

ISSUE N°05 | SPRING 2017

OLY ARTS

Your spring guide to theater, culture, music and visual arts.

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COVER PHOTO BY SHANNA PAXTON



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A photograph of two people riding bicycles on a paved street. The person on the left is wearing a black helmet and a white long-sleeved shirt with a black vest. The person on the right is wearing a white helmet and a grey long-sleeved shirt. They are both riding towards the right side of the frame.

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A close-up photograph of hands being massaged. The hands are light-skinned and the massage is being performed on the forearm.

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**OLY
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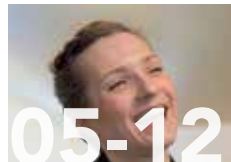
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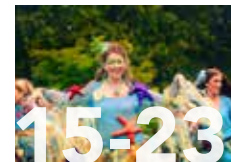
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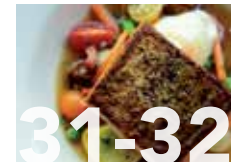
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Joe Hedges



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Corinna Luyken
Andrea Y. Griffith
Garrison Keillor
Dead Poets Reading
Saint Martin's
Creative Writing
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AN EVENING OF ALTERNATIVE FACTS

**Scatterbrain Improv
and Lady Town**

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OLY ARTS ISSUE No.5, SPRING 2017

APRIL – JUNE 2017

The spring celebrations in Olympia were a major impetus for our team to launch OLY ARTS. Over the years, we've fallen in love with the rushing crowds and fun-filled antics of Spring Arts Walk in Olympia. We've also found ourselves enthralled, enlivened and ennobled by the powerful yet wordless wonder of the annual Procession of the Species. We had the great privilege of spending quality time with the many, many people creating this participatory festival as we put together this issue of OLY ARTS. It was inspiring to hear that despite the years of long labor on the Procession, their passion for participatory art is unmuted and their fire for environmental awareness is undimmed. We are so happy to count ourselves among them, and we hope you are similarly inspired as you participate in this spring's newly awakened festivals. We hope you find new inspiration and new power in all the arts that blossom here in Olympia this time of year!

–Ned Hayes, Publisher

OLY ARTS

The Leading Guide to Arts and Culture in the South Sound

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Present Laughter at Harlequin Productions

By ALEC CLAYTON

Prepare to laugh when Harlequin Productions stages the Noel Coward comedy *Present Laughter*—with "Present" pronounced as the adjective, not the verb. Written in 1939 and first staged in 1942, this classic farce is about the successful and self-obsessed actor Garry Essendine as he confronts a midlife crisis while preparing for a touring show in Africa. He has only a week to prepare for the trip. The other characters include women who want to seduce Essendine, a playwright who wants to study him, a secretary who wants to keep him organized and an estranged wife. Coward described his own play as a series of "autobiographical pyrotechnics."

Present Laughter is directed by Harlequin co-founder Linda Whitney. It stars Maggie Ferguson-Wagstaffe, Ann Flannigan, Laura Hanson, Helen Harvester, Russ Holm, Aaron Lamb, Xander Layden and Gabriel McClelland, with two more parts yet to be cast.

Lamb plays the lead role. "His unique perspective and personality make him an absolute natural for Noel Coward and Oscar Wilde," said Harlequin artistic director Scot Whitney. "Very few Americans really get that British sensibility, but he takes to it like a duck to water." Lamb was last seen at Harlequin in the riotous *The 39 Steps* a year ago. Harvester was last seen in the glamorous title role of last season's *Hedda Gabler*.

"The thing that attracted me to *Present Laughter* the most," says Linda Whitney, "may be the charm of the extraordinarily eccentric collection of characters. It's an audacious comedy that brings a number of variously motivated partners, lovers and odd acquaintances into a tumble of smart dialogue and perilous situations and gives actors glorious opportunities to stretch out. Noel Coward was a master of the style."

In its 75-year history, *Present Laughter* has played all over the world, including four Broadway revivals. The latest revival, starring Kevin Kline, will play on Broadway at the same time as Harlequin's version plays in Olympia. 0

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WHAT

Present Laughter

WHERE

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

WHEN

8 p.m. Thursday - Saturday,
2 p.m. Sunday, May 4-27

HOW MUCH

\$20-\$34

LEARN MORE

360-786-0151
harlequinproductions.org

Olympia Family Theater's Punk-Rock Musical: Fishnapped!

By KELLI SAMSON

Evergreen State College alumna Amy Shephard has collaborated with Andrew Gordon and Daven Tillinghast to write Olympia Family Theater's final show of its 11th season, *Fishnapped!* "It's an interactive, musical mystery involving a missing goldfish," says Shephard, who also choreographs the production. The musical numbers, composed by Tillinghast, are inspired by the artists of Shephard's youth. "I grew up with music from that late-'90s bubblegum, pop-punk era," she says, "with bands like Blink-182 and Sum 41, and singers like Avril Lavigne. I felt it was a market that had not really been explored. It's a rock musical for kids." The music will be provided by OFT's live band and led by Stephanie Claire. *Fishnapped!* is directed by Jeff Painter, who comes from a heavily Shakespearean background and recently directed *I Am Rachel Corrie* for Harlequin Productions.

From the moment audience members enter the lobby they'll be immersed in the musical. Jen Ryle, OFT's artistic director, says of the set, "It will have a 'Welcome to Camp Saskatoon' banner, like the audience is walking into a soccer summer camp. The cast and crew will have on soccer jerseys for the Saskatoon Squirrels."

Adds Shephard, "The theater concessions will be called the 'Snack Shack.' Our audience is actually playing the fans of the camp's soccer game." Each night has the potential to end one of many ways, as the audience gets to interrogate the characters in order to determine the outcome of this whodunit. The cast will be prepared to perform any of the numerous resolutions with a moment's notice.

One special cast member is the goldfish named Blubber, a puppet created by Jamie Jenson and guided by Ryan Holmberg. OFT will have a social-media campaign leading up to the show, posting pictures of Blubber in different spots around Olympia, and a fish-puppet-making station at Arts Walk. The cast will carry a school of goldfish in the Procession of the Species, and anyone who creates with them at Arts Walk is welcome to join them. 0

WHAT

Fishnapped!

WHERE

Olympia Family Theater,
612 Fourth Ave. E, Olympia

WHEN

7 p.m. Fridays, May 12, 26, and
June 2;
2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays,
May 13 - June 4

HOW MUCH

\$13-\$19 (May 19 is pay-what-you-can)

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Playwright Amy Shephard



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Shakespeare in Hollywood (and at Olympia Little Theatre)

By ALEC CLAYTON

Imagine you're on the set of a Hollywood movie made in 1934, with big-name stars filming *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and magically the real Oberon and Puck from the Shakespeare play show up on the set. If such a thing could happen, it would be a recipe for comedy...or insanity. And that's what's coming to Olympia Little Theatre in May, when OLT presents *Shakespeare in Hollywood* by Ken Ludwig, writer of such hit plays as *The Game's Afoot*, *Lend Me a Tenor* and *Moon Over Buffalo*. Kendra Malm directs this 2004 Helen Hayes Award winner for best new play.

"Let us take you to a magical place, where dreams come true, the boy gets the girl, and the villain gets his comeuppance," Malm wrote in an OLT announcement. The play is a farce about the filming of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as directed by German film director Max Reinhardt (not yet cast at press time). Everything goes awry. Reinhardt has to deal with a studio head whose girlfriend wants to be a star, nosy gossip columnist Louella Parsons (Rhoni Lozier) and movie stars both real—Joe E. Brown (Conner Nuckols), Jimmy Cagney (Alex Hume), Dick Powell (Paul Wertz)—and imagined—Olivia Darnell (Maria Densley), Lydia Lansing (Jenni Fleming). The actors playing Oberon and Puck quit, and then the real Oberon and Puck appear to play themselves (Dan Overton and Orit Werner, respectively).

There will be staged combat, which Malm characterizes as "more in the way of wrestling and fisticuffs; no weapons involved." There will also be "fairly elaborate costumes" by Diana Purvine and cross-dressing "when Joe E. Brown is fitted for his costume as Francis Flute, playing Thisbe in the play within a play." Malm says Ludwig is a "reliable author...He always has comedies that are tightly plotted and fun to watch. This one isn't as farcical as many, but the fantasy elements make up for that, especially when a certain flower starts getting passed around." 0

WHAT

Shakespeare in Hollywood

WHERE

Olympia Little Theatre,
1925 Miller Ave., Olympia

WHEN

7:25 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays,
1:55 p.m. Sunday, May 5-21

HOW MUCH

\$11-\$15

LEARN MORE

360-786-9484
olympialittletheater.org

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Epistolary Theater

By JONAH BARRETT

The epistolary format (i.e., a story told through a series of letters) is usually reserved for novels, but it can sometimes spring up in other mediums, as in A.R. Gurney's Pulitzer-Prize finalist *Love Letters*, coming to Olympia Little Theatre this summer. Co-directed by Toni Holm and James Patrick, the production will feature 11 different pairs of actors playing the roles of Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepeace, lovers across time who never seem to get it together. The story is told over a period of 50 years, with artist Melissa and attorney Andrew reading correspondence from throughout their lives. Each night will feature a different pair of actors, with Holm directing the first six and Patrick coordinating the latter five.

Love Letters takes the stage as OLT's last play of the 2016-17 season. Originally, *Communicating Doors* was slated for that slot but, due to the failing health of director Kathryn Beall, that production was canceled. "Probably Kathryn's the only person I could see doing (*Communicating Doors*)," said Holm. "When it was apparent she wasn't going to get better, we started talking. She said, 'You know, we probably should do something else.'" It was after looking through play submissions that Holm and artistic manager Kendra Malm discovered a proposal for *Love Letters*, submitted by Jim and Susan Patrick.

Beall passed away on March 16, 2017, much quicker than anyone expected, but her influence lingers about the OLT stage. "Honestly, Kathryn was our most experienced and accomplished director," said Holm. "She actually cast Jim in his first ever role on stage."

"Kathryn had talked with my wife Susan (and Holm) about *Love Letters* before she passed away," said Patrick, "and had, in fact, told Susan the couples she would like to see play characters in *Love Letters*...The journey of *Love Letters* at OLT and my role in bringing the play to the stage is important to me because Kathryn selected it and the actors she felt should play the roles."

Love Letters serves as a tribute to Beall, doubling as a quiet and beautiful play that OLT believes audiences will appreciate, plus an opportunity to see how a variety of different actors interpret the same material. By way of disclosure, one of those pairs of actors will be OLY ARTS's managing editor, Christian Carvajal, and his wife, Amanda Stevens. 0

WHAT

Love Letters

WHERE

Olympia Little Theatre,
1925 Miller Ave. SW, Olympia

WHEN

7:25 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays,
1:55 p.m. Sunday, June 16 – July 2

HOW MUCH

\$9-\$15

LEARN MORE

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08

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche at the Midnight Sun

By CHRISTIAN CARVAJAL

The next production from Theater Artists Olympia is the product of a series of unexpected events. Last fall, the scrappy troupe announced it'd present a "season of sex," typified by *The Physician in Spite of Himself* and *Playhouse Creatures*. Then TAO lost the rights to a few desired scripts, and the changing political climate inspired a sold-out March production of *1984* instead. Director Hannah Eklund, seen recently as the White Rabbit in Olympia Family Theater's *Alice in Wonderland*, returns TAO to its predetermined course with the sexy, unpredictable *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche*.

Written by Andrew Hobgood and Evan Linder with contributions from the original, 2011, Chicago cast, *5 Lesbians* is a surrealistic comedy in five scenes. It finds the primly dressed members of the Susan B. Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein assembling for an annual quiche breakfast in the Cold-War year of 1956. They refer to themselves euphemistically as "widows." Other than that, the less the audience knows about the script going in, the better, and that definitely includes a whopping development halfway through. Suffice it to say the Society's levels of panic and self-realization intensify at the same manic pace.

Of the script, Eklund says, "It's so entertaining...(It's) just so unlike anything I had read. I thought it would be an interesting thing to bring to life on stage, 'cause it's so interesting and different. It's a sassy, sexy, little comedy." She says the all-female cast wasn't a particular draw, though she does seek "scripts that have interesting roles for women. One of the things I like so much about this script," she adds, "is that all of the women get to be comedians. It's not just one funny character, it's all five who get to have their comedy shine." The characters address audience members as if they, too, were Susan B. Anthony Society members, and that allows for built-in moments of improvisation. All five roles are open, with auditions held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 10 at the Midnight Sun.

"I lose track of how many times I read a script before I even take it to auditions," says Eklund, whose directorial debut was *Circle Mirror Transformation* at Olympia Little Theatre last year. "A play has to have some kind of meaning for me," she continues. "I have to feel a message running through it, and I feel like there are a few of those in this script that I want to explore...I love to have people be able to play on stage and bring their own ideas to it...I think it's a marriage of those two (approaches)." Certainly one of the show's messages is the value of sisterhood. Another is the freedom and power inherent in being one's truest self. How that plays out in an alternate 1956 is this play's most joyous surprise. 0



Hannah Eklund, Director

WHAT

5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche

WHERE

The Midnight Sun Performance Space,
113 Columbia St. N, Olympia

WHEN

8 p.m. Thursdays – Saturdays,
2:30 p.m. Sundays, June 16 – July 1

HOW MUCH

\$12-\$15

LEARN MORE

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olytheater.com

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A Tabloid Musical at SPSCC

By CHRISTIAN CARVAJAL

Some theatrical musicals originate as great novels, others as beloved cinema. Some come to us by way of historical biographies and some, believe it or not, are still written from scratch. But only one popular musical began as a story in the *Weekly World News* supermarket tabloid. *Bat Boy: The Musical* was written in 1997 by Keythe Farley, Brian Flemming and Laurence O'Keefe and made it all the way to London's West End.

No, it's not about a caped crime-fighter battling a preteen Joker and Catgirl. Rather, it's about Edgar, a mutant child adopted by a West Virginia family after being discovered by spelunkers. Think *Edward Scissorhands*, but with fangs and a five-piece rock combo. 0

WHAT

Bat Boy: The Musical

WHERE

Kenneth J Minnaert Center for the Arts,
South Puget Sound Community College,
2011 Mottman Rd. SW, Olympia

WHEN

7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays,
2 p.m. Sundays, May 19 - 28

HOW MUCH

\$10-\$15



LEARN MORE

360-596-5200

spsc.edu/events/arts-entertainment/#/?i=4

Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory

By CHRISTIAN CARVAJAL

"Who can take a sunrise / Sprinkle it in dew?" We suspect any child of the 1970s, or of any decade since for that matter, could immediately answer that musical question. It's "The Candy Man," of course—in this case, a very specific candy man, the mischievous (and ostensibly homicidal) Willy Wonka. Thanks to the 1971 fantasy film and Gene Wilder's whimsical performance as the title character, only dedicated readers know Roald Dahl's 1964 novel highlights *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. No matter; the book and movie are both beloved by their respective fan bases, and both Willy Wonka and Charlie Bucket get moments to shine in the musical-theater adaptation.

That's the version staged at Tumwater High School by Apple Tree Productions and its director, Heidi Fredericks. In this incarnation, Wonka is played by Jeff Hines-Mohrman, who made an impressive Jean Valjean in last year's *Les Misérables*. Lucy Clarke portrays the earnest but impoverished Charlie Bucket, whose quest for a "Golden Ticket" transports the character into a world of pure imagination. "It's all the music from the Gene Wilder movie," says Fredericks. "It's all really recognizable."

The mission of Apple Tree Productions is to teach valuable life skills via after-school theater instruction and projects. Fredericks is quick to praise her young students and the team of adults who support them. "The kids we work with are really quick learners," she says. "There's just something about this town, y'know? People care about the arts, and people respond to the arts." Watch for Apple Tree's take on *Hairspray* with adult performers this summer, along with productions of (in order) *Alice in Wonderland*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Aida*. 0

WHAT

Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory

WHERE

Tumwater High School,
700 Israel Rd. SW, Tumwater

WHEN

7 p.m. Thursday – Saturday, April 20-22

HOW MUCH

\$5-\$8

LEARN MORE

360-359-6685

appletreeprod.com

An Evening of Alternative Facts: An Improv Comedy Show

By NED HAYES

An improv resurrection is happening in Olympia. One of the Puget Sound region's leading improvisational groups, the Scatterbrains Improv Comedy Troupe, disbanded years ago after being featured at Seattle's Bumbershoot, Olympia's Capital City Pride, Tacoma's First Night and leading theatrical venues all around Puget Sound. The group didn't disband because members moved on to *Saturday Night Live*, as you might have guessed from the improv-focused movie *Don't Think Twice*. Instead, life circumstances for co-founders Dave Beaucham, Kris Mann and Jed Stickgold just made it harder for the group to perform regularly. "People moved; people started families; people got other jobs," says co-founder Kris Mann. "Life just got in the way. But now, for one night only, we're back on stage."

The reunited members of Scatterbrains Improv will be joined by another South Sound improvisational-theater team, Lady Town, who'll contribute two members of their "lady-driven, creative collective," Rebecca Rogers and Amber Sayman. Lady Town has performed at Improlympia and delivered holiday show *The Genteel Lady's Guide to Holiday Mirth* at The Midnight Sun Performance Space. Scatterbrains and Lady Town have come together for a political purpose: "Given everything that's happening politically, we think everyone could use a laugh," says Mann. "And for this show, we're providing all donations to local, progressive nonprofits. Make a difference—Come and laugh!"



Scatterbrains Improv co-founder Kris Mann

The one-night-only show is a short-form, musical sketch comedy based completely on audience suggestions, as on the popular show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* As Mann points out, "For this kind of comedy, there is no script and no net." Admission is free, but donations will be accepted for the following organizations: Camp Quixote, Community Youth Services, Family Support Center, GRUB, The Olympia Free Clinic, Olympia Union Gospel Mission, Planned Parenthood, SafePlace and South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity. Representatives from several of those groups will attend the event and accept donations. 0

WHAT

Scatterbrains with Lady Town

WHERE

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

WHEN

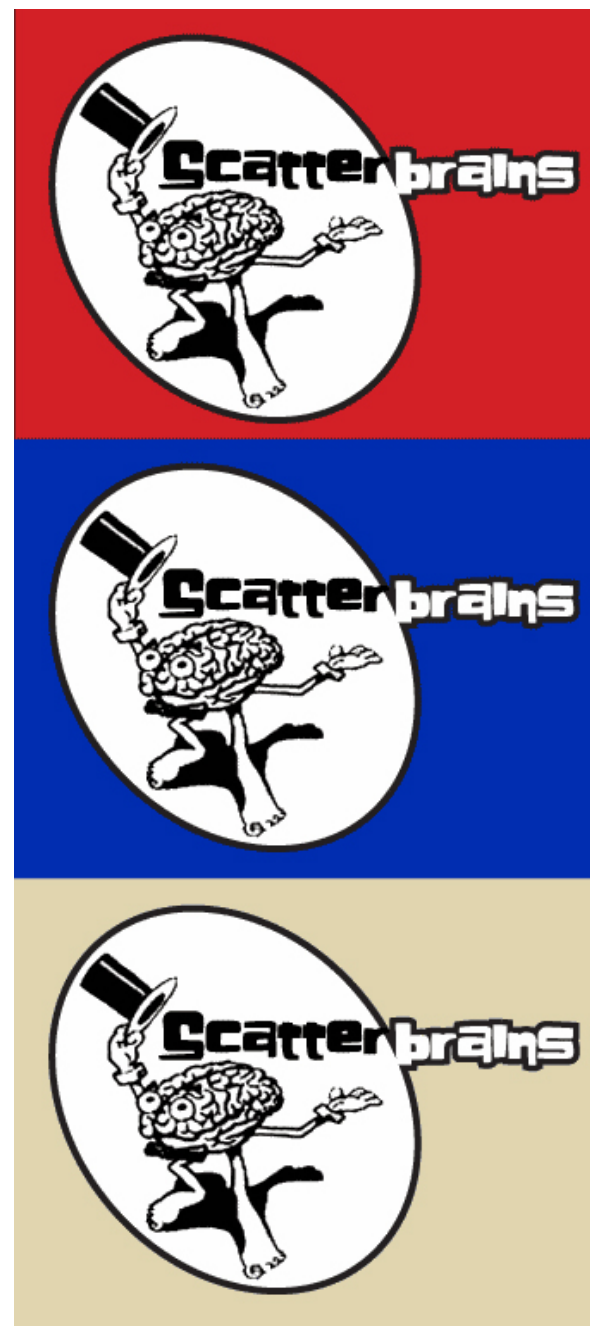
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HOW MUCH

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Theater Artists Olympia
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5 LESBIANS
Eating a Quiche

BY ANDREW HOBGOOD
 AND EVAN LINDER
 DIRECTED BY
 HANNAH EKLUND

OPENS JUNE 16
 INFO/TICKETS AVAILABLE AT OLYTHEATER.COM

Ballet Northwest's *The Sleeping Beauty*

By MOLLY GILMORE



For those familiar with the classic fairy tale—or Disney’s animated takes on it—Ballet Northwest’s *The Sleeping Beauty* has a few surprises. After the wicked fairy curses her, after she pricks her finger on a spindle, after a kiss ends her long sleep, the Aurora of the ballet gets some familiar visitors. “An assortment of fairy-tale friends comes for Aurora’s wedding,” said Ken Johnson, Ballet Northwest’s co-artistic director. “There are Little Red Riding Hood and the wolf, Cinderella and her stepsisters and Hansel and Gretel.”

Though this might seem a bit like something from *Into the Woods*, most of these out-of-the-binding additions, along with Puss in Boots and others, were part of the ballet when it debuted in 1890. But Johnson and his wife and co-artistic director Josie Johnson have taken this fairy-tale reunion a bit further. “This year, we’ve added Snow White and the seven dwarves,” Ken Johnson said.

After *The Nutcracker*, also with music by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and choreography by Marius Petipa, *The Sleeping Beauty* is the most popular ballet in Ballet Northwest’s repertoire. The company last produced it in 2013. This year’s production has a cast of nearly 100, from young children to adults. Anna Thornton, 18 and a senior at Olympia High School, will dance Aurora. Anthony Gamroth of Olympia, who performs with Seattle contemporary dance companies, will play the prince.

Each year, the Johnsons modify the choreography to suit the dancers who’ll perform. This year, for example, they added a new dance for Snow White, using music Tchaikovsky wrote for scenes that aren’t included in this production. “This year, our dancers are really strong,” Johnson said. “For the soloists and the lead couple, we’re using the original choreography by Petipa. It’s the same choreography that professional dancers all over the world dance.”

WHAT

The Sleeping Beauty

WHERE

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

WHEN

8 p.m. Thursday - Saturday,
2 p.m. Sunday, May 4-27

HOW MUCH

\$14-\$33

LEARN MORE

360-753-8586
balletnorthwest.org

Studio West Dance Theatre Presents *Giselle*

By NORA KOVACS

Studio West Dance Theatre presents ballet classic *Giselle*, an adventurous choice for the studio and an emotionally effervescent piece certain to leave audiences filled with joy and energy. From love and the supernatural to vengeance and forgiveness, the ballet spans a multitude of universal themes. Director Stephanie Wood-Ennett spoke to OLY ARTS about what to expect from the upcoming show.

OLY ARTS: How has your career in dance led up to your current role as director at Studio West?

Wood-Ennett: I started dancing as a little girl and trained at the Washington Academy of Performing Arts. I left home at 15 to do independent study, moved on to the San Francisco Ballet School, got my first job at Ballet Memphis, had a professional dance career for six years and then returned to Olympia. A few years later I opened Studio West and now here I am.

OLY ARTS: What inspired the choice of *Giselle*?

Wood-Ennett: *Giselle* is a ballet I have wanted to do for some time. Our previous ballets have been more mainstream, like *Peter Pan*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Cinderella*, so this is a riskier choice. *Giselle* is a beautiful classic that we wanted to share with the audience, as well as give our dancers the opportunity to perform such a historically significant piece.

OLY ARTS: How have the dancers prepared for this performance?

Wood-Ennett: The choreography is highly technical. The dancers must not only have proficient ballet technique, but the skill to convey the storyline through pantomime and acting. Joshua Grant will dance the role of Albrecht, Nathan Cook will be the infatuated Hilarion and Katharine Cowan has the lead role of Giselle. Katharine is an emerging ballerina who has trained at Studio West since she was nine years old and is about to embark upon a professional career in dance.

OLY ARTS: What can viewers expect from the show?

Wood-Ennett: *Giselle* is about a young peasant girl who is deceived in love by the aristocrat Albrecht, disguised as a commoner. Audiences will be moved by the ethereal beauty of this ballet as love, betrayal and forgiveness play out with stunning simplicity. 0



WHAT
Giselle

WHERE
Kenneth J Minnaert Center for the Arts,
South Puget Sound Community College,
2011 Mottman Rd. SW, Olympia

WHEN
2 and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 29

HOW MUCH
\$23-\$39

LEARN MORE
360-956-9378
studiowestdanceacademy.com



Arts Walk & Procession



Spring Arts Walk in Downtown Olympia

Friday, April 28 | 5-10 p.m.

Saturday, April 29 | 12-8p.m.

olympiawa.gov/artswalk

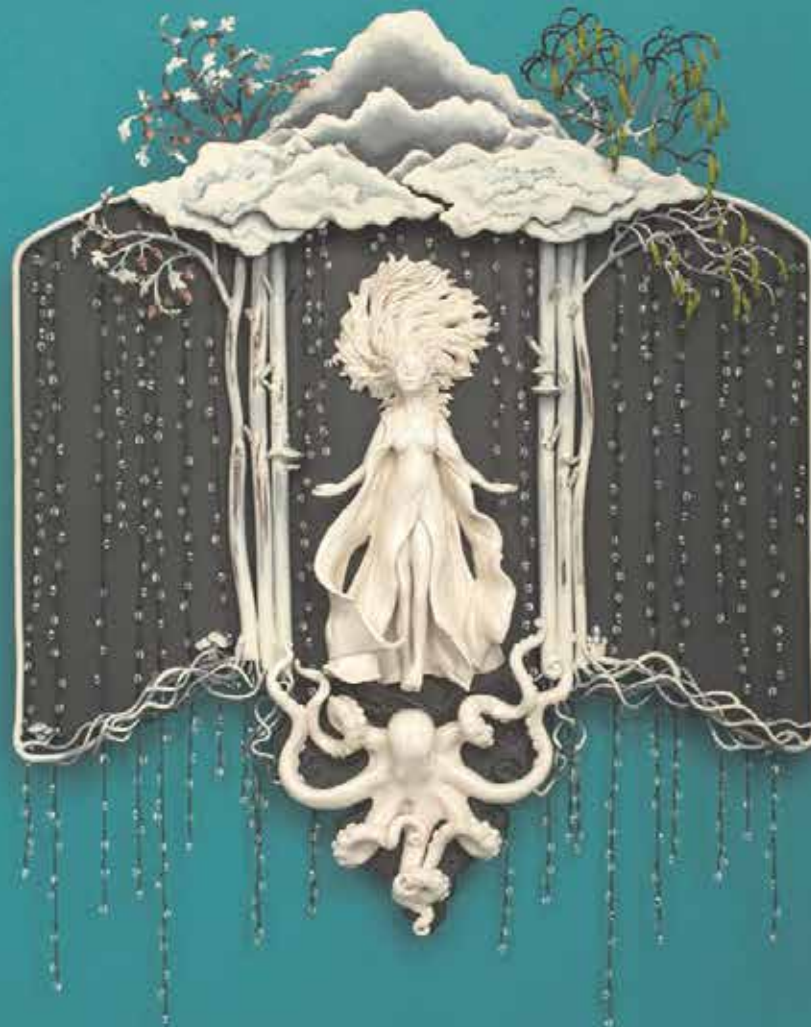
*As day reaches into night,
Arts Walk brings together
over 110 businesses and
hundreds of visual and
performing artists with over
30,000 visitors as they welcome
the arts in all forms.*

Procession of the Species Celebration

produced by Earthbound Productions

Saturday, April 29 | 4:30 p.m.

procession.org



Aquapia by Loralin Toney

Arts Walk Cover Art Spring 2017



Arts Walk & Procession

FRIDAY, APRIL 28 - SATURDAY, APRIL 29



FRIDAY, APRIL 28

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
3PM	OLYMPIA CITY HALL J. Parker Memorial Bike Rack Dedication
	GALLERY NEXT Geisha Factor, Guitar Duo
	LC'S BLACKBIRD MERCANTILE A Living Canvas, Face-Painting
5PM	SPLASH GALLERY Artist Demos
	ARTESIAN COMMONS KOWA 106.5 Live Broadcast
	LOTT'S WET SCIENCE CENTER Family Art Activities
	OLYMPIA PARKS, ARTS & RECREATION Family Art Activities
	OLYMPIA FAMILY THEATER Family Art Activity
	FIREFLY YOGA Percussion and Singing Bowls
	GALLERY BOOM Found-Object Puppetry and Shadow Play
	TWENTY22MANY Thank-You Cards for Civil Servants and Veterans
	CASCADIA GRILL Pacific NorthWeird, Screening Festival
	OLYMPIA TIMBERLAND LIBRARY Samba Music and Drumming
6PM	THE CANVAS CHURCH Thomas Magnuson, Live Music
	PILATES AT PLAY Lori's Yoga Trapeze
	BEN MOORE'S RESTAURANT Ann Finn, Piano
	SELDEN'S HOME FURNISHINGS Larry Hill, Soft Jazz Blues
	BROWSERS BOOKSHOP No Strings Attached, Saxophone Quartet
	CHILDHOOD'S END GALLERY PC & J, Acoustic Guitar and Vocals

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
6PM	CASCADIA GRILL Candala, Brazillian and Latin Jazz
	ART HOUSE DESIGNS Steven Bentley Quartet, Jazz
	SWING WINE BAR (21+) Vince Brown and Monica Peabody, Old-Time Country Tunes
7PM	AIKIDO OLYMPIA Aikido Demonstrations
	AIKIDO OLYMPIA Aikido Demonstrations
	FISH TALE BREW PUB Andy Omdahl Quintet
	CASCADIA BREWING CO. Dylan Clifthorne, Musical Menagerie
	RAINY DAY RECORDS UK Gold, Live Music
	CHINESE HEALING & MOVEMENT ARTS Rob Saecker and Friends, Mbira Music from Zimbabwe
	HOT TODDY The Open Letters, Live Music
	FLOURISH IN OLYMPIA Lisa Ramsauer and Friends, BlueJaz
	THE WASHINGTON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS The Tuned In Academy, Music and Education
	BAR FRANCIS Anna Gordon, Live Music
8PM	BEN MOORE'S RESTAURANT Fusion Friday featuring Lefty Green, Dance and Live Music

9:30 P.M. - LUMINARY PROCESSION
From Fifth Avenue and Washington St. to Sylvester Park





Arts Walk & Procession

FRIDAY, APRIL 28 - SATURDAY, APRIL 29



SATURDAY, APRIL 29

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
10AM OLYMPIA FARMERS MARKET	Riff Raff Band and Live Caller Carol Piening, Contra Dancing
OLYMPIA CITY HALL	Olympia Poet Laureate Amy Solomon-Minarchi, Writing to Art Poetry Workshop
11:30AM OLYMPIA FARMERS MARKET	Podunk Funk!, Live Music
NOON LC'S BLACKBIRD MERCANTILE	A Living Canvas, Face-Painting
THE OLYMPIA CENTER	Halau Hokunani and Kupuna Ho'okani, Hawaiian Music and Dance
SPLASH GALLERY OLYMPIA	Artist Demos
LOTT'S WET Science Center	Family Art Activities
TWENTY22MANY (ALL DAY)	Thank-You Cards for Civil Servants and Veterans, Free Art Activity
OLYMPIA FAMILY THEATER	Family Art Activity - Creating Fish Puppets
CAPITOL THEATER (ALL DAY)	Pacific NorthWeird, Screening Festival
1PM THOMAS ARCHITECTURE STUDIO	Form Finders, Sand Sculpture
PILATES AT PLAY	Lori's Yoga Trapeze, Demonstrations and Short Lessons
2PM THE CANVAS CHURCH	Thomas Magnuson, Live Music
OLYMPIA FARMERS MARKET	The Mud Bay Jugglers, Live Juggling
GALLERY BOOM	Shadow Catcher Theatre, Found-Object Puppetry and Shadow Play

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
2PM CHILDHOOD'S END GALLERY	Ann Finn, Piano
THE WASHINGTON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS	SOGO Pet the Instruments, Music and Education
NORTHWEST COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CENTER	Co-Opatopia, Cooperatives Celebrating Community
3PM SYLVESTER PARK GAZEBO	Mukana Marimba, Live Music
4PM GALLERY NEXT	Geisha Factor, Acoustic-Guitar Duo

4:30 P.M. - PROCESSION OF THE SPECIES

From Jefferson and Legion to Heritage Park



6PM THREE MAGNETS BREWING CO.	Oly Mountain Boys, Bluegrass and Squirrel Butter, Old-Time Roots Americana
THE CANVAS CHURCH	Thomas Magnuson, Live Music
7PM EASTSIDE BAR (21+)	D & D, Live Music
BEN MOORE'S RESTAURANT	Variety Dances: Absolutely Ballroom, Salsa and Latin
8PM CAPITOL THEATER	Seattle Rock Orchestra - Michael Jackson, Live Music
OLYMPIA FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES	The Psychedelic Shadow Show, '60s Rock



Arts Walk & Procession



Light It Up at the Luminary Procession

By MOLLY GILMORE



The subtler sibling to the many-splendored Procession of the Species, the Luminary Procession shines bright, filling the streets of Olympia with glowing paper lanterns and live music. When it began in 2009, this procession was intended exclusively for participants, as a ritual honoring the human spirit. “There’s something extraordinarily special when you see a lit, glowing object at night,” said procession founder Eli Sterling. “It’s like a candle in the window for a traveler. The Luminary Procession emanates the same warm feeling of ‘this is home.’”

Spiritual though it may be, the event has evolved into the first big spectacle of Arts Walk and Procession weekend. “It’s steadily grown every year,” Sterling said. “Over 200 luminaries showed up last year. The crowds that are coming to watch it have increased. Last year, the police estimated that there were 2,000 to 3,000 spectators. For the first time this year, the police are closing Capitol Way. In the past, we would just go down the sidewalk.” The procession circles a two-block area, ending in Sylvester Park.

New luminaries are created for each year’s event, and many old favorites return. Past lanterns have included tulips and a tapir, a seahorse and many stars. A 19-foot-long narwhal made its debut last year. Many participants create their own luminaries, but extras are available for people who’d rather participate than watch. (Those who’d like to carry a luminary can meet at 8:30 p.m. at the Procession Studio, 405 Water St. SW, Olympia.) And the event’s appeal isn’t only visual. Artesian Rumble Arkestra leads the procession, and Crow Drummers bring up the rear. The route ends at the gazebo, where Samba Olywa will drum and dance.

Because the lanterns are made of paper and bamboo, the Luminary Procession will be canceled if there’s heavy rain. Despite the well-known vagaries of Northwest weather, though, the event has gone on as planned every year. 0

WHAT

Luminary Procession

WHEN

9:30 p.m. Friday, April 28

LEARN MORE

360-705-1087
procession.org

WHERE

From Fifth Avenue and Washington St. to
Sylvester Park

HOW MUCH

Free

18



Arts Walk & Procession



Alki Middle School and the Shores of Nisqually

By CHRISTIAN CARVAJAL

Since 1974, the Nisqually river delta has been set aside for public enjoyment as the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. This biologically diverse estuary covers over 760 acres, the largest delta refuge in the Pacific Northwest. It's a birdwatcher's delight, with over 200 species alighting there each year, including bald eagles, great horned owls, peregrine falcons, sandpipers, wood ducks, wrens and yellowthroats. It's appropriate, then, that after a field trip to the Nisqually refuge, Alki Middle School chose to represent shorebirds in this year's Procession of the Species. Under the guidance of Debbie Rowe and two Alki parents, these students turned batik, plastic and other recycled materials into shorebird costumes. "Despite the plastic-bag ban in Olympia," Rowe notes, "there is still plenty of plastic in our shopping cart."

Teacher Randy Weeks says, "Integrating art into our lessons helps our students on every level." And the students understand the Procession's ever-timely, ecological message. As one student wrote, "(It's) a way we can come together as a community, loving and celebrating our earth." Or, in the words of another, "Procession of the Species helps (us) connect with nature. It's lit!" 0



WHAT

Arts Walk and Procession

WHERE

Procession of the Species,
From Jefferson St. and Legion Way to
Water St. and Capitol Way, Olympia

WHEN

4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 29

HOW MUCH

Free

LEARN MORE

360-313-3200
alkivansd.org

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Arts Walk & Procession



PHOTO BY SHANNA PAXTON

Olympia Waldorf School Struts Its Stuff

By CHRISTIAN CARVAJAL

Led by Jerry Berebitsky, Olympia Waldorf School has accepted the challenge of portraying a flock—technically, an “ostentation”—of peacocks. That includes at least 30 kid-sized peacock characters and an alpha peacock some 24 feet high, puppeteered by 20 people. The original alpha puppet was created by the Spirit of the Procession Studio. Berebitsky says Waldorf took on the task without knowing exactly how it could be completed in time, especially the puppet’s ornate tail. “What was there,” he explains, “was a faith that the spirit of community in the studio would support our efforts.” That faith was rewarded with what Berebitsky calls “a truly magical experience,” a tribute, he feels, to “the struggle for survival of the wild peacock population in Myanmar.”

20

The alpha puppet is built on a skeleton of metal and plastic electrical conduit, then muscled with drip-line tubing and skinned, after intense labor, in bird-block netting and fabric scraps. The 2015-2016 second-grade class built peachick costumes, which they now wear as proud peacocks a year later. Artist Janine Miller guided the fifth- and sixth-graders through work on two midsize peacocks. “We hope,” says Berebitsky, “people will be inspired to further their efforts to care for the unique species and long-term viability of our planet.” 0



Arts Walk & Procession



The Tigers of Samba Olywa

By CHRISTIAN CARVAJAL



PHOTO BY LAURA KILLIAN

Samba Olywa represented sea stars in 2015; the group will be tigers in 2017.

Samba dancing began as semba in Angola, then evolved into its modern form in early-20th-century Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Olympia's resident samba troupe, Samba Olywa, united to dance in Procession of the Species 1995. Now it performs several times a year under the direction of a seven-member steering committee. Its procession theme each year is chosen by a vote of the full membership. In 2017, notes member Juli Kelen, "tigers won by a whisker." Costume chair Carol Riley got right to work overseeing the construction of papier-mâché heads, painted garments and fabric ears.

"We will be in the element of earth," says Kelen, "and that usually means we focus our creative energies on one of the large land mammals... So far, we haven't taken on earthworms, but who knows?" All five or six tiger subspecies are currently endangered, and two or three subspecies went extinct over just the last century. There are only about 3,000 tigers alive in the wild, as they're hunted for their meat and pelts in addition to organs used in folk remedies. Tiger habitats are threatened by deforestation. Kelen hopes Samba Olywa's performance "will inspire people to think about how they spend money, what they eat and how they vote." She adds, "We all have a part to play." 0



Arts Walk &

Writing in the Rain With Olympia's Poet Laureate

By CHRISTINA BUTCHER

Olympia's first poet laureate, Amy Solomon-Minarchi, selected the short poems "painted" onto city sidewalks during Arts Walk. These poems come to life in the rain; the water-resistant coating makes them visible when wet. "Part of our Olympia and Northwest culture is embracing the rain and being active within it," she said. Originally from New Jersey, Solomon-Minarchi moved to Olympia in 2008. She teaches English and creative writing at North Thurston High School and has 15 years of writing experience. She was appointed to the poet laureate position in November 2016.



During her two-year appointment, Solomon-Minarchi plans to create original poetry and an anthology, host public workshops, promote poetry as an art form and expand access to literary arts in the community. "I hope to encourage people to draw the writer within them out that they didn't even know was there," she said. "I hope to celebrate and honor the active poetry groups, poets and writing mentors who make Olympia a rich seat for literary arts." She'll also lead an Arts Walk poetry workshop called "Writing to Art." "Poetry abounds in Olympia," she said. "I hope to bring visibility to it in subtle and meaningful endeavors...by encouraging the writing communities to share in the vibrant connections that we can make when we imagine together." 0

WHAT

Writing in the Rain

WHERE

Downtown sidewalks, Olympia

WHEN

5-10 p.m. Friday, April 28;

Noon - 8 p.m. Saturday, April 29

HOW MUCH

Free

LEARN MORE

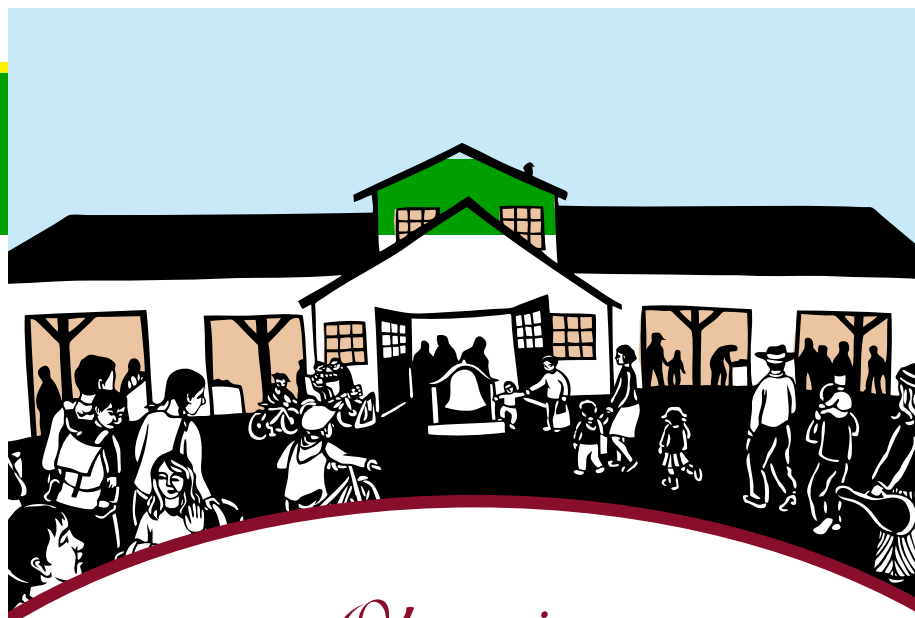
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Procession



Pride of Madison Elementary

By CHRISTIAN CARVAJAL



According to the *Daily Mail*, there were over 200,000 wild lions in Africa three decades ago. Now there are a tenth of that number, with only five viable populations remaining on the vast continent. That's why Madison Elementary is coming to the rescue. "Lion cubs are our mascot," says the Madison Parent Teacher Organization's Rachel McKaughan, "so we wanted to show our 'pride.'" Students and faculty have adopted the Procession's papier-mâché lion puppet, which they'll be given the honor of naming after a student contest. They're also crafting masks from paper plates as well as musical walking sticks and cardboard flying puppets to represent African birds. Student art in support of the Procession will be displayed at the school talent show, which happens to be the same week as the Procession.

The pride of Madison lions relies on the alpha leadership of support specialist Leslie Gowell and principal Domenico Spatola Knoll. McKaughan says Madison Elementary, located downtown on Legion Way near the parade route, feels a special kinship with the Procession of the Species. "We have a passion for the arts," she says, and for "creativity, the natural world and being involved in Olympia's local scene." 0

VISIT OLYARTS.COM/ARTSWALK FOR PROFILES OF OTHER ARTISTS FEATURED IN THE PROCESSION OF THE SPECIES.



Pigs on the Wing Take Flight

By ADAM MCKINNEY

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360-748-9593

The *Wall*, a flamboyant, nearly 90-minute concept album, is a towering monument of self-indulgence—whether or not that’s a bad thing. It’s a textbook example of a band given free rein to follow every tangential whim and conceptual side street, but the resulting record is chock-full of exhilarating discursions. Pink Floyd tribute band Pigs on the Wing will perform *The Wall* in its entirety during a number of upcoming tour dates, one of which is May 20 at Rhythm & Rye. Comprising guitarists Jason Baker and David Lindenbaum, drummer Bryan Fairfield, saxophonist Pete Galluzzo, keyboardist Matt Jones, vocalist Keeley St. Clair and bassist Eric Welder, Pigs on the Wing strives to bring the boys of Pink Floyd, of which two members are now deceased, back home.

Pigs on the Wing borrows its name from the bookending songs of Pink Floyd’s *Animals*. In general, tribute bands get a bad rap, but a great tribute band is like a great impressionist: When it works, it’s like seeing the real thing, maybe better. A tribute band isn’t plagued with the boozing and fame complexes from which the people they’re imitating may suffer.

Capturing what made Pink Floyd iconic is a hard thing to do, and Pigs on the Wing come as close as anyone we’ve heard. That looming mystique, that inscrutable grandiosity, that ability to lick the tender parts of our brains and get us really thinking—Those qualities are alive and well with Pigs on the Wing.

WHAT
Pigs on the Wing

WHERE
Rhythm & Rye,
311 Capitol Way N, Olympia

WHEN
8 p.m. Thursday - Saturday,
2 p.m. Sunday, May 4-27

HOW MUCH
\$12

LEARN MORE
360-705-0760
pig-wing.com

24

Joe Hedges: Empirical Evidence

By ALEC CLAYTON

Coming next to The Gallery at South Puget Sound Community College is an exhibition of digital prints, sculptural objects, paintings and installations with sound components by Joe Hedges, assistant professor of painting and intermedia at Washington State University. Gallery director Nathan Barnes says he doesn't yet know which of Hedges's pieces will be included in the show, but he describes the artist's work overall as small objects and installations combined with digital prints and paintings. For example, Barnes says, "The work 'Connect Electrodes' emits a robotic voice repeating, 'Connect electrodes,' as a defibrillator refuses to accept tree bark as human flesh."

The exhibition might include the use of objects collected from the environment "to create a conceptual installation," says Barnes, "but presented alongside paintings and photographs that I hope and believe demonstrate some measure of technical skill. These works are united in exploring themes such as the effects of technology, scientific instrumentation, the intersection of digital and physical media (and) the presence of the human hand throughout history." Barnes expresses the hope that the exhibition will "spark a way for students and gallery-goers to consider ways that intermedia approaches to contemporary art can posit questions about art-making and contemporary culture."

Hedges says, "My recent digital prints, oil paintings, sculptures and installations are created by scavenging for discarded objects—the handles of hair dryers, plastic toys, frayed wires, rocks and plant parts, empty containers—and rearranging them into new configurations. These decommissioned objects are thus re-imbued with a new sense of fantastic function and meaning, as artworks that ask the viewer to consider how our tools and materials shape the world at large." 0

WHAT

Joe Hedges: Empirical Evidence

WHERE

The Gallery at Kenneth J Minnaert Center for the Arts,
South Puget Sound Community College,
2011 Mottman Rd. SW, Olympia

WHEN

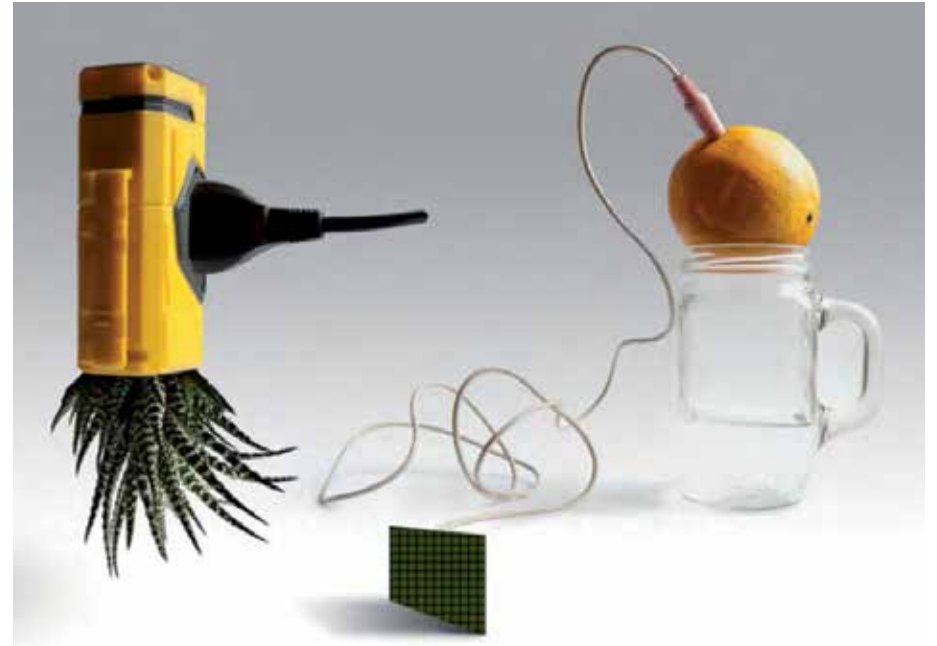
Noon - 4 p.m. weekdays, April 17 - May 12,
Opening reception 6 p.m. Monday, April 17

HOW MUCH

Free

LEARN MORE

360-596-5527
spsc.edu/gallery





Girls Night Out

In Historical Downtown Olympia

Friday, May 12 & Saturday, May 13

Shop & Dine from 10 till 9!





Goodie Bags go on sale for \$20 April 28th. Locations will be announced later.

Contact the Olympia Downtown Association for more information:
360-357-8948 or www.downtownolympia.com

Corinna Luyken at Captain Little

By KELLI SAMSON

Most kids love to draw. The difference between artists like Corinna Luyken and many of us is she never stopped when she grew up. Luyken's first book, *The Book of Mistakes*, was inspired by her young daughter crumpling her own artwork for the first time, declaring its imperfection. Luyken found herself awake at 3 a.m. stewing. By sunrise, she had the first half of her story. "I am so much more efficient with my artistic time now that I'm a parent," she laughs. The self-taught author and illustrator credits Olympia's Nikki McClure as inspiration. She'll have signed copies of her book (which comes out April 18) available for purchase at Captain Little during Arts Walk, along with corresponding activity pages and temporary tattoos. For readings of her book, check out her event at Browsers Books at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 22 and her story time at Captain Little on May 2. 0

WHAT

Corinna Luyken

WHERE

Captain Little,
121 Fifth Ave. E, Olympia

WHEN

5-10 p.m. Friday, April 28;
Noon – 8 p.m. Saturday, April 29

HOW MUCH

Free

LEARN MORE

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captainlittle.com



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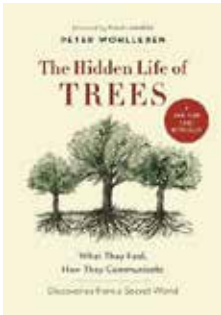


Spring Nature Book Selections

By ANDREA Y. GRIFFITH

THE HIDDEN LIFE OF TREES

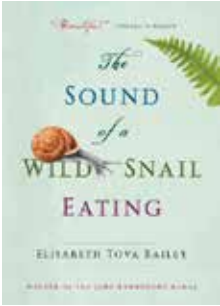
Peter Wohlleben



A fascinating look at how trees are connected and communicate in social networks. After reading this, you will never walk through the woods again

without a sense of wonder. An Olympia bestseller!

SOUND OF A WILD SNAIL EATING

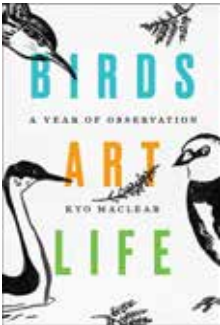


Elisabeth Tova Bailey
Another deep dive into a specific species, this time the common woodland snail. An engaging look

at an often-overlooked animal, Bailey is a careful and amusing observer.

BIRDS ART LIFE

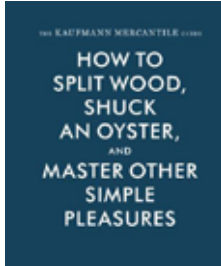
Kyo Maclear



Feeling overwhelmed by responsibility, MacClear spends a year observing birds in her city. Through the practice of birding, she

reconnects to her life and her creative self.

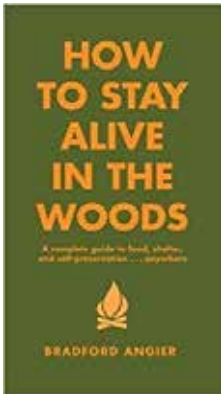
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HOW TO STAY ALIVE IN THE WOODS



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DIG, SHUCK, SHAKE

John Nelson

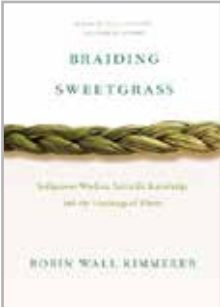


That is: Dig a clam, shuck an oyster and shake a crab. Delicious recipes for summer in the Pacific

Northwest from the former executive chef of the Cascade Culinary Institute.

BRAIDING SWEETGRASS

Robin Wall Kimmerer



Kimmerer weaves together her experiences as a botanist and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation to show that plants and

animals are our oldest teachers.

THE STRANGER IN THE WOODS

Michael Finkel



Rejecting the modern world and seeking solitude, Christopher Knight spent 27 years in extreme conditions in the Maine wilderness,

stealing on a small scale to survive.

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.

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Garrison Keillor: Our Prairie Home Companion

By OLY ARTS STAFF

“Well, it's been a quiet week in Lake Wobegon, Minnesota...” With those familiar words, listeners to *A Prairie Home Companion* on National Public Radio have delighted for decades to the small-town shenanigans related by master writer and storyteller Garrison Keillor. Keillor hosted the show from 1974, when it was first performed before live audiences in Saint Paul, Minnesota, to Keillor's ostensible retirement from radio last year. Keillor's last episode of the show was broadcast from the Hollywood Bowl and earned a congratulatory phone call from President Obama. It began as drive-time installments for Minnesota Educational Radio, recorded at St. John's University in the aptly named town of Collegeville.

Chris Thile has hosted the show since October 2016. Meanwhile, 74-year-old Keillor has hit the road for a tour of readings and lecture appearances. His work is a kind of standup comedy for moderate, mellow people, good Episcopalian and Lutheran Democrats like Keillor himself. Among the pieces his smoky whisper of a voice have delivered on tour are an elegant parody of Poe's "The Raven," in which the titular bird quoth ominously, "Donald Trump." And of course Keillor will provide an update from Lake Wobegon, where, famously, "all the women are strong, all the men are good-looking and all the children are above average."

Keillor says Lake Wobegon is entirely fictional, devised, he says, because "people want stories to be true." He imagines it located somewhere around Stearns County in central Minnesota—and lo and behold, a search of Google Earth finds a "Lake Wobegon Trail" in just that location. (Apparently, fact paid tribute to fiction.) The town's evocative name originated, or so Keillor alleges, as a Native American phrase that means "the place where we waited all day in the rain." As longtime Keillor fans know, if one had to wait all day in the rain somewhere, one could do a whole lot worse. 0

WHAT

An Evening With Garrison Keillor

WHERE

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

WHEN

7 :30 p.m. Monday, April 10

HOW MUCH

\$36-\$81

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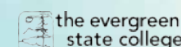
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Celebrating the Dead (Poets)

By CHRISTINA BUTCHER

Once a month, the lights at Traditions Café dim and the noise of a room packed with poets and novelists dies down to a hushed whisper. The crowd anxiously awaits one of Thurston County's highest-regarded and longest-standing literary events: the Olympia Poetry Network's monthly reading and open-mic session. This spring, OPN continues its legacy as the premiere, local, literary organization with its annual Dead Poets Reading.

The Dead Poets Reading is partly a celebration of National Poetry Month in April, partly a continuation of OPN's monthly reading series, which is held every third Wednesday. In an interview with **OLY ARTS**, OPN publicity chair Joanne Clarkson and treasurer Bill Yake explained how the Dead Poets Reading has evolved over time. "It sort of accumulated traditions as we went along," said Yake.

Board members choose a dead poet each year, then dress up in and channel that poet's likeness in an onstage performance and reading. "It's my favorite event of the year!" said Clarkson.

In addition to the Dead Poets Reading, OPN offers poetry workshops, seasonal readings, open-mic events and featured-reader performances throughout the year. The group has become a part of local, living history in Olympia after working to spread appreciation of poetry and literary awareness throughout the South Sound for the past 27 years. Clarkson elaborated on how OPN has impacted, not only the local arts community, but herself as well: "I have grown so much because of my participation in OPN...I have gotten insights into all the ways one can be a poet. Each month, my belief that poetry matters is restored, renewed and strengthened. I am glad I can work to keep it going and growing."

OPN was established in 1991 and has a reputation for pulling in award-winning authors from across the Pacific Northwest, including Christianne Balk, Peter Ludwin and Washington state poet laureates Elizabeth Austen and Tod Marshall. When asked about the relevance of poetry today and the importance of arts funding, Clarkson was quick to champion her craft. "In this climate," she said, "we have to stand up for ourselves. More and more we have to stand up for ourselves and what we do, and say, 'This is vitally important.'" 0

WHAT

Dead Poets Reading

WHERE

Traditions Café and World Folk Art,
300 Fifth Ave. SW, Olympia

WHEN

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 19

HOW MUCH

Free

LEARN MORE

360-705-2819
yake325.wixsite.com/
olympiapoetrynetwork

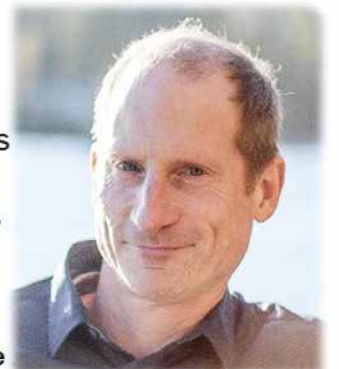


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Saint Martin's Creative Writing Institute

By NED HAYES

Fiction writers will spread their creative wings at the Summer Creative Writing Institute at Saint Martin's University this summer. If you apply before April 29, you could be one of only 15 writers who are chosen as participants.

The second-annual Summer Writing Institute takes place at Saint Martin's University from June 4 to 10. For one week, this select community of authors write, study and support one another as they cultivate their own creativity. Acclaimed Olympia novelist Jim Lynch will be their muse and guide. Three of Lynch's bestselling novels have been set in western Washington, including *Before the Wind*, *The Highest Tide* and *Truth Like the Sun*. During the Writing Institute, Lynch will share his experience as a storyteller as well as his knowledge of the writing business.

"We are delighted to have Jim back for 2017's summer institute," says Olivia Archibald, institute director. Other participants in the institute will include four guest writers as well as renowned playwright Bryan Willis, who'll lead an afternoon workshop on the craft of playwriting. "In focusing on Pacific Northwest writers, we are realizing the tremendous wealth of authors we have in this part of the country," Archibald says. 0



PHOTO BY PETER TRAUX
Author Jim Lynch with a member of the 2016 institute.

WHAT

Apply for Summer Creative Writing Institute (June 4-10)

WHEN

Deadline of April 29, 2017

HOW MUCH

\$990-\$1,145

LEARN MORE

360.438.4564

CAS@stmartin.edu

stmartin.edu/writinginstitute

Fine French Cuisine at La Petite Maison

By JENNIFER CRAIN

In a little house on Olympia's west side, Justin Wells creates cassoulet, chateaubriand and morel tarts while Zoe Wells welcomes diners looking to celebrate an anniversary or enjoy a solo meal over a glass of Beaujolais. La Petite Maison, which the couple started six years ago, has received praise around the region for its elegant French cuisine, warm atmosphere and extensive wine collection.

"French food and wine has always been the king to me. It's something I've always been passionate about," says Justin, the restaurant's sole chef. Olympia patrons have embraced his approach. Some regulars come back for standing items on the menu, such as duck confit and crispy pork belly. But many opt for the restaurant's five-course, prix fixe seasonal tasting menu, which shifts daily and is offered on its own or with optional wine pairings. "Food and wine pairing is really at the forefront," Justin says. "People are excited about it."

Justin's dedication to French cuisine is rooted in his love of French wines. After more than 15 years of tasting and study, he's developed a refined palate and a solid reputation. Last fall, he attended the World Wine Symposium in Milan, an invitation-only gathering of industry experts from around the world. "Our entire wine list is collected and curated by Justin," Zoe says. "We have a three-page wine list and huge cellar. Our wine list rotates just as often as our food menu."



The Wellses are as discriminating about ambience as they are about their food and wine. Before opening the restaurant—and reviving both the French theme and the name of the original 1977 space—they restored much of the house's 1903 charm to create a luxurious, leisurely experience for guests. "If you're in the restaurant," Justin says, "you're in our home." Guests are also walking into the couple's personal history. Portofino, the previous restaurant, was the site of the couple's first date as well as their wedding. Perhaps that's why every detail, every dish, feels so personal.

Guests can learn more about wines and connect with Justin and Zoe every third Saturday at their retail wine tastings. 0

WHAT

La Petite Maison

WHERE

101 Division St. NW, Olympia

WHEN

5:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays – Saturdays;
Wine tasting 2-4 p.m. third Saturdays;
By reservation

HOW MUCH

Hors d'oeuvres \$8-\$21, sides \$8-\$24,
entrees \$27-\$115;
Wine tasting \$20

LEARN MORE

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Oly Appetizer: New Locavore Podcast Launches

In March, **OLY ARTS** launched a new food-and-drink-oriented podcast series hosted by local food writers Jennifer Crain and Kelli Samson. The series, *Oly Appetizer*, has already received remarkable interest from the chef-and-restaurant community in the South Sound. Listeners have made this Monday morning podcast the leading podcast in **OLY ARTS**'s stable of daily podcasts on the South Sound artistic and cultural scene.

South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC) is regionally known for a leading vocational program in the culinary arts and pastry creation. *Oly Appetizer* launched with a sponsorship by SPSCC's new brewing and distillery program that launches in fall 2017. "The culinary arts and pastry programs at SPSCC play an important role in our community's food culture," says Crain. "We feel so lucky that their new brewing and distilling program is our launch partner for this podcast. We're very excited!"

Crain and Samson kicked off with a show about such local cocktail haunts as Dillinger's and Swing, did an on-site interview at Chelsea Farms Oyster Bar for their second show, and followed up with interviews at The Mark and with the Cordon Bleu-trained founder of Left Bank Pastry, Gary Potter. Coming in April are new interviews with the leader of Browsers Cookbook Club, a round-up of local breakfasts, an overview of the local chocolate scene with chocolate entrepreneur Encore Chocolates and an interview with Michael Elvin, owner of Bar Francis.

Our hosts come to *Oly Appetizer* with strong credentials in writing about local food. Crain has been a contributor to *Edible Seattle*, where she's written about indigenous fishers, mushroom farming and organic cranberry production. Samson is a food blogger who regularly covers the food scene for local publications. "We are always on the hunt for the next new, local food to try," says Samson. "This show is so exciting. I never know what we're going to taste next!"

When Crain and Samson aren't on site at a restaurant, *Oly Appetizer* records in the historic Jeffers Studio building in the heart of downtown Olympia, courtesy of show partners Harlequin Productions and Whitney Design. *Oly Appetizer* joins four other **OLY ARTS** podcast shows: *Story Oly* on Tuesdays, *Oly Amplifier* on Wednesdays, *Sound Stages* on Thursdays and *Oly Update* on Fridays. You can listen to an **OLY ARTS** podcast every day of the workweek. 0

WHAT

Oly Appetizer

WHERE

OlyArts.com/olyappetizer

WHEN

Every Monday morning

HOW MUCH

Free



OLY ARTS writer and podcaster Jennifer Crain



OLY ARTS writer and podcaster Kelli Samson

Norway Day in Lacey

By JONAH BARRETT

Jippi! Norway Day returns to Thurston County, going strong in its 11th year. Guests are encouraged to attend the annual festival to experience Nordic culture, kindly hosted by the Sons of Norway and Daughters of Norway. "We just love putting on Norway Day, and we hope the public loves us, too, because they keep coming!" said Joanne Gray, president of the Sons of Norway. The event first began 11 years ago as a public-outreach event. Initial Norway Days took quite an effort to coordinate. "We didn't know how many people to expect," said Gray, "so we didn't really know how much food to prepare. We didn't know how well we would be received."

In their second year after moving to the Thurston County Fairgrounds, the Sons and Daughters ran into April snow, which required dragging an entire Viking ship (replica) through the freezing spring weather. Now vendors and entertainers come to the Sons and Daughters instead of vice versa, and the organizations have established procedures for setting up the event. Entertainers this year include Jane and Jeff Johnson on the accordion and fiddle, Toby Hanson on the accordion and Leikarring dancers. The festival features Viking re-enactors walking around the fairgrounds to mingle with the crowds. Among the crowds will also be a mischievous troll. Guests can look forward to purchasing such Nordic goods as rosemaling, woodcarvings, knit sweaters and, of course, baked Nordic delicacies—like julekake (Christmas bread), krumkake (waffle cookies), sandbakkels (sugar cookies) and a "meatball sundae"—from the famous bake sale. "We have a unique menu," said Gray. "It's not hamburgers and hot dogs." Be sure to get there early, as the lines for food get long, with Gray reporting a customer one year told her: "We would wait all day, the food is so good." 0



WHAT

Norway Day

WHERE

Thurston County Fairgrounds,
3054 Carpenter Rd. SE, Lacey

WHEN

10 a.m. Saturday, April 15

HOW MUCH

Free - \$12

LEARN MORE

360-923-1242
olympianorwayday.com

Pure Entertainment at the Lacey Spring Fun Fair

By CHRISTINA BUTCHER

Each year, Lacey residents ready themselves for a weekend jam-packed with every form of entertainment imaginable. Food, crafts, live music, giveaways, local vendors, car shows, you name it: The Lacey Spring Fun Fair brings it all to Saint Martin's University every year. The intent is to strengthen community pride and identity while providing free, family-friendly entertainment to the South Sound. "I hope everybody gains an appreciation for their community," said Jeannette Sieler, the recreation supervisor for Lacey Parks & Recreation. "I hope they have a chance to come out and have fun and meet people who live near them, (who) they can get to know in a fun way while seeing what Lacey has to offer."

This May will mark the Fun Fair's 30th anniversary. The milestone will be commemorated with pony rides, circus trains, ballistic swings, a "Jurassic adventure" playground and over 30 crafts, games and giveaway booths, all provided free to the public. Over 75 vendors will sell crafts and food. Sieler elaborated on what makes this year's fair different from the last: "We're holding a lip-sync contest, which I think is going to be a lot of fun. Folks can come out and take the stage. They can show us what they've got!"

With records of over 17,000 people in attendance in just one weekend, the festival is one of the largest in the state. It's sponsored by the City of Lacey, Lacey Community Events and Saint Martin's University, and each year continues to have a resounding impact on local communities. "I'm really excited about the caliber of events we're able to offer this year thanks to our great sponsors," Sieler told **OLY ARTS**. "We have a great lineup of free entertainment. We have two stages going all weekend long with different performers from Olympia and beyond."

For the last 10 years, Sieler has been a part of the fair's planning committee. She and 11 other individuals, most of whom are volunteers, spend an entire year coordinating and preparing for the festival. "They really give of themselves in order to make this a free event for the community," Sieler said. "I go home feeling really excited to have been able to give the community this great experience." 0



WHAT

Lacey Spring Fun Fair

WHERE

Saint Martin's University,
5300 Pacific Ave. SE, Lacey

WHEN

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday, May 6
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday, May 7

HOW MUCH

Free

LEARN MORE

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Lauren Fox: The Songs of Joni Mitchell & Leonard Cohen MAY 5 / Friday, 7:30 PM

The affair of Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen in the late 1960s only lasted a few months, but its resonance in the songs of these two iconic singer-songwriters is far-reaching. This intimate, dramatic, and sultry show is performed to perfection by the hottest star on New York City's cabaret scene today.

Lauren Fox has been called "Brilliant," "Spell-binding," "Remarkable," and "Enthralling." She is an award-winning cabaret performer, recognized for her ability "to mesmerize an audience with her very presence and total command of her repertoire."

Never have I been so moved by the weaving of two great artists that come together as one; brought to life and shared by the beautiful voice and artistry of Lauren Fox, who not only shows us the gifts of their music but brings a new, fresh take on them, sheds new light, and is truly a worthy keeper of the flame.

-John Shanks, Grammy winner, Producer of the Year

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An Evening with Garrison Keillor APR 10 / Monday, 7:30 PM

Sponsors: Law Offices of Harold D. Carr, Northwest Public Radio, Sustainable South Sound, Virgil Adams Real Estate, Washington Military Resource Media



Under the Streetlamp APR 14 / Friday, 7:30 PM

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The Center Salon May 13 / Saturday, 7:30 PM



Black Box Jazz Aaron and Ninee Wolff MAY 12 / Friday, 8:00 PM

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