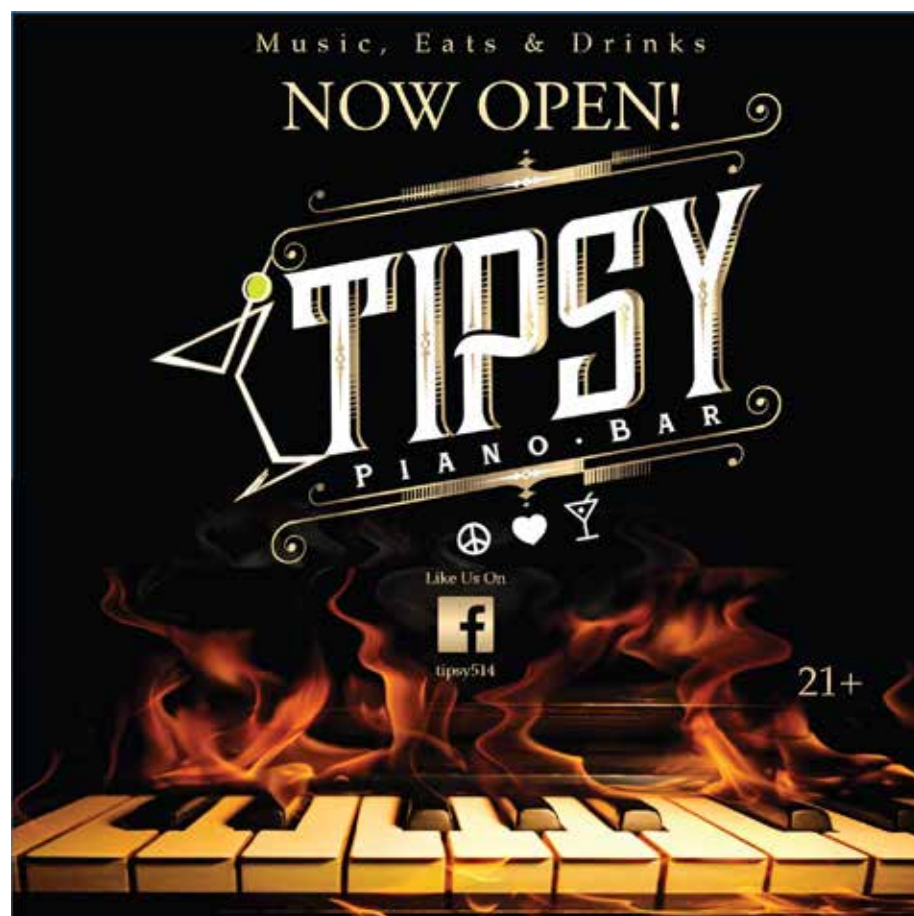
## HOW MUCH

\$125

## LEARN MORE

360-357-8948

[downtownolympia.com/about/sip-savor-stroll](http://downtownolympia.com/about/sip-savor-stroll)





# Enjoy Smooth Sounds and Southern Hospitality at Topsy Piano Bar

By JENNIFER CRAIN



The doors to the New Orleans-inspired Topsy Piano Bar opened on August 10. The downtown venue features Southern and Southwest cuisine and a lounge-style dining room designed for easy conversation. In the newly renovated space, patrons sit at candlelit tables and order drinks from a granite-topped bar accented with purple lights. But the main attraction, say creators Jenna and Jonas Rodriguez, is the glass-topped, Yamaha, baby-grand, player piano, the focal point of both the physical space and the bar's concept: live piano by customer request.

House pianist Larry Hill performs on Friday and Saturday nights. Chris Avila plays Thursdays. A rotating list of pianists fills in on other weeknights. When no one's scheduled, the piano plays itself with the resident skeleton, Jack, propped at the keyboard.

The drinks menu, created by bartender Chris Waggoner, includes 31 signature cocktails with house-made syrups and Salish Sea Organic Liqueurs. Most are twists on classic drinks, such as a blueberry French 75 and a honey-berry Moscow Mule. Waggoner also serves Vegas-style daiquiris. The menu, created by chef Joe Rubio, includes red beans and rice, jambalaya, blackened fish and entrées featuring

Hatch green chiles in homage to the couple's time in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Rubio, who created or helped launch more than a dozen restaurants, makes such scratch desserts as hummingbird cake and buttermilk chess pie. (Beignets are in the works.) Purveyors include Hama Hama Oyster Company, San Francisco Street Bakery and Tri City Meats. Daily specials are based on peak-season, farmers' market vegetables.

Sitting piano-side at a favorite haunt in New Orleans during a January vacation this year, the couple envisioned such a setting when they mentioned to friends that they'd long dreamed of opening a bar of their own. The friends, Jerry and Malissa Antonelli, were intrigued. The two Olympia couples co-own the bar. "We wanted to create a place," Jenna says, "where there's good food, good music and good vibes — a place where everybody feels comfortable and where we want to be as well." 0



## WHAT

Topsy Piano Bar

## WHERE

514 Capitol Way S, Olympia

## WHEN

Mondays - Saturdays 2 p.m. - midnight, Sundays 2-10 p.m.

## HOW MUCH

\$5-\$15

## LEARN MORE

360-915-7181

[olyarts.com/topsy](http://olyarts.com/topsy)



# *Olympia* **FARMERS MARKET**

10am - 3pm

**Jan - Mar | Sat Only**  
**April - Oct | Thur - Sun**  
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[www.olympiafarmersmarket.com](http://www.olympiafarmersmarket.com)

## Olympia Farmers Market Entertainment

Olympia Farmers Market, now in its 42nd year of operation, celebrates summer with a variety of musical performances every weekend in August and September. Acts on stage include local bluegrass, classical, fiddle, folk, indie, old-time and rock musicians. All stage performances for summer 2017 are sponsored by KAOS 89.3 FM Radio and OLY ARTS and last from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. 0

### AUGUST

Friday, August 18: Hot Club Sandwich

Saturday, August 19: Hook Me Up

Sunday, August 20: Ocho Pies

Thursday, August 24: Coyote Midnight

Friday, August 25: Hokumville

Saturday, August 26: The Rusty Cleavers

Sunday, August 27: Tarik & Lizzy

Thursday, August 31: Cool Breeze

### SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 1: MudCat

Saturday, September 2: Michele D'Amour & The Love Dealers

Sunday, September 3: The Pine Hearts

Thursday, September 7: Joe Baque

Friday, September 8: Mucho Gusto

Saturday, September 9: Hook Me Up

Sunday, September 10: Vince Brown

Thursday, September 14: Ryan Litchfield

Friday, September 15: Vito & The One-Eyed Jacks

Saturday, September 16: Pinniped

Sunday, September 17: Jaspar Lepak

Thursday, September 21: East Bay Jazz

Friday, September 22: Malo Combo

Saturday, September 23: Harvest Celebration & Bevy

Sunday, September 24: Curlew's Call

Thursday, September 28: Sour Owl

Friday, September 29: Charlie Saibel

Saturday, September 30: Coyote Midnight Trio



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# Journey With Olympia Family Theater

By KELLI SAMSON

Let Olympia Family Theater take you on a fantastic voyage during its 2017-2018 season. “All good stories take us on a journey in some way,” says artistic director Jen Ryle. Each season, OFT strives to bring us something old, something new and something original to the theater, plus something in which kids can take part as actors and something for even the youngest of audience members. Kicking things off will be *Dr. Seuss’ The Cat in the Hat* under the direction of Olympia gem Kate Ayers. OFT’s co-founder Samantha Chandler directs the classic tale of *Winnie the Pooh*, this year’s performance starring youth actors. Auditions for young actors will be announced on OFT’s Facebook page and in its email newsletter this fall.

The play *3 Impossible Questions*, a timely production that’s already creating a bond between OFT and Islamic Center of Olympia, is based on tales from Muslim folklore and was adapted for the stage by Christian Carvajal\*. It’ll be directed by Ted Ryle and features a small number of roles for youth actors. Kate DiCamillo’s beloved book *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* will be produced on stage under the direction of Olympia High School’s talented Kathy Dorgan. The season closes with the hysterical musical *Cinder Edna* under the direction of Jen Ryle. For those unaware, Edna was Ella’s neighbor and one heck of a casserole baker. Expect laughs for adults and children alike, with songs no one minds humming for days.

Taking a cue from last season, OFT also features *Tales Told in Ten*, a festival of original, 10-minute plays previously called *Double Shot*. These will be onstage November 4 and 5 only.

Ryle continues to find things that surprise her at OFT. “Even after 12 years,” she acknowledges, “we are still finding more and more people who love what we do and are willing to be a part of it.”

\*Carvajal is **OLY ARTS’** managing editor.



## WHAT

Dr. Seuss’ *The Cat in the Hat*

## WHERE

Olympia Family Theater,  
612 Fourth Ave. E, Olympia

## WHEN

Sept. 29 - Oct. 22

## HOW MUCH

\$13-\$19

## LEARN MORE

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# Olympia Little Theatre Presents Powerful 78th Season

By CHRISTIAN CARVAJAL

The 2017-2018 season at Olympia Little Theatre, by far the longest-standing troupe in Thurston County, kicks off August 31 with the astronomers of *Silent Sky*. (Read more about *Silent Sky* on **OLY ARTS**, page 19.) After that cosmically inspiring drama, the company presents six diverse plays ensuring quality entertainment for every age and taste.

*All the King's Women* is a rapid-fire comedy that recalls Elvis Aaron Presley through the eyes of 17 women he encountered throughout his life. We'll meet the saleswoman who sold him his first guitar and the secretary who ushered him into the Oval Office for his visit with Richard Nixon. That show opens October 12, directed by Toni Holm. Auditions are August 28 and 29 at OLT. Dramatic literature has few married couples as memorably suited to each other as the Thayers of *On Golden Pond*, Norman Jr. and Ethel. As irascible Norman turns 80, he takes on the mentorship of a troubled teen, the son of the Thayers' daughter's fiancé. Helmed by Kendra Malm, that show opens December 1 and serves as OLT's warmhearted, holiday presentation.

On January 19, 2018, director Michael Christopher debuts *Communicating Doors*, a thrill-a-minute, time-traveling, comic murder-mystery by esteemed

British playwright Alan Ayckbourn. Three women must pre-write history to prevent two brutal murders. *Butterflies Are Free*, directed by Allison Gerst and Barb Matthews, is the beloved tale of a blind man who meets a sexy, free-spirited neighbor (Blythe Danner on stage, Goldie Hawn in the movie) in late-1960s Manhattan. That show, perfect for spring, opens March 3.

*Talley's Folly*, a Lanford Wilson play directed by Jim Patrick, is set on July 4, 1944. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for dramatic literature in 1980, it's a family drama about the love of a Jewish accountant for a Protestant in Lebanon, Missouri and premieres April 4. OLT wraps its season starting June 8 with *Suite Surrender*, described by director Toni Holm as "a silly, wisecracking farce, a screwball comedy. I'm going to do it," Holm continues, "with two female stars, one a singer, the other an actor, doing a VSO show. They're famous for hating each other. It's the anti-*Beaches*." 0



Rick Pearlstein in *The Tempest* at OLT, 2014 season.

## WHAT

Silent Sky

## WHEN

7:25 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays;

1:55 p.m. Sundays, Aug. 31 - Sept. 10

## HOW MUCH

\$11-\$15

## WHERE

Olympia Little Theatre,  
1925 Miller Ave. NE,  
Olympia

## LEARN MORE

360-786-9484  
olympialittletheater.org

# Saint Martin's Foregrounds Dynamic Student-Led Drama

By JONAH BARRETT

Saint Martin's University's theater department usually produces shows twice a year, once per semester. This year, things are a bit different. Instead, SMU will (technically) produce four, three of which are student-directed, one-act plays. Saint Martin's students gain experience in a variety of roles: acting, playwriting, set design and stage management. For those who take a particular interest in one specific area, professional mentors are available for intensive training.

*Student One-Act Plays* offers bite-sized stories directed by Miranda Aguilar, Charlotte Darlington and Felicity Pickens. Auditions will be held at 6:30 p.m., September 11 in Harned Hall.

With theater department head David Hlavsa on sabbatical for the year, local director Brian Tyrrell will step in as his replacement for April 2018's *Urinetown*. The satirical musical will be produced at the State Theater in Olympia, with auditions November 20 and 21. "*Urinetown* depicts a world wracked by ecological disaster, caught in the throes of corporate greed," said Tyrrell. "It's a love letter to the conventions of musical theater and a satire wherein no one is safe from scrutiny." *Urinetown* was created by Mark Hollmann and Greg Kotis and first premiered at the New York International Fringe Festival in 2001.

Audiences are encouraged to lend their support to Saint Martin's dynamic students, who are hard at work creating the best performances they can muster and achieving valuable life experiences along the way. 0



## WHAT

Student One-Act Plays

## HOW MUCH

TBD

## WHERE

Krelsheimer Building,  
Saint Martin's University,  
5000 Abbey Way SE, Lacey

## LEARN MORE

360-438-4564  
stmartin.edu

## WHEN

Fridays - Sundays, Nov. 10-18

14





# The Glass Menagerie and Cabaret at SPSCC

By CHRISTINA BUTCHER

The number 3 is auspicious, whether we're talking about the holy trinity, the mind-body-spirit triad or the "lucky number 3." Perhaps that's why the South Puget Sound Community College drama department will present three productions for its 2017-2018 season: *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Cabaret*. "I've had the pleasure of working with a diverse group of students, SPSCC staff and community members," said SPSCC drama professor Lauren Love, who hand-selected each theatrical piece for the season. "They shared their love of all kinds of theater with me and helped me choose a season that reflects their joy and wide-ranging interests."



Love, who's heading into her second year at the college, has extensive acting experience and holds a doctorate in theater history from University of Minnesota. The works she selected for the upcoming season all connected with students in the previous academic year. "Performers expressed lots of interest in Shakespeare," said Love. "And our fall comedy, *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*, centers on a Shakespeare scholar who finds herself mixed up in the worlds of *Romeo and Juliet* and *Othello*. ... The play ... is both emotionally and intellectually engaging. In my opinion, this is what theater does best — It helps us reflect through our senses and our common humanity."

*The Glass Menagerie*, a "memory play" by Tennessee Williams, will open in March. "Students loved the play," explained Love. "I think they are truly touched by the relationships in the family, and I'm looking forward to working with actors to present this beautiful piece." Closing the season next June will be *Cabaret*, an intricate musical that first graced Broadway stages in 1966. "Kander and Ebb write such unique, provocative music," concluded Love, "and the story of the rise of an authoritarian government remains a trenchant warning against complacency." 0



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## WHAT

Good Night Desdemona (Good  
Morning Juliet)

## WHERE

Kenneth J Minnaert Center for the  
Arts, SPSCC,  
2011 Mottman Rd. SW, Olympia

## WHEN

7 p.m. Thursday – Saturday;  
2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16-19

## HOW MUCH

TBD

## LEARN MORE

360-753-8586  
washingtoncenter.org

15

# The Washington Center Season Launch

By KELLI SAMSON

The Washington Center for the Performing Arts has been closed for the summer while the City of Olympia made updates to the HVAC system. Rest assured, come October 5 the center will open its 32nd season with an energetic performance by Gaelic Storm.

Later, both *A Night With Janis Joplin* and *Piaf! The Show* tell the stories of famous — and infamous — songbirds through their own music. Ladysmith Black Mambazo, an a cappella group from South Africa that gained worldwide fame after working with Paul Simon, takes the stage this season, as will noted saxophonist Kenny G. The latter will perform iconic carols from his *Holidays* album, the most successful Christmas album ever produced. Brian Reed, who produced the award-winning public radio podcast *S-Town*, will make an Olympia appearance. Roseanne Cash, eldest daughter of the late Johnny Cash, is also on this season's roster. Gaining particular buzz is *Disenchanted*, an adults-only retelling of the classic, fairytale-princess stories. The musical has been selling out across the nation.

The silent-movie series features *The Phantom of the Opera*, Buster Keaton's *Steamboat Bill, Jr.* and a collection of Charlie Chaplin's short films. All three programs will be accompanied by live music from the center's Andy Crow Wurlitzer Organ. According to Billy Thomas, WCPA's director of marketing and sales, "It's a gem of the original 1924 Liberty Theatre that was maintained by Andy since 1962 until the spring of 1999, when the WCPA board of directors established an endowment for the preservation and maintenance of the organ. It is now considered one of the premier instruments in the Northwest." Another film worth noting is *Annie*, this season's family-friendly sing-a-long.

Sponsors for 2017-18 are 94.5 ROXY, Capitol City Press, KNKX, OLY ARTS, OLY Media Group and Thurston Community Media. "We also have 50 more sponsors of various levels," assures Thomas, "helping to present world-class entertainment to our audiences." 0



## WHAT

Gaelic Storm

## HOW MUCH

\$26-\$52

## WHERE

The Washington Center for the Performing Arts,  
512 Washington St. SE, Olympia

## LEARN MORE

360-753-8586  
[washingtoncenter.org](http://washingtoncenter.org)

## WHEN

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5



# Modern Musicals and Classic Drama on Thurston High School Stages

By MCKENZIE MURRAY



Three local high schools have announced their dramatic offerings for 2017-2018.

## CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL

*directed by Kristina Cummins*

### WHERE

2707 Conger Ave. NW, Olympia

### WHEN

Rehearsal for Murder: 7:30 p.m. October 19-21 and 26-28

DramaFest: 7 p.m. November 16-18

Romeo and Juliet: 7:30 p.m. January 18-20 and 25-27

Seussical: 7:30 p.m. April 19-21 and 26-28; 2:30 p.m. April 21 and 28

### HOW MUCH

\$8-\$10

### LEARN MORE

360-596-8000

[capital.osd.wednet.edu/extracurricular/drama](http://capital.osd.wednet.edu/extracurricular/drama)

## OLYMPIA HIGH SCHOOL

*directed by Kathryn Dorgan*

### WHERE

1302 North St. SE, Olympia

### WHEN

Here and Now: October 26 and 27; November 3 and 4

Death by Dessert: 7 p.m. January 9 and 10

The Miracle Worker: 7:30 p.m. February 2 and 3, 9 and 10

DramaFest: time TBD, March 9 and 10, 16 and 17

Legally Blonde: The Musical: time TBD, May 4 and 5, 10-12

### HOW MUCH

\$10

### LEARN MORE

360-596-7000

[olympia.osd.wednet.edu/activities/drama\\_club/our\\_season](http://olympia.osd.wednet.edu/activities/drama_club/our_season)

## TUMWATER HIGH SCHOOL

*directed by Harrison Fry*

### WHERE

700 Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater

### WHEN

Frankenstein: time TBD, October 26-28; November 2-4

Guys and Dolls: time TBD, February 1-3 and 8-10

The Wind in the Willows: time TBD, May 3-5 and 10-12

### HOW MUCH

\$7

### LEARN MORE

360-709-7600

[facebook.com/tumwatertheatre](https://facebook.com/tumwatertheatre)

# Broadway Actress Ellen McClain Featured in August: Osage County

By MOLLY GILMORE

There's an internationally known star in the cast of Harlequin Productions' *August: Osage County*, but don't feel out of the loop if you don't recognize her. Seattle actor Ellen McLain is famous chiefly among video gamers. "Ellen has Broadway credits from a number of years back," said Aaron Lamb, who's directing Tracy Letts' Pulitzer-winning drama. "She's most famous for her work on *Portal* the game series as the operating system GLaDOS, so most teen-through-20-something boys will know who she is." Last month, McLain was in Stockholm, Sweden, for a gamers' convention.

McLain's Violet, the mean matriarch of a dysfunctional family plagued by crises from abuse to addiction to cancer, is at the center of the drama, but not one of the play's characters is superfluous or superficial. "I said to my cast the other night, 'It's rare that we see a play of this size, 13 characters, so fully fleshed out,'" said Lamb, who regularly acts and directs for Harlequin. "Everybody is so important to the story. It's such a well-crafted piece of theater."

Casting was the biggest challenge Lamb faced as a director. "It took me the better part of eight months to cast it," he said. "I had to start early because of my schedule, but it was a constant process of auditioning and then fitting all of these moving parts together. ... Now that we're at the rehearsal process, this is the easy part. The play, while technically difficult, takes care of itself." The cast includes Harlequin regulars Ann Flannigan, Jason Haws and Russ Holm along with Angela DiMarco, Doug Fahl, John Forbes, Dana Goodknight, Bill Johns, Jeanette Oswald, Mackenzie Platt, Brian Pucheu and Jenny Vaughn Hall. 0



Ellen McLain

## WHAT

August: Osage County

## WHERE

Harlequin Productions' State Theater,  
202 Fourth Ave. E, Olympia

## WHEN

8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, Aug. 24 - Sept. 16;  
2 p.m. Sundays, Aug. 27 - Sept. 10;  
8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30

## HOW MUCH

\$20-\$34  
(Aug. 30 is pay-what-you-can)

## LEARN MORE

360-786-0151  
harlequinproductions.org

18

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# Astronomy and Accomplishment on Stage

By ALEC CLAYTON



Set rendering by Jeannie Beirne

At a time when women and science are dismissed out of hand by a large segment of the population, Olympia Little Theatre presents *Silent Sky*, a play about the life and work of Henrietta Leavitt and her team at the Harvard astronomy department, employed to do “clean-up work” because they were cheaper to hire than men. Leavitt discovered how to measure the distance to the stars. Director Deane Shellman says the play was offered to her with the request that it be produced by an all-female team. “I was honored to be asked to direct,” Shellman says, “and after reading the script, I also fell in love with it.”

“This is an important story that most people don’t know,” Shellman says, “and is another example of how the contributions of women have been minimized or totally erased throughout history. Despite the patronizing and faux-enlightened attitudes of the men around them, these women persisted. And I love the idea that doing this ‘women’s work’ was exactly the kind of detail work that was needed to make a major discovery. The idea that small, repetitive tasks can reveal a beautiful truth is enchanting.”

The crew includes set designer Jeannie Beirne, dramaturg Bitsy Bidwell, lighting designer Olivia Burlingame, stage manager Kris Mann and costumer Barb Matthews. “All these amazing ladies are going to get it done,” Shellman says. “After the regular run, we’ll have a week of daytime shows for middle- and high-school students. With more emphasis on STEM in the schools, this show is right up that alley.”

Playing the part of Henrietta Leavitt is Paige Doyle. New to Olympia but not to acting, Doyle moved here in January 2016. This past March she was in *The Mousetrap* for Standing Room Only in Yelm. After working in Los Angeles, Doyle says, she “took some time away from acting to start a family and then relocate back home to the Pacific Northwest.” She has a bachelor of fine arts in acting from Boston University. Other players in *Silent Sky* are Heather Christopher as Annie Jump Cannon, Tessa Fairfortune as Margaret Leavitt, Erin Quinn Valcho as Williamina Fleming and the lone male actor, Drew Doyle, as Peter Shaw. 0

## WHAT

Silent Sky

## HOW MUCH

\$11-\$15

## WHERE

Olympia Little Theatre,  
1925 Miller Ave. NE, Olympia

## LEARN MORE

360-786-9484  
olympialittletheater.org

## WHEN

7:25 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays;  
1:55 p.m. Sundays, Aug. 31 - Sept. 10

# Olympia Film Society Showcases Miyazaki

By JONAH BARRETT

During the last days of summer, Olympia Film Society (OFS) makes a special effort to appeal to younger viewers – especially budding cinema fans. On the calendar are three film experiences that will be sentimental for adults and enthralling for children of all ages. First is David Evans' 1993 cult classic *The Sandlot*, which Roger Ebert once called “a summer *Christmas Story*” because of the two films' similarly nostalgic tone. Second is Hayao Miyazaki's *Kiki's Delivery Service*, an early effort by the renowned Studio Ghibli. The trio concludes with the Millennial favorite and visual feast *Harriet the Spy*, hosted by Seattle-based visual artist and designer Mary Anne Carter. 0

## OFS KIDS CLUB: THE SANDLOT

11 a.m. Saturdays, August 19 and 26

Olympia Farmers Market presents an event free for kids 12 and under. Who can forget that oddly nostalgic film about a group of baseball players and one giant, man-eating dog?

## OFS KIDS CLUB: KIKI'S DELIVERY SERVICE

11 a.m. Saturdays, September 2, 9, 16 and 30

Hayao Miyazaki's classic, animated film for all ages has such timeless themes as growing up, the power of friendship and saving boys from crashing dirigibles. Kiki's a young witch who finds a new home in a beautiful, seaside town. This film is presented by Olympia Farmers Market.

## HARRIET THE SPY, HOSTED BY MARY ANNE CARTER

9 p.m. Friday, September 29

Says OFS film-programming director Rob Patrick, “*Harriet the Spy* is such a terrifically whimsical, strange and nostalgic part of Nickelodeon culture. For millennials it's sort of a bedrock. Mary Anne Carter (is) an amazing visual artist and designer ... We wanted to collaborate with someone whose unmistakable style and wonderful personality inspires us. We're incredibly excited to have Mary Anne (as) host.”



### WHAT

Olympia Film Society

### WHERE

Capitol Theater,  
206 Fifth Ave. E, Olympia

### WHEN

6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Tuesdays -  
Saturdays;  
2:30, 5 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays;  
4 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and  
Saturdays;  
11 a.m. Saturdays

### HOW MUCH

Generally \$4-\$9

### LEARN MORE

360-754-6670  
olympiafilmsociety.org



# Olympia Film Festival Seeks Submissions

By NED HAYES

Film aficionados in the Pacific Northwest are already preparing for a fantastic movie season. Every year, a top priority on the cinematic calendar is the Olympia Film Festival. Past years have featured Philip Kaufman, Hari Kondabolu, William Nolan, Dan Savage and Fred Willard, as well as live music from such notable musicians as Built to Spill, Mudhoney and Bikini Kill's Kathleen Hanna.

A variety of noted film directors and screenwriters have also spoken at the Olympia Film Festival, from *Jaws* scribe Carl Gottlieb to Crispin Glover and Bobcat Goldthwait to indie directors DeeDee Bigelow and Brett Wagner.

The Olympia Film Festival draws over 5,000 attendees each year to the Thurston County region, including visitors from around the world. The festival is recognized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as a national film festival.

The Olympia Film Society's 34th-annual festival runs from November 10 to 19. This year's musical entertainment includes appearances by featured directors S.J. Chiro and Gillian Wallace Hovart, whose work was recently featured at the Seattle International Film Festival, and a surprise musical guest. The festival also includes a panel of critics, directors and musicians who will speak on diversity, representation and women in film.

This year, the festival is accepting submissions exclusively from female and non-binary directors. Filmmakers can submit films for consideration by August 25 and on a deferred basis through September 6. Film entries that are accepted will be screened at the festival in November. 0

## WHAT

Olympia Film Festival 2017

## WHERE

Capitol Theater,  
206 Fifth Ave. SE

## WHEN

Film entries through Sept. 6;  
Film Festival screenings Nov. 10-19

## LEARN MORE

360-754-6670  
olympiafilmfestival.org

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SUN SEP 17 - 7:30PM



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SUN SEP 24 - 5:00PM  
ADDITIONAL SCREENINGS  
FRI SEP 22 - 9:00PM  
SAT SEP 23 - 9:00PM



**HARRIET THE SPY**  
FRI SEP 29 - 9:00PM  
SPECIAL GUEST HOST  
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PRESENTED BY  
OLY FARMERS MARKET  
SEP 2, 9, 16 & 30 - 11 AM



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# Back-to-School Books at Browsers

By ANDREA Y. GRIFFITH

## SCHOOL'S FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL Adam Rex

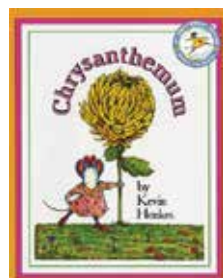


This is a beautifully imagined picture book about first-day-of-school jitters from the perspective of the school itself.

Everyone is nervous on the first day of school.

## CHRYSANTHEMUM

Kevin Henkes



Chrysanthemum thinks her name is absolutely perfect until she starts kindergarten. The other children tease her

for having such a long, florally inspired name and suddenly, it doesn't seem so perfect. This is a wonderful read-aloud.

## HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE J. K.

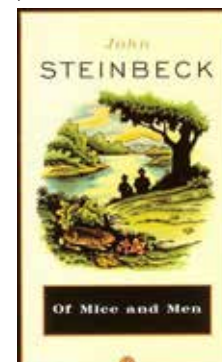


Rowling In the quintessential back-to-school book, Harry doesn't know he's a wizard until he's accepted into Hogwarts School of

Witchcraft and Wizardry. You know the rest, but it's completely worth a revisit.

## OF MICE AND MEN

John Steinbeck

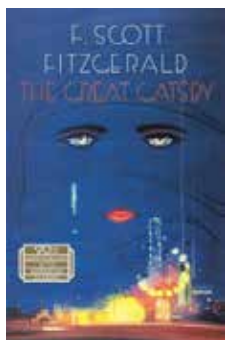


Steinbeck's classic tale of friendship and tragedy during the Great Depression. Browsers sold so many copies of this book this summer it must be an assigned

book for local high-school students.

## THE GREAT GATSBY

F. Scott Fitzgerald



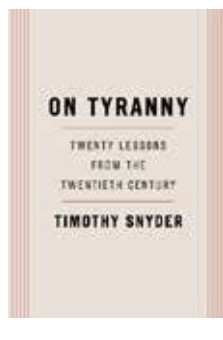
Another frequently assigned high-school text is Fitzgerald's slim novel about Jazz Age America. It still resonates.

If you haven't

returned to this novel in adulthood, you should consider it.

## ON TYRANNY

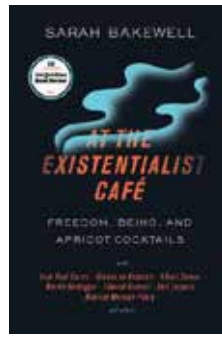
Timothy Snyder



One of our biggest bestsellers this summer, *On Tyranny* is a slim volume that speaks to our current political climate with lessons

from the last century. Could this book stimulate dinner conversations with older children?

## AT THE EXISTENTIALIST CAFÉ Sarah Bakewell

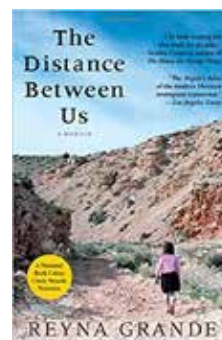


Back-to-school for adults: Just out in paperback, this is a highly readable account of one of the major intellectual movements of the 20th cen-

tury. An apricot cocktail never sounded so good.

## THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US

Reyna Grande



This year's Timberland Reads Together author, Grande will speak at The Washington Center October 26. This is her gripping memoir of

childhood in Mexico and her immigration journey to the United States.

**Andrea Y. Griffith**, a former medical librarian, is the owner of Browsers Bookshop in downtown Olympia. She's realizing her dream of foisting books she loves on other readers and finds it ridiculously fun. She lives with her husband, two daughters and her dog, George.

### WHAT

Browsers Bookshop

### WHERE

107 Capitol Way N,  
Olympia

### WHEN

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# StoryOly Celebrates Second-Annual Grand Slam

By **CHRISTIAN CARVAJAL**

StoryOly bills itself as Olympia's premier storytelling event. On the third Tuesday evening of each month since November 2015, amateur storytellers have braved the stage to regale full houses at Rhythm & Rye with meaningful anecdotes from their own lives. Tales range from movingly confessional to outrageously frank. Each month has a theme, and three judges rate the speakers to determine which amateur teller moves on to StoryOly's annual "grand slam" championship event. Themes for the rest of calendar year 2017 are "Bitter" on October 17, "Reunion" November 21 and "Confused" December 19. The grand-slam event, unlike other StoryOly performances, will be held on a Saturday night, and no overall theme is imposed.

We asked Shephard what types of narratives fare best at StoryOly. "Stories that are planned out," she replied. "You can't just get up there and wing it. You need to make sure your story has a beginning, middle and end and that it's within the theme. Storytelling is a total art form." So what can't tellers do? "We prefer not to have notes up there," she said. "Really, the best stories are the ones where the ... storytellers are just themselves. They tell the story truly and accurately and are relaxed and comfortable. ... The only thing that's really verboten is hate speech (or) political rants and raves. ... Telling a story is a moment to engage. It's not a moment to put out propaganda (or) get revenge on your ex. It's a moment of connection. If you say anything other than that, I think you're doing it wrong."

Said Shephard, "StoryOly's doing great. The audiences have been good, the feedback has been good (and) people love it. It seems like it's a beloved part of our community every month." The grand slam will include the music of local band Chicory. Judges for the event will be Debe Edden of Heartsparkle Players, the City of Olympia poet laureate Amy Solomon-Minarchi and bestselling author Ned Hayes, who also is the publisher of **OLY ARTS**. 0

## WHAT

StoryOly Grand Slam

## HOW MUCH

\$10-\$20 suggested donation

## WHERE

Rhythm & Rye,  
311 Capitol Way N, Olympia

## LEARN MORE

360-705-0760  
StoryOly.com

## WHEN

7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16



Amy Shephard is the co-founder of StoryOly.  
Image credit: Heather Schofner Photography.

# A Paper Narrative: Art at Browsers Bookshop

By ALEC CLAYTON

**B**rowsers Bookshop is going into the art-exhibition business. On August 12 it opened *A Paper Narrative*, a show of works on paper by five local artists: Arrington De Dionyso, Aisha Harrison, Evan Horback, Nikki McClure and Madeline Waits.

De Dionyso is an artist and musician and founder of the Olympia Experimental Music Festival. His prints take on legends, myths and the spirit world. Harrison is known for hyper-realistic sculptures of human figures created from salt; she'll show drawings at Browsers. Horback is a collagist known for creating collages on old book covers, often in ways that comment on social issues. *New York Times*-bestselling author and illustrator McClure is celebrated for intricate, papercut illustrations, and her work has been the subject of multiple national gallery exhibitions and is sold and renowned internationally. Waits' art delves into dream worlds and fantasy.

Horback and McClure approached Browsers owner Andrea Griffith with the idea of doing a show in Browsers' upstairs community room, a renovated space used for author readings and book-club meetings. "We designed the show around the idea of visual narrative," Griffith says, "since both McClure and Horback work in the area of book art. Then (we) expanded the group to include three more local artists."

"This grouping of artists was assembled partially because of their work on paper," Horback says, "but also to create a juxtaposition within Olympia's artist community. There are elements of Olympia's avant-garde, sociopolitical considerations, visions of transcendence (and) images of marginality as well as experiences of being firmly rooted to our beloved Pacific Northwest." 0



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## WHAT

A Paper Narrative

## WHERE

Browsers Bookshop,  
107 Capitol Way S, Olympia

## WHEN

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Mondays - Saturdays;  
11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sundays, Aug. 12 - Sept. 24

## HOW MUCH

Free

## LEARN MORE

360-357-7462  
[browsersolympia.com](http://browsersolympia.com)



# Rhythm & Rye: Funk, Folk and Fun

By ADAM MCKINNEY



Crystal Beth and the Boom Boom Band

In any city worth its salt, there ought to be venues that feature consistent bookings showcasing a wide variety of styles and talent. Luckily for Olympia, there's always at least one venue that makes a habit of keeping the nightlife interesting. Rhythm & Rye has made itself an invaluable part of Olympia's fabric by presenting a diverse selection of entertainment from folk and electronica to jazz and alt-rock, even monthly burlesque and storytelling shows.

In fact there's an admirable array of artists making their way to Rhythm & Rye now, including Crystal Beth and the Boom Boom Band with its jagged, loopy art rock that should kill in a live setting. Giants in the Trees (featuring Nirvana's Krist Novoselic) brings its mixture of folk rock, bluegrass and groovy alt-rock to Rhythm & Rye September 1. DBST's heavy electro-soul will swing by in October for Fall Arts Walk.

Every third Thursday, the hit storytelling show StoryOly graces the stage, with September featuring the StoryOly Grand Slam — the face-off of the past year's winners. “I feel StoryOly meshes with Rhythm & Rye as a venue very well,” says StoryOly co-founder Amy Shephard. “Rhythm & Rye seeks to bring people of the community together to enjoy music and performance, as well as tasty beer and whiskey. We are very happy to be there. ... The moments I love the best at StoryOly are when tellers really share something of themselves with the audience. Vulnerability and openness fosters connection and love. Those moments are my favorite of every StoryOly show.”

Whether brain-warping rock, toe-tapping funk and folk or intimate confessions are your bag, Rhythm & Rye has something planned for you. 0

## WHAT

Crystal Beth and the Boom Boom Band

## WHERE

Rhythm & Rye,  
311 Capitol Way N, Olympia

## WHEN

9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27

## HOW MUCH

\$5

## LEARN MORE

360-705-0760

facebook.com/rhythmandrye

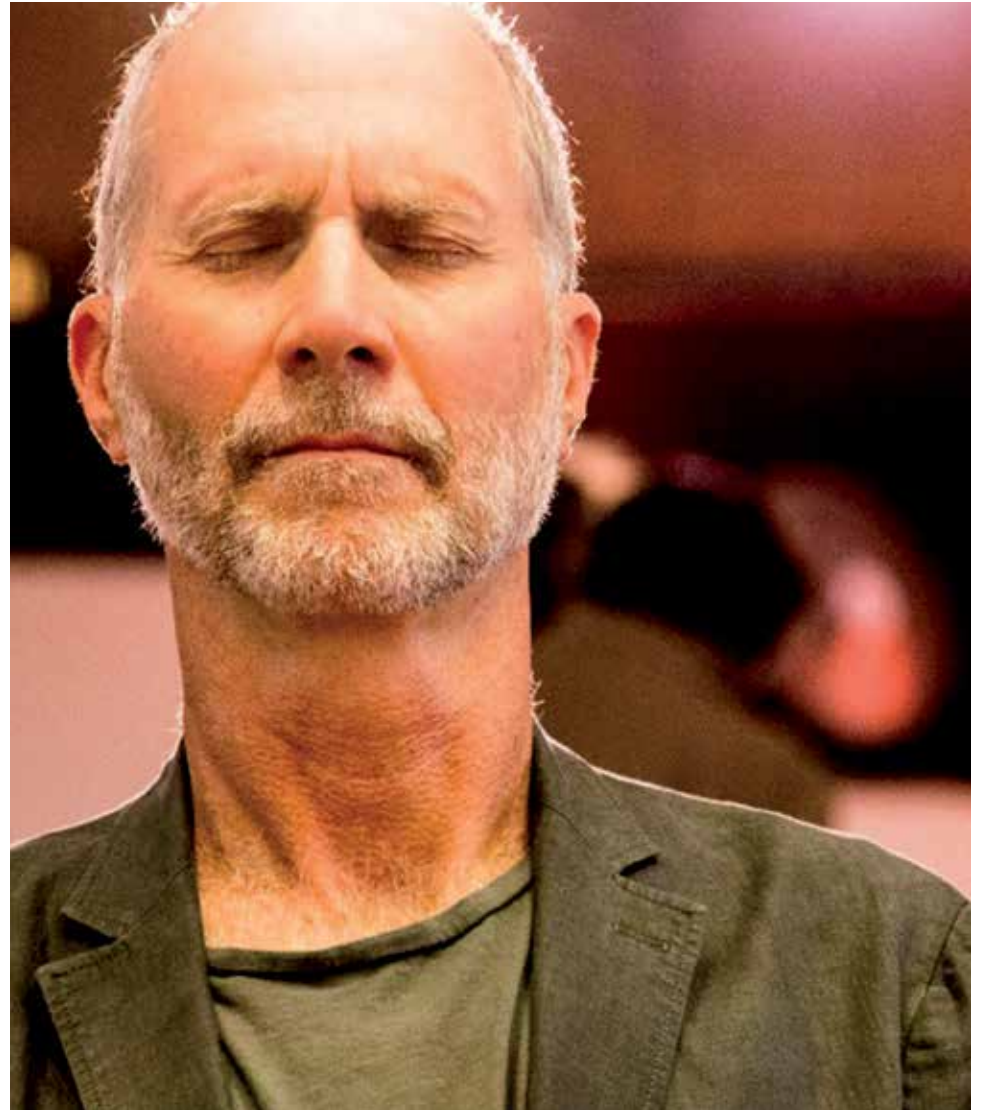
# Classical Energy at Emerald City Music

By ADAM MCKINNEY

Formed in 2015 by Andrew Goldstein and Kristin Lee, Emerald City Music aims to strip away the perceived pretentiousness and exclusivity of classical music that have historically kept casual audiences at arm's length. To accomplish this, ECM crafts intimate concerts that value a relaxed, communal vibe. "During our inaugural season, Emerald City Music built a reputation for being a destination for classical music discovery," says Goldstein. "You can show up without any experience of classical music and enjoy these vogue, high-energy performances. Going into our season 2 now, we've collected 40 of the world's top musicians and paired them together for performances unique to Olympia." This stacked season includes performances from world-renowned percussionist Andy Akiho and the preternaturally lovely Miró Quartet.

In preparing ECM's second season, Lee and Goldstein programmed shows to fall in line with a bold and compelling theme. "Season 2 explores the legacy of composer, pianist and conductor Leonard Bernstein," says Goldstein, "whose centennial birthday is being celebrated around the globe all season long. Of course, the music will feature much more than Bernstein and his close collaborators, from the leading American composers of today to the influence of blues and jazz to the new ways Bernstein helped us experience geniuses like Beethoven."

For the opening night of its new season, ECM co-commissioned a new work from Pulitzer prize-winning composer John Luther Adams. "Upon hearing (Adams') music," says Goldstein, "Taylor Swift was so moved that she made a sizable donation to the Seattle Symphony. I'm certain the Olympia audience will be just as touched by this new commission, entitled *there is no one, not even the wind*. ... After its world premiere on our stage, the new work will tour over the next two years to Lincoln Center as well as stages in Los Angeles and Portland." Never been a classical music aficionado? Here's the perfect way to dive in. 0



John Luther Adams

## WHAT

Adams, Bernstein, Dvořák, Norman and Reich

## WHERE

The Washington Center for the Performing Arts,  
512 Washington St. SE, Olympia

## WHEN

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16

## W MUCH

\$10-\$43

## LEARN MORE

206-250-5510  
[emeraldcitymusic.org](http://emeraldcitymusic.org)



# Surprising Season of Song with Masterworks Choral Ensemble

By MOLLY GILMORE



This season, Masterworks Choral Ensemble will travel to the frontier, celebrate the sometimes-overlooked talents of female composers and visit some of Broadway's most colorful characters. And the ensemble's taking a creative approach to concert themes: The Broadway concert focuses on heroes and villains, while the concert composed by women is titled *Hidden Musical Figures*. "We had a discussion about what would be an interesting season that looks a little different than the past," artistic director Gary Witley said. "This is our 37th year, and we're continuing to find ways to bring different kinds of music to the community but still at a high quality level. People don't think of a choir doing songs of the Old West. Villain and hero music doesn't sound like your traditional choir."

*Way Out West: Beloved American Ballads* (October 14) features both music of the westward expansion and early 20th-century tunes that evoke that era. *Season of Light: A Holiday Celebration* (December 2) includes songs of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and winter solstice. *Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival* (March 10) is the Northwest-regional portion of a nationwide competition. Renegade Quartet, last year's Northwest champion, will host. *Hidden Musical Figures: Women Composers* (April 14) pays tribute to female composers from the 12th-century Hildegard of Bingen to talents of today. *Naughty and Nice: Broadway's Villains and Heroes* (June 16) includes evocative songs from such musicals as *The Music Man* and *Sweeney Todd*.

The ensemble, made up of about 60 singers in their 20s through 60s, is open by audition only. "It's experienced choral-music people, basically," Witley said. "We run the gamut from people who have made it past our auditions to people who are musicians and can do everything a professional musician would." 0

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## WHAT

Way Out West: Beloved American Ballads

## WHERE

The Washington Center for the Performing Arts,  
512 Washington St. SE, Olympia

## WHEN

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14

## HOW MUCH

\$73-\$109 yearly subscription

## LEARN MORE

360-753-8586  
[mce.org/event/way-out-west/](http://mce.org/event/way-out-west/)

# Expect the Unexpected From Olympia Chamber Orchestra

By ROSEMARY PONNEKANTI

Improvisation isn't usually a thing for classical orchestras, so this year's season for the Olympia Chamber Orchestra shows just how nimble that ensemble can be. After last year's conductor search ended in disappointment, the orchestra is again trying out two candidates, with some of the season's music – and the final concert conductor – quite unknown.

"The new conductor we had chosen last year just pulled out because he got an offer for a paid position," explained Claudia Simpson-Jones, who retired last year after 12 years of serving as the orchestra's director and is now on the board. "We had to start another search. So we decided on 'Expect the Unexpected' for the name of this season – just like last year." The search has narrowed to two candidates: Nathan Rødahl, who'll conduct the fall concert, and Nickolas Carlson, who'll conduct on March 3. After each conductor trial – which includes program planning, administrative tasks and rehearsals – the orchestra will decide the winner, who'll conduct the final concert on June 17 (and choose the program).

The fall concert ranges from the Symphony in D by Basque composer Juan Cristóforo Arriaga (called the Spanish Mozart) to Leos Janáček's Suite for Strings, with Debussy, Korngold and Bizet thrown in. "Nathan's very excited about these pieces," says Simpson-Jones. "He's not telling anyone how they are related. He'll have the audience guess." Rødahl is a violinist who teaches in the Puyallup school district and for Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia. He's the concertmaster of Seattle Ensign and a regional tenor soloist. Carlson is an organist whose March program includes Beethoven, Ravel and Schumann.

Simpson-Jones will stay active with the orchestra and conduct occasional concerts. Despite other musical gigs (church organist, jazz singer and pianist, clarinetist and opera director), she's committed to the OCO. "This is a good orchestra," she says. "I'd put it up against any other." 0



Nathan Rødahl

## WHAT

Olympia Chamber Orchestra fall concert

## WHERE

Kenneth J Minneart Center for the Arts, SPSCC,  
2011 Mottman Rd. SW, Olympia

## WHEN

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4

## HOW MUCH

\$5-\$20

## LEARN MORE

360-753-8586  
olympiachamberorchestra.org

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# Maestro John Welsh's Grand Finale

By MOLLY GILMORE



After 18 years as music director of Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia, John Welsh will retire at the end of this season. Welsh, who has been music director of the group since it was founded, conducts SOGO's Conservatory Orchestra for musicians in high school and occasionally college. "These young adults are really, really incredible," he said. "I have grown to love my work there."

The job of conducting young musicians is essentially the same as working with adults, said Welsh, who's conducted orchestras all over the world and is musical adviser to the Duxbury, Vermont-based Eleva Chamber Players. Yet there's something special about working with young people, he said: "Young minds are wonderful. It's wonderful to work with them and have them become familiar with the works for basically the first time in their lives, for most of them." Educating young musicians is SOGO's mission. The group includes three orchestras and a brass choir and serves students in elementary school through college. Placement auditions are required and take place on August 30. Concerts feature the younger orchestras and brass choir in the first half of the program and the Conservatory Orchestra in the second half.

Welsh is excited about the music he's chosen for the Conservatory Orchestra for his final season. "They're some of my favorites, if I can find favorites," he said. "We have a saying in the business that my favorite is what I'm doing right now, but these pieces have been important to me." Among the musicians performing Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for Four Winds at the November 5 concert, alumni (including David Hales on clarinet and Emma Richart on French horn) will return to perform solos. The March 4 concert will include Brahms' Concerto for Violin and Cello with violinist Carrie Rehkopf Michel and cellist John Michel, friends of Welsh and professors at Central Washington University. Welsh's final concert with SOGO will be May 20. 0

---

**WHAT**

Sinfonia Concertante

**HOW MUCH**

\$3-\$18

**WHERE**

The Washington Center for the Performing Arts,  
512 Washington St. SE, Olympia

**LEARN MORE**

360-352-1438  
[studentorchestras.org](http://studentorchestras.org)

**WHEN**

4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5



# Studio West Dance Academy's Decade of Dance

By KELLI SAMSON

Nine years ago, Studio West Dance Academy had two studios, four instructors and one office administrator. Flash forward to this, the company's 10th season, and to say it's grown is an understatement. SWDA now has five studios, 15 instructors and six office administrators and serves three times the number of students as when it opened its doors. Co-owner Mary Cecelia Piper and co-director Stephanie Wood-Ennett have truly created and maintained a place for young dancers to grow.

"Studio West grew a lot faster than we expected. It's been a really tremendous and, frankly, at times overwhelming experience to have grown so dramatically in so short a time. Today, Studio West is such a well-oiled machine," says Wood-Ennett. "I am excited to work with such wonderful dancers, and it's so gratifying to see some of our dancers emerge into the professional dance world. It's been a simply wonderful journey."

Students who've been with SWDA since its inception are now enjoying success in the wider world of dance. Explains Loanne Dang, sponsorship and community outreach chair for the Studio West Dance Academy Guild, "We are proud to say we've reached a point where we are seeing our students get accepted to prestigious dance programs and transition into dance careers as instructors and dancers with professional companies."

# 30



During its 2017-18 season, Studio West Dance Theater will perform *The Nutcracker*, *Alice in Wonderland* and its annual charity gala, *Dance to Make a Difference*.

*Dance to Make a Difference* is not only a charity event, but also provides an enchanting opportunity each year for the community to enjoy an evening of fine food and dance. All proceeds from the annual *Dance to Make a Difference* gala go to a local charity.

“Meeting the families benefiting from their services has changed me,” explains Dang. “DTMAD connects arts supporters like me to local charities, and it brought the needs of the community to my doorstep. Our young dancers volunteer through the program, and my hope is that we are planting the seeds of community service.”



Adds dancer Aly Cadoo, “There is something very fulfilling in volunteering. You know that you can make a difference, even if it’s small, in someone else’s life.”

Studio West Dance Academy is growing in other areas as well. Joining the staff this year are Emily Coello and Joshua Grant. Coello is on the faculty of the Pacific Northwest Ballet School and served as ballet mistress with the City Ballet of San Diego. Grant is a soloist with the Pacific Northwest Ballet who’ll serve as SWDA’s resident guest instructor and choreographer. Those who saw SWDT’s 2014 production of *Alice in Wonderland* will be pleased to know the Cheshire Cat will return. He’s 20 feet of pure special effects. 🐾

#### WHAT

The Nutcracker

#### WHERE

Minnaert Center for the Arts, SPSCC,  
2011 Mottman Rd. SW, Olympia

#### WHEN

Dec. 10-17

#### HOW MUCH

\$16-\$25

#### LEARN MORE

360-956-0378  
studiowestdanceacademy.  
com

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# A Season of Diversity at Ballet Northwest

By CHRISTINA BUTCHER



There isn't a ballet dancer or aficionado in the South Sound who's unfamiliar with Ballet Northwest, one of Olympia's premier, longest-standing ballet companies. It has a reputation for performances with all the beauty and grace for which ballet is known. This August, the dance company will keep its reputation alive as it opens its 2017-2018 season, one of the most varied the company has ever produced. "We're really excited about the diversity and quality of this season," says Ballet Northwest creative director Ken Johnson. "The diversity between the family favorites of *Mowgli* and *The Nutcracker*, the classical grandeur of *Swan Lake* and the *Young Choreographers Showcase* and *Olympia Dance Festival* are what makes this season unique. We're showcasing so many different styles of dance."

Led by artistic directors Josie and Ken Johnson, Ballet Northwest is a community dance company that promotes local dancers and provides educational opportunities to performers and community members. The company's upcoming 2017-2018 season will open with *Young Choreographers Showcase*, featuring 17 world premieres by burgeoning choreographers guiding 50 dancers. "Our productions rival the experiences audiences have in larger cities like Seattle or Portland," said Johnson. "For audiences to realize they can have high-quality, entertaining and fun dance experiences right here in Olympia is wonderful."

Ballet Northwest will present Eugene Ballet's *Mowgli - The Jungle Book Ballet* in October, followed by *The Nutcracker* in December. This year's *Nutcracker* will feature over 200 dancers and new sets for "The Land of Sweets." The company will hold its ninth-annual *Olympia Dance Festival* in March 2018, with over a dozen local dance troupes performing ballet, ballroom, Chinese, hip-hop, Irish, jazz, Middle Eastern, modern and tap dance. In May 2018, Ballet Northwest will close its season with the high drama and haunting beauty of *Swan Lake*. 0

# 32

## WHAT

Young Choreographers Showcase

## WHERE

Kenneth J Minnaert Center for the Arts, SPSCC, 2011 Mottman Rd. SW, Olympia

## WHEN

7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27

## HOW MUCH

\$12

## LEARN MORE

360-867-8824  
balletnorthwest.org



# Lynette Charters: The Language of Materials

By ALEC CLAYTON

“My work always has an underlying social commentary,” said animator and visual artist Lynette Charters, who hails from Embsay, United Kingdom. She pursued her bachelor’s degree in Cardiff and master’s in Chelsea, London, focusing on social issues and language of materials, conveying messages in artwork through her artwork’s media. From sculptor Andy Goldsworthy, she learned attention to surroundings, perception and the value of persistence and patience. These skills came in handy during the next era of Charters’ life: animation. She landed her first such job at Hollywood Road Studios in South London. Then she was hired as a special-effects animator at Richard Williams Studios, working on *The Thief and the Cobbler*. Her subsequent cinematic résumé includes *Prince of Egypt*, *The Road to El Dorado*, *Sinbad*, and *Space Jam*. “Special effects is pretty much anything that doesn’t act,” Charters said, “elements like water, fire, smoke, debris. Clouds are regulars as well as shadows, tones on characters and props. Occasionally an exciting scene involves animating a main part of the background. It’s a discipline which involves most departments. ... It takes a good few years to learn it properly.”



Such skills allow her to shift easily between different moods and styles in her visual artwork. In her latest series, *The Muses*, she replicates famous artworks throughout history, but with all the women in those images replaced with bare wood. “I’m busy not painting a bunch of women,” she remarked. “Women’s achievements are regularly unrecorded in history books, but our bodies are everywhere in the walls of galleries. There is a huge imbalance.”

Charters maintains a pop-up art space in her own living room, dubbed Allsorts Gallery. “We do about four shows a year,” she said. “It’s a very approachable way to be introduced to new art. ... We never make back the money we spend. The public is welcome to buy art, but that’s not our objective. ... We all understand that we’re all richer together.” 0

## WHAT

Susan Christian art exhibition

## WHERE

Allsorts Gallery,  
2306 Capitol Way S, Olympia

## WHEN

Friday – Sunday, Sept. 15-17

## HOW MUCH

Free

## LEARN MORE

lcharters.com

An advertisement for 'Radiance Herbs &amp; Massage'. It features a large, vibrant pink flower with a dark center on the left. To the right, the text reads: 'GIVE THE GIFT OF Radiance'. Below this, it lists products: 'Jewelry • Natural Body Care', 'Bulk Herbs • Books • Cards • Candles', and 'Essential Oils'. It also includes 'Holiday Hours: Mon-Fri 10-7 Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-6'. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'RADIANCE Herbs &amp; Massage' and the website 'www.radianceherbs.com :: 113 E. 5th, Olympia :: (360) 357-5250'.

# Color and Structure: Susie Englestad and C.J. Swanson at Art House

By ALEC CLAYTON

Featured artists for August and September at Art House Designs are painters Susie Englestad and C. J. Swanson. Both artists present work that is colorful and abstract but derived from nature.

Englestad, the owner of Art House Designs, paints with flat squiggles and organic shapes that dance across the surface of the canvas in all-over patterns of shallow layers. Swanson, former co-owner of AOC Gallery in Tacoma with her husband, painter David Noah Giles, is showing works that depict images from nature in precise, geometric patterns like honeycombs and little boxes. Other works have patterns like jigsaw puzzles in bright, pastel colors or little squares that appear to dance slightly above the surface.

“Starting out with a connection to my preceding works, I work using intuition and improvisation to develop a painting,” Swanson says. “I am endeavoring to capture ideas that are pictured in my mind. Painting daily to stay visually fit, my concepts work themselves through. My ideas are informed by structures, organic life and elements of design in daily environment. Forms move and bend in my imagery, creating my way of seeing. My concern is about discovery of the visual and to paint my personal, artistic influences as they transform. I paint overlapping and sometimes colliding structural forms. I tether cells of color that relate to the borders around them. Sometimes they are floating in a net that supports individual colors. I see an organic and floating entity of alternating hues. As a painter, I gravitate toward (the) non-figurative and non-representation with indications of actual forms and objects.”

There are two large gallery spaces in Art House Designs, and they feature works by many artists in a variety of styles in addition to these highlighted artists. 0



"Logical Consequences," acrylic painting by C.J. Swanson

## WHAT

Paintings by Susie Englestad and C. J. Swanson

## WHERE

Art House Designs,  
420 Franklin St. SE, Olympia

## WHEN

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Tuesdays –  
Fridays through September

## HOW MUCH

Free admission, artwork for sale

## LEARN MORE

[arthousedesigins.com](http://arthousedesigins.com)



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Black Box Jazz  
**Dmitri Matheny**  
Friday, JAN 19, 8:00 PM



Silent Movie Series  
**Buster Keaton in Steamboat Bill Jr.**  
Sunday, JAN 21, 2:00 PM



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Tuesday, JAN 23, 7:30 PM



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Thursday, MAR 29, 7:30 PM



**The Center Salon**  
Friday, APR 13, 7:30 PM



Silent Movie Series  
**Charlie Chaplin Shorts**  
Sunday, APR 15, 2:00 PM



**Las Cafeteras**  
Thursday, APR 26, 7:30 PM



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