ISSUE N°09 | HOLIDAY 2017

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

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Songs & Celebration

Hum along with Kenny G, Miró Quartet, Messiah Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Lyle Lovett. MIRTH! **16-19**

The Nutcracker

A guide to Balanchine's classic Nutcracker on two stages.

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Escape the holiday rush by buying local, handmade wares.

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Theater

The magic of stagecraft in Stardust, A Christmas Carol, Winnie the Pooh & Golden Pond.

COMING SOON TO THE MINNAERT CENTER STAGE STUDIO WEST DANCE THEATRE

At the Beautiful Kenneth J. Minnaert Center for the Arts
FEATURING GUEST ARTIST JOSHUA GRANT OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET
TICKETS 360-753-8586 www.washingtoncenter.org

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Stardust Christmas Fandago

On Golden Pond

Communicating Doors

A Christmas Carol



Film

Winter Film Lineup



OLY ARTS ISSUE No.9, HOLIDAY EDITION

NOVEMBER-JANUARY 2017

COVER PHOTO: COURTESY OF STUDIO WEST DANCE ACADEMY

OLY ARTS

The Leading Guide to Arts and Culture in the South Sound

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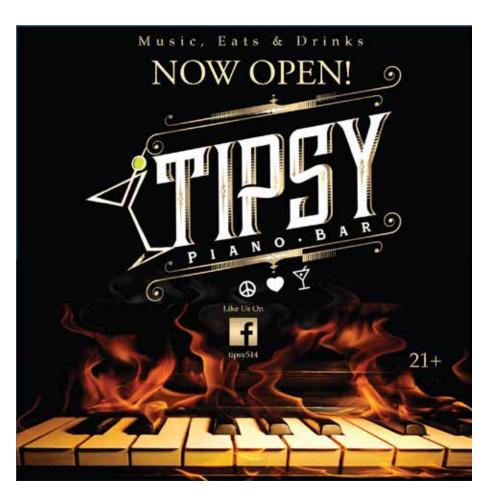
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Kenny G Headlines the Washington Center By KAREN LUNDE

enny G will ring in a joyful holiday season at The Washington Center for the Performing Arts on November 29 at 7:30 p.m. The jazz saxophonist, a Washington native, graduated magna cum laude from the University of Washington in Seattle. His 1994 Miracles: The Holiday Album, ranks among the most successful holiday albums ever with over 8 million copies sold. His thirty-year recording career has earned him recognition as the best-selling instrumental musician of the modern era.

The Washington Center's executive director, Jill Barnes, talked about scheduling the Kenny G concert at the Center. "It was March, so I wasn't really thinking about Christmas," she said. "I decided to give the album a listen, and, when I popped it in, all of the feelings of the holidays were immediate. It embodies everything we love about the season."

Barnes explained that the Kenny G performance has become the Center's biggest-selling show of the season. "People know the music and have memories associated with it," she said. "They're excited to come and see the show, and we're excited to bring it to them." The concert will include both holiday music and some of Kenny G's familiar hits.

The Washington Center has plenty of holiday offerings to choose from. The festivities kick off with the family-friendly *Sing-Along Annie*, hosted by local actress Lauren O'Neill, on November 26. They continue with Masterworks Choral Ensemble's *Season of Light: A Christmas Celebration*, followed by multiple performances of *The Nutcracker* on two different stages—Ballet Northwest's at The Washington Center Main Stage and Studio West Dance Theatre's at the Kenneth J. Minnaert Center Main Stage. The holiday events wrap up on December 18 with the *Community Messiah Sing-Along*, presented by the Center and Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia. Information and tickets for all holiday events are available through the Washington Center box office. 0

WHAT

Kenny G: Miracles, Holiday & Hits Tour 2017

WHERE

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

WHEN

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29

HOW MUCH

\$67-\$117

LEARN MORE

360-753-8586 washingtoncenter.org/event/ken-ny-g17-11-29/



MUSIC OlyArts.com



SOGO HoHo Holiday Variety Show

By JONAH BARRETT

The holidays kick off with a roar at the 2017 Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia (SOGO) holiday show, which will be a variety show filled with holiday cheer designed to delight and enthrall attendees of all ages. The performing SOGO group consists of a student brass choir with approximately 20 students from a variety of different schools and four teaching artists.

"When you think about it, whenever you hear a brass group playing, it sounds like Christmas. That's the sound of the holidays for a lot of people," said conductor Greg Allison. "The holiday show is one of the kids' favorite events to put on because it's so different than usual concerts." Audiences can expect a mixture of familiar holiday tunes and nontraditional songs presented in one sitting.

The show also features vocals by Megan Wakefield, arrangements by Mark Thome and a special reading of *The Night Before Christmas* by mayor Cheryl Selby. The event traditionally ends in a sing-along, with audience participation strongly encouraged.

When asked to speak to the challenges of creating such a show, Allison shared, "The hardest thing about this show is trying to make sure that it's workable for the students, because they're brass players - they can't play all the time. They'll just wear out. It's all those details, putting them all together and finding appropriate music."

Nevertheless, the challenges pay off in the end. Now in its 17th year, the community-building event has created a beloved family tradition for the people of Olympia, with multi-generational families coming back for the performances year after year to create visceral holiday memories.

"Things from this program are different than just being on a stage playing classical music. The uniqueness of the event is what I think the students remember and look forward to," Allison said. "You'll miss it if you miss it!" []

WHAT

SoGo HoHo Holiday Variety Show

WHERE

Westminster Presbyterian Church 1925 Boulevard Rd SE, Olympia, WA 98501 **WHEN**

Dec 2, 2:00 p.m.

HOW MUCH

\$5-\$25



The Masterworks Choral Ensemble will brighten the Washington Center Main Stage with an annual holiday concert, this year entitled Season of Light: A Christmas Celebration. The concert will include familiar carols, medleys and audience sing-alongs. This year's performance will include familiar carols (some with new arrangements), medleys and four audience sing-alongs. The choir will even keep up with the digital times with a fun novelty song, I Want to Stare at My Phone With You.

Angi Swan returns to accompany the choir on piano. Swan, a K-5 music teacher, will bring her Olympic View Elementary fifth grade choir, the Soaring Eagle Singers, to perform with the Masterworks Choral Ensemble (MCE). Suad Maya Dirar, an eighth grade student at Aspire Middle School for the Performing Arts, will perform on violin. Dirar is the winner of Masterworks' 2017 Youth Music Competition at the middle school level.

Gary Witley, MCE's artistic director and conductor, described the holiday music concertgoers will enjoy as a blend from different religions and cultures. "December is the darkest month of the year," he said, "and all the seasonal celebrations that happen at this time of year use candles, and the returning of the light, as symbolism." The concert will include seasonal tunes, both sacred and secular, honoring the winter solstice, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. Witley described the event as a "fun family holiday evening."

Witley is a founding member of Masterworks Choral Ensemble. The choir formed in 1981 and is currently in its 37th season. Each season, Masterworks performs four one-night concerts in October, December, April and June at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts. They also produce and host the Harmony Sweep-stakes—the northwest regional segment of a rolicking nationwide a capella competition—every March. MCE is about seventy voices strong and welcomes prospective new members twice per year by audition. ①

WHAT

Season of Light: A Christmas Celebration

WHERE

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

WHEN

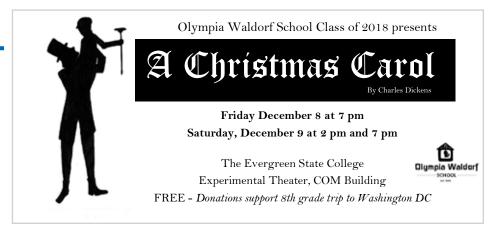
7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2

HOW MUCH

\$10-\$22

LEARN MORE

360-753-8586



Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen: an Evening of Songs and Stories

By KAREN LUNDE



wo accomplished musicians, their acoustic guitars, and some frontporch tales—that's what audiences can expect during *An Evening* with Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen on The Washington Center Main Stage.

Lovett and Keen, both singer-songwriters with impressive discographies spanning decades, will provide an evening of down-home songs and tales. "There will be no band," said Jill Barnes, executive director of The Washington Center. "These two are old friends—they met in college in the '70s. On stage, they tell stories about each other and about the songs they sing. They talk about living life as creative people." Lovett and Keen met when they were both attending Texas A&M and bonded on the front porch of Keen's college residence.

Lovett — a singer, composer and actor — has been on the music scene since the early '80s. His music spans genres from Americana to jazz to gospel and blues. The Texas-based musician has earned four GRAM-MY awards, including Best Male Country Vocal Performance and Best Country Album, as well as the Americana Music Association's inaugural Trailblazer Award. His 2007 album, *It's Not Big It's Large*, debuted and peaked at number two on the Top Country Albums chart.

Singer-songwriter Robert Earl Keen, a Houston native, released his self-produced debut album, *No Kinda Dancer*, in 1984. Since then, he's released eighteen albums with both indie and major record labels. His songs have been covered by artists including George Strait, The Highwaymen, Nanci Griffith and the Dixie Chicks. He was inducted into the Texas Heritage Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2012 along with Lovett and the late Townes Van Zandt. Keen continues to write and record. He's performed thousands of shows in theaters, dance halls, roadhouses and festival grounds around the United States over his three-decade career.

WHAT

An Evening with Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen

WHERE

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

WHEN

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27

HOW MUCH

\$69-\$107

LEARN MORE

360-753-8586

The Miró Quartet Returns to the **Pacific Northwest**

By MOLLY GILMORE

The Miró Quartet, playing December 9 in Olympia, began as a way for four Oberlin Conservatory of Music students to fill a chamber-music requirement. "We had no intention of pursuing it for a career together," cellist Joshua Gindele said. Twenty-three years later, the quartet — named for Spanish surrealist Joan Miró — is touring the world, winning such awards as the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant and serving as faculty string quartet in residence at the University of Texas at Austin.

"The Miró Quartet, one of today's leading American quartets, has been among my favorite groups in existence for a number of years now," said Kristin Lee, artistic director of Emerald City Music, which is producing the concert. "Their playing is full of passion and conviction and is extremely engaging."

For their Olympia concert, the men of Miró have chosen a varied program: Haydn's String Quartet in E-flat Major, op. 71, no. 3; Kevin Puts' minimalist 2007 Credo, written for Miró with an intention to depict the lighter side of America at a time of war; and Schumann's String Quartet no. 1 in A Minor, op. 41. "That's not a piece that gets played all that often," Gindele said of the Schumann. "It's impactful and exciting and beautiful and charming. It's a nice little romp for a last movement."

The Northwest is a favorite spot for Gindele and his colleagues. They spend a few weeks a year in Seattle, recording all of their albums there, and the musicians made a Twitter video for Emerald City Music discussing the city's culinary highlights (https://twitter.com/EmeraldCtyMusic/status/928419241954390016). First violinist Daniel Ching likes The Metropolitan Grill's Hokkaido Snow Beef, a premium meat rarely found in the U.S., while violist John Largess favors raw oysters at The Walrus & the Carpenter. Now, they're looking forward to tasting what Olympia has to offer.

WHAT

Miró Quartet

WHERE

The Evergreen State College Recital Hall, 2700 Evergreen Pkwy. NW, Olympia

WHEN

7:30 p.m. Dec. 9

HOW MUCH

\$10-\$43

LEARN MORE

emeraldcitymusic.org





Gingerbread Houses · Live Entertainment Trolley Rides · Photos with Santa Parade at 3pm · Tree Lighting Ceremony at 4pm

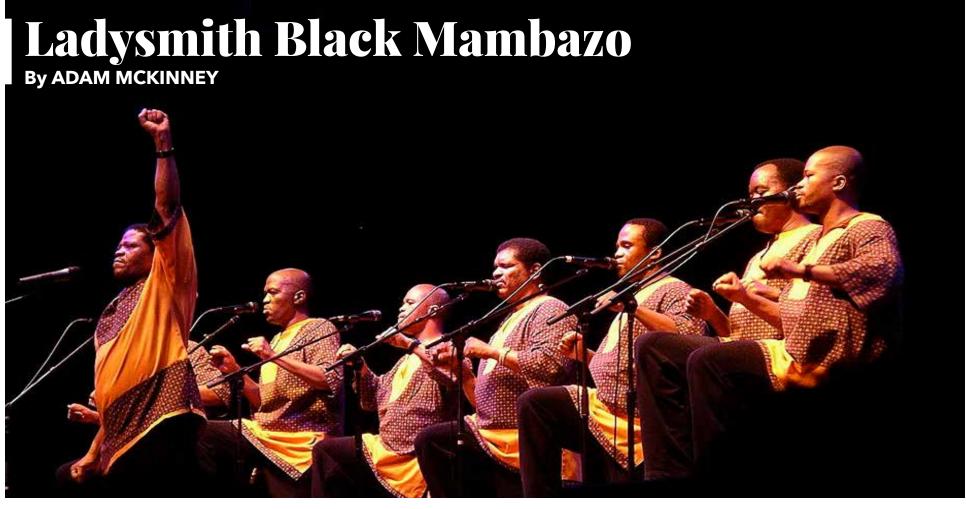
Visit downtown shops as U they compete for the best storefront holiday display. Vote for your favorite at olytwinklefest.net and enter to win prizes!



Jlympia For complete schedule of Kick-Off events: DowntownOlympia.com · 360.357.8948







here aren't many popular musical institutions more respected or longer lasting than Ladysmith Black Mambazo. They'd already been around for over 20 years before they found an international audience through their contributions to Paul Simon's genre-mixing masterpiece *Graceland*, and they've continued to amass gold and platinum albums since. Their ongoing success in the United States remains something of a novelty in a market where releases from European and Latin countries are still far more likely to find traction with American audiences.

The South African choral group is dedicated to upholding artistic traditions as well as educating audiences that may not be so familiar with styles like isicathamiya and mbube. They are also not afraid to expand their sound in unexpected ways. With dozens of releases over the course of their career, Ladysmith Black Mambazo continue to find new ways of drawing listeners in with a graceful and light-hearted tone, which they'll be bringing to the Washington Center in January.

"In this show, we're expecting them to sing many songs from their newest album, *Walking In The Footsteps of Our Fathers*, which was GRAMMY nominated for Best World Music Album of 2016," said Washington Center executive director Jill Barnes. "We are excited to be hosting them again and to continue to present a wide variety of entertainment and cultural activities to our community."

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WHAT

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

WHERE

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

WHEN

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17

HOW MUCH

\$32-\$54

LEARN MORE 360-753-8586 washingtoncenter.org

The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed – Messiah Sing-Along

By ADAM MCKINNEY



s the winter months descend on the world, the cold and darkness is met with a combination of reverie and revelry. Nights get quieter, and the solitude is countered with companionship and sacred celebration.

A singular holiday celebration is the annual singing of Handel's Messiah, an oratorio from the mid-18th century. Messiah's enduring popularity can be credited to its timeless beauty. Utilizing orchestra and choir, the piece excels at capturing the combination of joy and solemnity that defines winter, bouncing from pomp to somber reflection and back again.

While its libretto comes from a combination of the King James Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, Messiah can be enjoyed by nonbelievers as well as those of the Christian faith. Its three-act depiction of the life and death of Jesus may resonate more with those versed in the story, but it remains a moving staple for more than its religious imagery. Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia will stage Messiah at The Washington Center for the Performing Arts. In a special twist on the classic oratorio, this production of Messiah is billed as an annual sing-along.

WHAT

Messiah Sing-Along

WHERE

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

WHEN

7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18

HOW MUCH

Free

LEARN MORE

360-753-8585 washingtoncenter.org Audience members are encouraged to join in, if they wish, or to simply sit back and let the gorgeous music wash over them. The event is free, but guests are invited to purchase a copy of the score for a mere \$10. Whether you view this as a religious celebration or simply want to take part in a soulful community experience, this Messiah is well worth your time. 0

11

A Stroll Through Providence Christmas Forest

By MOLLY GILMORE

n its 30th year, Providence Christmas Forest is a different kind of winter wonderland — a forest of trees and wreaths decorated in themes from traditional to surprising. One tree will have a NASCAR theme, while another will be inspired by Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*.

The forest is the biggest fundraiser for the Providence St. Peter Foundation, which funds capital improvements, equipment and Providence St. Peter Hospital programs, with a focus on serving vulnerable or low-income populations. In 2016, the event raised half a million dollars for the Providence Foundation. Over the years, the event has collectively brought in \$9.8 million.

The 25 trees and 11 wreaths, some decorated by professional designers and others by artistic amateurs, will be sold to the highest bidder at the Dec. 2 gala dinner. Trees sell for \$800 and up. "Last year, we had a bidding war on one tree, and it went for \$5,500," said event manager Stacey Genzlinger. Trees that fetch top prices include more than just decorations. *Cowboy Christmas*, which got last year's high bid, came with a leather chair, ottoman and other lagniappe.

While wandering through the forest, visitors will be entertained by community groups, including senior choirs, high school orchestras and local dance companies. On Senior Day (Dec. 1), seniors get \$1 off admission, and decorated mini-trees will be on sale for \$50 each. On Kids' Day (Dec. 2), Santa will be in residence, and the Hands On Children's Museum will lead craft sessions.

WHAT

Providence Christmas Forest

WHERE

Hotel RL Olympia by Red Lion, 2300 Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia

HOW MUCH

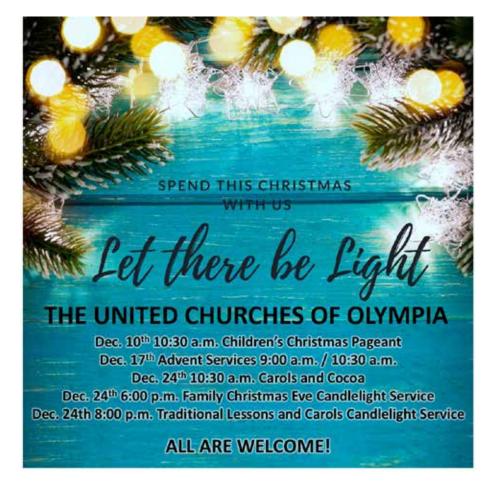
\$1-\$6

LEARN MORE

360-493-7981 provforest.org

WHEN

Public Viewings
10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Tues., Nov. 28
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Wed., Nov. 29
10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Thurs., Nov. 30 Senior Day
10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Sat., Dec. 2 Kid's Day
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sun., Dec. 3
Gala Dinner & Auction
5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Fri., Dec. 1



South Sound Sacred Celebrations By NED HAYES

Tinter is a time for family and for fun. Christmas is often celebrated as a single day during which the birth of Jesus Christ is remembered, yet, for observant Christians, the weeks before constitute an entire sacred season called "Advent" (which means "the arrival"). Advent is celebrated for four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Many Christian churches throughout the South Sound provide special services throughout Advent. Many non-Christians celebrate Yule and the Winter Solstice with special gatherings, as well. And Temple Beth Hatfiloh also offers a celebration of Hanukah, a minor holiday on the Jewish calendar. **OLY ARTS** provides a selection of holiday service listings here, and we invite you to join the community of your choice during the winter holidays. Check our website at OlyArts.com for a more comprehensive list of events and activities.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

stjohnsoly.org | 114 20th Ave. SE Olympia

6 p.m. Dec. 11: Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and Celebration

6:30 p.m. Dec. 21: Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols

8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. (Spanish), 10:30 p.m. Dec. 24:

Christmas Eve Mass

10:30 a.m. Dec. 25: Christmas Day Mass

ST. BENEDICT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

stbenedictlacey.org | 910 Bowker St. SE, Lacey

5:30 p.m. Dec. 24: Worship with Children's Pageant

10:30 p.m. Dec. 24: Festival Christmas Worship

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH (DOWNTOWN AND WESTSIDE)

saintmichaelparish.org | 1055 Boundary St. SE, Olympia

5 p.m., 8 p.m. and Midnight Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services (Downtown)

5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services (Westside)

9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Dec. 25: Christmas Day Service

UNITED CHURCHES (UCC + PRESBYTERIAN)

theunitedchurches.org | 110 11th Ave. SE, Olympia

Advent Services every Sunday: 9 a.m. / 10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. Dec. 3: Festival Choir

10:30 a.m. Dec. 10: Children's Christmas Pageant

10:30 a.m. Dec. 17: Advent Service

10:30 a.m. Dec. 24: Carols and Cocoa

6 p.m. Dec. 24: Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

8 p.m. Dec. 24: Traditional Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service

No Service on Christmas Day

OLYMPIA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

ouuc.org | 2315 Division St. NW, Olympia

10 a.m. Dec. 24: Congregational Service

5:30 p.m. Dec. 24: Candlelight Family Service

9 p.m. Dec. 24: Traditional Family Service

No Service on Christmas Day

UNITY CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

unityofolympia.org | 1335 Fern St. SW, Olympia

3 p.m. Dec. 2: Christmas Concert

6 p.m. Dec. 21: Winter Solstice Spiral Walk

6 p.m. Dec. 24: Family Service

No Service on Christmas Day

TEMPLE BETH HATFILOH

201 8th Ave. SE, Olympia

6-9:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17: Annual Hanukah Party

CHURCH OF LIVING WATER

livingwater.com | 1615 Chambers St SE, Olympia

2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Dec. 2: One Starry Night, Children's Musical

6:30 p.m. Dec 22: Christmas Service

5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec 23: Christmas Services

8:15 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. Dec 24: Christmas Eve Services

No Service on Christmas Day



Olympia Celebrates a Festival of Lights by Christian Carvajal

ne of the joys of living in a broad, multicultural society is the resulting plethora of holiday celebrations. Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, begins at sundown on Tuesday, December 12 this year and lasts for eight full days. It commemorates the revolt of the Hebrew Maccabees against the Seleucid dynasty and its Hellenistic religious rites, along with the rededication of the second Temple of Jerusalem (The name *Hanukkah* is Hebrew for *dedication*.). Jews around the world celebrate these events on Kislev 25, but Hebrews used a lunisolar calendar, so that date shifts from year to year on the Gregorian calendar. The menorah, a nine-branched candelabrum, refers to a miracle described in the Scroll of Antiochus: When it was time to recleanse the temple, "the God of heaven Whose name dwells there" extended a one-day supply of lamp oil to brighten "eight days of joy and honor." To this day, gifts are exchanged, the Yiddish dreidel game is played and sweet treats — often symbolically deep-fried in oil — are consumed.

Our community is blessed with two thriving Jewish organizations, Chabad Jewish Center in Tumwater (1770 Barnes Blvd. SW) and Temple Beth Hatfiloh in downtown Olympia. Chabad, a learning center for Jewish students led by Rabbi Yosef Schtroks, celebrates Hanukkah with two public events. There will be a menorah-building workshop for children at 3 p.m. on Dec. 3 at the Tumwater Home Depot. "There will be Hanukkah music, Hanukkah treats and other Hanukkah highlights," said Rabbi Schtroks. The ninth-annual, public menorah lighting will take place in Sylvester Park at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5. Continues Rabbi Schtroks, "We're going to first light the menorah right there in the middle of the park, together with municipal and state officials and community leaders. That will be followed by a Hanukkah party at the Governor Hotel, with lots more food and entertainment for the kids."



At Temple Beth Hatfiloh, directed by Rabbi Seth Goldstein, the fifth-night celebration includes a community candle-lighting, crafts, games and a dessert potluck with the traditional latkes (Ashkenazi potato pancakes) and applesauce. At 4 p.m. Christmas Day, the temple will team with the Olympia Film Society to present a screening of Dreamworks Animation's *The Prince of Egypt*. Shalom! 0



WHAT

Hanukkah party

WHERE

Temple Beth Hatfiloh, 201 Eighth Ave. SE, Olympia

WHEN

6-9:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17

HOW MUCH

Free

LEARN MORE

360-754-8519 bethhatfiloh.com

Make Your Holidays Magical with Polar Express and Santa Steam Train Rides

By NANCY KEATON FOR LEWISTALK.COM

truly fantastic holiday tradition steams into town on the *Polar Express* and *Santa Steam Train* at the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad and Museum. The trains start the day after Thanksgiving and are scheduled on weekends through December 17.

The Polar Express provides a classically adorned train interior and holiday decorations. Riders are served hot cocoa and fresh, warm cookies. Afterward, everyone is led in a rousing sing-along of traditional Christmas carols. Guests also get plenty of time with old Saint Nick on the ride back. Finally, it's time to listen to a reading of *The Polar Express*.

The 30-minute Santa Steam Train provides a shorter experience for younger children. Santa boards the train at the station and gives out candy canes while listening to those precious Christmas wishes.

"[Once], a family of 57 reserved a whole coach," recalled Wanda Thompson, who works for the Chehalis-Centralia Steam Train non-profit organization. "The woman who coordinated it also provided all kids ages ten and under with matching pajamas and nightgowns. There must have been 31 or 32 kids there. That was a really fun one." 0



Polar Express and the Santa Steam Train

WHERE

Chehalis-Centralia Railroad and Museum 1101 SW Sylvenus St., Chehalis

HOW MUCH

Polar Express: Free - \$38 Santa Steam Train: Free - \$10

WHEN

Polar Express
5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17
7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15
5 p.m. & 7 p.m. Nov. 24, 26
5 p.m. & 7 p.m. Dec. 2, 9, and 10
5 pm., 7 p.m and 9 p.m. Nov. 25
and Dec. 16

Santa Steam Train

1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Dec. 2, 3, 9 and 10





Photos by Dave LaClair

Studio West's The Nutcracker By CHRISTINA BUTCHER

o holiday season is complete without settling into a soft, cozy theater seat to watch Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* ballet. Studio West Dance Academy knows just how important the dance is to building holiday cheer, and it's doing its part to bring *The Nutcracker* to life once again this winter at the Minnaert Center for the Performing Arts. "For a dancer, the year is not complete without *The Nutcracker*," said Stephanie Wood-Ennett, co-director at Studio West Dance Academy. "It's part of their learning experience as a performer. It's saturated into what ballet is."

Studio West's *The Nutcracker* will feature seven performances over the course of a single week. Its two casts include over 230 dancers, all of whom have been rehearsing since September. "The students inspire me," Wood-Ennett said. "By the time we get to the theater and they're on stage, there are no more corrections. The ballet is theirs. They own it. That's the most rewarding moment."

The Nutcracker will also feature guest artist and Pacific Northwest Ballet's professional soloist Joshua Grant. Grant's addition to Studio West's *The Nutcracker* marks his second year as a guest performer with the dance academy, where he serves as a resident choreographer and instructor for the 2017-2018 dance season. "It's awesome to see our students working with a professional dancer. It creates a buzz in the studio and it inspires everyone," said Wood-Ennett.

To keep the whole family engaged in the ballet experience, Studio West will host *Clara's Winter Wonderland Party* before each matinee performance of *The Nutcracker*. The gathering gives younger audience members a chance to listen to storytellers read *The Nutcracker*, take pictures with ballet performers and enjoy treats inspired by the ballet. "I want people to leave feeling entertained, with a smile on their face and asking when the next performance is," said Wood-Ennett. "I want them to have appreciation for ballet, the arts, live theater and for what the kids are doing on stage." 0



he ways in which *The Nutcracker* delivers beauty, grace and whimsy to audiences isn't limited to just dancing (as mesmerizing as every pirouette and twirling leg can be). The intricate sets, sweeping music and, of course, jaw-dropping costumes all add to our ballet experience. Studio West Dance Academy's *The Nutcracker* wardrobe is no exception, as the delicate, lace-filled costumes are re-embellished every year for Olympia audiences.

"I love to embellish the costumes," said Trish Hall, costume mistress at Studio West. "It's a lot of hard work and it's often very tiring. But, at the end of the day, when I see the boys and girls in their costumes and they're so excited on stage, it's worth it." Hall, who's been working with Studio West since 2008, carefully alters and embellishes costumes for *The Nutcracker* ever year. She oversees a small team of parent volunteers — including Jeri Globe, Amy Goldsby and Michelle Rubbert — to schedule and hold fittings, conduct alterations and add embellishments to *The Nutcracker's* extensive wardrobe. Of the ballet's 250 costumes, approximately half are altered each year. Much of Hall's work is hand-sewn.

Hall and her costume alteration team begin *The Nutcracker's* costume alterations process every October. Initial fittings, ongoing alterations and embellishments, a second round of fittings for growing dancers and a final dress rehearsal are all necessary to ensure proper costume fit before performers can take to the stage

in December. "The biggest challenge at the beginning is scheduling costume fittings. Later, it's keeping up with adjustments," said Hall, who also organizes, stores and helps transport the *Nutcracker* costumes to the theater every winter.

While most of Studio West's *Nutcracker* costumes were purchased from the Nashville Ballet in the 1980s, many more were created by Hall's mother, Cookie Harn. "My mom did the really hard part," said Hall. "She even created all the costumes in *The Nutcracker's* party scene." Although Harn still assists with some of the dance academy's costuming needs, Hall takes on the primary responsibilities of costume mistress at Studio West. 0

WHAT

Studio West Dance Theatre's The Nutcracker

HOW MUCH \$24 - \$26

LEARN MORE

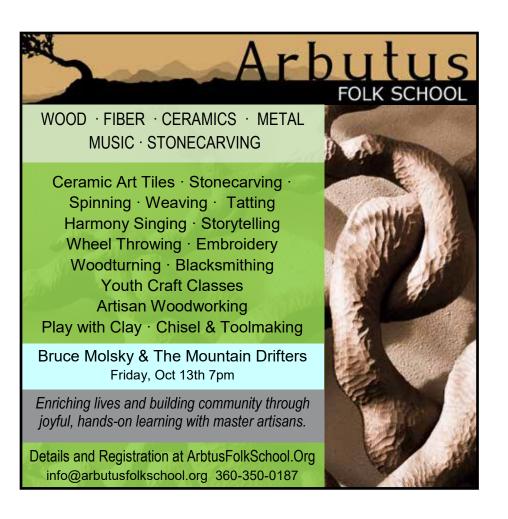
360-357-7462 washingtoncenter.org

WHERE

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

WHEN

7 p.m. Dec. 14 and 15 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 16 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Dec. 17 1 p.m. Dec. 18







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The Nutcracker Returns to the Washington Center By Jennifer Crain

nce again, the stage at the Washington Center will be filled with mice, soldiers and snowflakes in Ballet Northwest's 34th annual production of *The Nutcracker*. Ken Johnson, co-artistic director of Ballet Northwest, says this is a landmark production year for the 48-year-old company. They redesigned the scenery for the opening party scene several years ago. This year, they debut new scenery for both the Snow scene and The Land of the Sweets. Designer Jill Carter spent 615 hours researching and designing the scenery. Sixteen local professional scenic

artists and hundreds of volunteers spent 1,900 hours painting them.

"It's really going to be impressive," Johnson said. "Seeing it in person really has surpassed our expectations, and I think it will bring real magic to the production." Carter started from scratch, working with the company to re-imagine each backdrop. She studied Japanese winter woodprints for the Snow scene, which resulted in "a more open and lacey design to the snow-laden branches." For the Land of the Sweets, the "looping shapes and fluid curves were very inspiring and lent themselves naturally to be recreated out of candy swirls," she said.

The cast is comprised of more than 200 dancers, from age eight through adult. "Kids and families devote their autumn and their holiday season to the production. It really is a family effort," Johnson said. "One of the things that's so special is seeing what a magical experience it is for them." This year, Clara will be performed by eighth-grade students Abigail Meier and Ellen Maclay, the Prince by Anthony Gamroth and Jacob Drein and the Sugar Plum Fairy by Emily Walter and Monica Tsien. Walter and Tsien, high school seniors, have studied at nationally recognized summer programs.

This is Ken and Josie Johnson's tenth anniversary as artistic directors of Ballet Northwest, and Ken Johnson notes that their first *Nutcracker* with the company was both Walter's and Tsien's first year in the production. As eight-year-olds, they both appeared in the fight scene. "It's really satisfying to see them and the other dancers grow and progress through the ranks." \square

WHAT

Ballet Northwest's The Nutcracker

WHEN

7:30 p.m. Dec. 8, 9, 15 and 16 2 p.m. Dec. 9, 10, 16 and 17

WHERE

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

HOW MUCH

\$17-\$36

LEARN MORE 360-753-8586

19

Farmers Market Holiday Events

By CHRISTINA BUTCHER

he Olympia Farmers Market is celebrating the holidays this year by holding a *Farm2Table Thanks-giving* event Nov. 18 and 19 and the *Holiday Shopping Delight*, special shopping days from Dec. 22 to 24.

The Farm2Table Thanksgiving event gives community members the opportunity to purchase everything they need for a Thanksgiving dinner at the weekly, vendor-packed market. In addition to the local produce, artisanal crafts, baked goods, and meat and dairy usually available to market-goers, turkeys and other poultry can be preordered from market vendors Chehalis Valley Farm, Kirsop Farm and August Farm.

The market will be decorated with Christmas lights and garlands this holiday season, coinciding with the 42nd anniversary of the Olympia Farmers Market organization. Santa Claus will be available to take pictures with shoppers on Dec. 9, 10, 15 and 16. A portion of the venue will be sectioned off to allow families to visit and even shop with Santa throughout the day. The following

week, the Holiday Shopping Delight event includes extended winter hours, special musical performances by the Ken McDermid Trio (Dec. 22), singer-songwriter Chalie Saibel (Dec. 23) and popular jazz band Hook Me Up (Dec 24). "These performers are the perfect way to invite the holidays in. They're cozy and warm and they light up the market with sound. They're phenomenal," said Mary Di-Matteo, community outreach manager for the Olympia Farmers Market

Each year, 400,000 visitors attend the market, which supports direct relationships between local businesses and consumers, along with the development of small-scale agriculture to promote market balance within the community. Hunter Family Farm — a local, regular vendor at the market — donated all of the garlands used in decorating the venue. Gift certificates and market tokens will be available for purchase during the holidays and may be redeemed at any vendor in the market. 0

WHAT

Holiday events

WHERE

Olympia Farmers Market, 700 Capitol Way N, Olympia

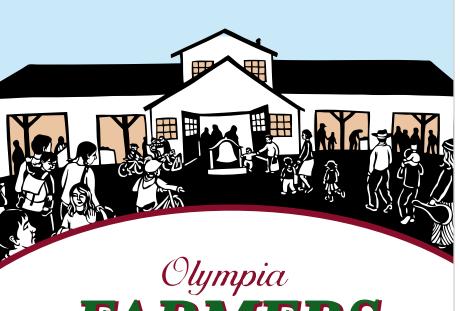
LEARN MORE

360-3<mark>52-</mark>90<mark>9</mark>6 OlympiaFarmersMarket.com

WHEN

FARM2 TABLE THANKSGIVING 10a.m. – 3 p.m., Nov. 18-19

Holiday Shopping Delight 10a.m. – 3 p.m., Dec. 22 - 24



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Duck the Malls Arts and Craft Bazaar – A Holiday Tradition

By JONAH BARRETT

he Olympia Film Society's 15th-annual Duck the Malls fundraising event is a benefit for the Olympia Film Society (OFS). The event was created to support local and independent artisans and artists in the South Sound, along with visual art programming at OFS. Proceeds from the gigantic bake sale and vendor table fees benefit OFS.

"The Capitol Theater is more than just a movie theater. It is a cultural hub that hosts art, music and other live events," said volunteer Diane Kurzyna, or "Ruby Re-Usable." "Duck the Malls is one more way to support the arts community by offering artists a place to sell their work."

Attendees can expect to find items from over 50 vendors, including handcrafted musical instruments, board games, ironwork, toys and dolls, ceramics, lighting and homemade baked goods (gluten-free and vegan varieties, too) at the concession stand.

"The motivation for creating this event was to send a message to support and shop local, with the added benefit of avoiding the malls. In the early years it was more garage and yard-sale stuff and some handmade items," said OFS executive director Audrey Henley. "As the event grew, ideas of how to truly make it a unique and artistic event developed, and we refined the idea to lean solely toward locally, handcrafted items and less garage and yard junk. Part of the OFS mission is to not only support film and music, but art in all forms." ①

WHAT

Duck the Malls

WHERE

Capitol Theater, 206 Fifth Ave. SE, Olympia

WHEN

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9

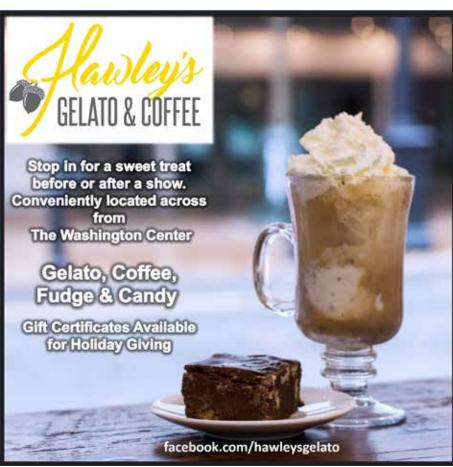
HOW MUCH

Free admission for shoppers

LEARN MORE

360-754-6670 Olympiafilmsociety.org/ duckthemalls







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Holiday Books from Browsers

By ANDREA Y. GRIFFITH

LIFE

Cynthia Rylant, Brendan Wenzel



For the youngest on your gift list, this picture book by Northwest writer Cynthia Rylant is a beautifully illustrated meditation

on finding beauty in the every day and strength in adversity.

SNOW & ROSE

Emily Winfield Martin



A wonderful retelling of a classic — but little-known — fairy tale about sisterhood and family. The illustrations

alone are worth picking up this book. Intended for the middle grade audience, but really for all ages. This is one of my favorite books of the year!

THE BOOK OF DUST

Philip Pullman



Seventeen
years is a long
time to wait,
but fans of
Pullman's His
Dark Materials
will so appreciate Volume 1
of this planned
trilogy. Lyra's

story continues, and the search for dust commences.

THE HAINISH NOVELS AND STORIES Ursula K. Le Guin

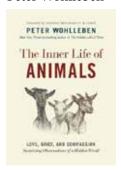


This first collection of Ursula Le Guin's novels and stories set on the planet Hain. A two-volume boxed set with a new introduc-

tion by the author is a must-have for any science fiction lover.

THE INNER LIFE OF ANIMALS

Peter Wohlleben



A follow-up to last year's bestseller *The Hidden Life of Trees*, Peter Wholleben now takes on how animals interact with

the world and with each other. It turns out that animals are just as miraculous as trees.

A SIDEWAYS LOOK AT CLOUDS

Maria Mudd Ruth



Olympia writer
Maria Mudd
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and entertains
the reader
while opening
up the world
of the cloud, "a
visible mass of
water droplets

or ice crystals suspended in the atmosphere about the earth."

URBAN TRAILS: OLYMPIA

Craig Romano

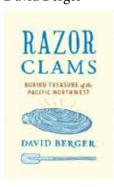


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David Berger



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how to dig, clean and cook razor clams.

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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Olympia Family Theater Becomes the Hundred Acre Wood

By JONAH BARRETT

lympia meets the Hundred Acre Wood this fall season at Olympia Family Theater. The family production company will perform a theatrical rendition of *Winnie the Pooh* from November through December. Heading this play is one of OFT's co-founders and regular directors, Samantha Chandler.

Pooh Bear, created by English author A. A. Milne in 1926, is just nine years shy of turning 100. The original cast of characters — Pooh, Piglet, Eeyore, Kanga, Roo and Tigger — were based off of the author's son's childhood toys. Milne's son Christopher served as the basis for Christopher Robin.

While the books have been adapted into various animated productions by Disney since 1966, a play adaptation by Kristin Sergel was created before these works in 1957. Sergel's adaptation has not graced the OFT stage for seven years, and it's heading this way once again, honey pots and all.

"The characters are so timeless. They have all these great elements to them that are just so fun to watch, and we have a lot of experienced actors that are doing really fun things," Chandler said.

Chandler said that she loves the multi-generational aspect of OFT, where families can come together and enjoy a fun story. "I think this will be a great show for the holidays that families can come and see," Chandler said. 0



WHAT

Winnie the Pooh

WHERE

Olympia Family Theater, 612 Fourth Ave. E, Olympia

24

WHEN

7 p.m. Nov. 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22 2 p.m. Nov. 25 and 26, Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17 and 23

HOW MUCH

\$13-\$19

LEARN MORE

360-570-1638 Olyft.org



The Stardust Christmas Fandango at Harlequin Productions

By ALEC CLAYTON

his season's *The Stardust Christmas Fandango* at Harlequin Productions is a Christmas card of comedy, nostalgia and great '60s music. This year will mark the 22nd installment of this locally written and produced entertainment, centered around the Stardust nightclub in New York at Christmastime.

"The Stardust Christmas Fandango touches on the influence of Mexican, Latino, Chicano and Caribbean music of the mid-20th century in America. Add to that a peek at the emerging awareness among women in the film industry that they would have to take more control of their destinies. We wanted to get various viewpoints — Mexican, Native American and a French transplant — into the room to explore their hopes and fears at that moment of prosperity in America when so much was still unknown," said director Linda Whitney.

The all-star cast includes Christian Doyle in his sixth consecutive Stardust show, Maggie Ferguson-Wagstaffe in her fifth, Jeff Barehand, Miguel Pineda, Bruce Haasl, Amy Shephard, Ashley Chandler, Christie Oldright and band leader Bruce Whitney.

Set in a Greenwich Village nightclub, the story centers around Amelie Jardin (Oldright) a French-American movie star in Manhattan for her most recent movie premier and dropping by the club to meet Frankie (Pineda) because she has a film role she thinks is right for him. The nightclub setting, the Christmas season and the gathering of entertainers is a recipe for song and dance, romance and comedic hijinks.

Since beginning the series more than 20 years ago with a story set in 1941, and finally moving ahead to the 1960s a few years back, the series has become a unique Olympia experience. "Looking back is always rewarding, but we try to bring something new and entertaining to a story we thought we already knew," shared Whitney. \square



WHAT

The Stardust Christmas Fandango

WHERE

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

WHEN

8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, Nov. 30-Dec. 31

HOW MUCH

\$25-\$49

LEARN MORE

360-786-0151 harlequinproductions.org

Olympia Little Theatre's On Golden Pond Promises Laughs

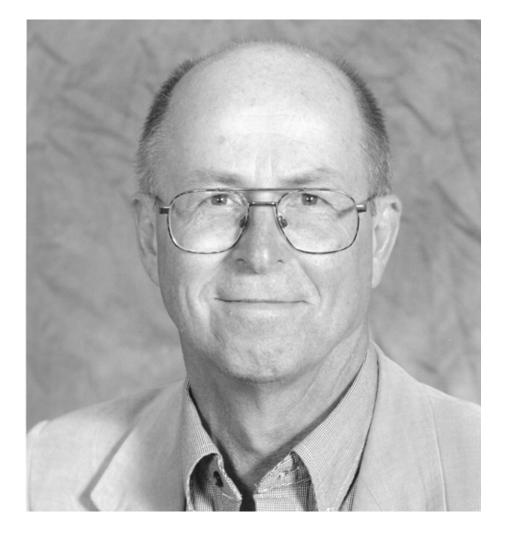
By MOLLY GILMORE

he 1981 film *On Golden Pond*, about an older couple and their relationships with their descendants, scored three Oscars — one each for stars Katharine Hepburn and Henry Fonda and one for Ernest Thompson's screenplay, based on his 1979 play. But the movie was a bit melodramatic for Kendra Malm, who is directing the Olympia Little Theatre production of Thompson's 1979 play, opening Dec. 1.

"I wanted to bring out the humor in the script rather than focusing on the drama," Malm, the theater's artistic manager, said.

The key to the humor is Norman (John Pratt), played by Fonda in his last film role. "Some of his lines are these great, crusty, old curmudgeon lines," she said. "If you say it really seriously, he comes across as a bit of a sour old man, but if you deliver it with a twinkle in your eye, then it comes across that he's kind of making fun of the world and making fun of himself." She's pleased by the approach her cast — led by Pratt and Meigie Mabry as Ethel, the Hepburn role — is taking to the characters. Also featured in the production are Oliver Garcia, Lorana Hoopes, Dean Phillips and Garrett Shelton.

The play, set at Ethel and Norman's New England summer home, might seem an unlikely choice for the holidays. Olympia Little Theatre has in recent years moved away from holiday classics — as Malm put it, "How many times can you trot out the ghost of Jacob Marley?" — in favor of plays that are Christmassy enough to feature a decorated tree on set. So why a summery show? "It seemed like a good, heartwarming family drama for the Christmas spot," the director said. "It had been suggested by a number of people as one that we ought to do, that our patrons would enjoy." \blacksquare



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WHAT

On Golden Pond

WHERE

Olympia Little Theatre, 1925 Miller Ave. NE, Olympia

26

WHEN

7:25 p.m. Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9 and 14-16; 1:55 p.m. Dec. 3, 10 and 17

HOW MUCH

\$9-\$15

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A Time-Traveling Comedy at Olympia Little Theatre

By CHRISTIAN CARVAJAL

ime is of the essence in English playwright Alan Ayckbourn's 1995 thriller *Communicating Doors*, opening mid-January at Olympia Little Theatre (OLT). The title's a British phrase meaning a passage between two adjoining hotel suites. The story begins 20 years from now, when executive assistant Julian procures the services of Poopay, a dominatrix, for his wealthy but frail employer, Reese. It turns out Poopay wasn't hired for her usual services, nor will the evening go as any of them planned — because when Poopay steps through the communicating door, she leaps two decades into the past. That gives her and Ruella, Reese's second wife, an opportunity to forestall three murders. Did we mention it's also a comedy?

That's a labyrinthine plot for one script, but director (and set designer) Michael Christopher is up to the challenge. A veteran of countless shows as an actor (*Tartuffe*, *Seven Ways to Get There*) and director (*Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, *The Tempest*), Christopher met and married his wife Heather (*Playhouse Creatures*) at Olympia Little Theatre. Now she'll crack the whip as Poopay. Reese is played by Evan Sullivan, last seen as Iachimo in Harlequin Productions' *Cymbeline*. Meghan Goodman portrays the endangered Ruella, and (by way of disclosure) this writer embodies the menacing Julian. Completing the cast are Drew Doyle (*Silent Sky*) as the stalwart hotel detective, Harold, and Hannah Eklund (director of *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche*) as Reese's first wife, Jessica.

Christopher approached OLT about directing this play years ago but hit technical walls. Then, he said, "I found out last year that Kathryn Beall was going to direct it — before she passed away. I'd been rather excited about the prospect of the show coming up. When she passed, I asked if they'd let me do it in honor of Kathryn. That was really the main driver." \blacksquare



WHAT

Communicating Doors

WHERE

Olympia Little Theatre, 1925 Miller Ave. NE, Olympia

WHEN

7:25 p.m. Thursdays – Saturdays, 1:55 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 19 - Feb. 4

HOW MUCH

\$11-\$15

LEARN MORE

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SCREENING



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DECEMBER 2

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LIVE MUSIC - STAGE SHOW - CRAFT COCKTAILS

A Christmas Carol on Stage at Evergreen By JERRY BEREBITSKY AND LORI LIVELY

harles Dickens' classic play, *A Christmas Carol*, will be performed by 8th grade students from the Olympia Waldorf School (OWS). Through a unique partnership, the students will perform on stage at The Evergreen State College (TESC) in early December.

Theatrical endeavors like *A Christmas Carol* are an integral part of the curriculum in Waldorf schools, as are painting, singing, movement, handwork and orchestra. Every year, each class — from first to eighth grade — rehearses and performs a play appropriate to their age and abilities. Early grades typically enact a short fable or folk tale, and productions become increasingly complex as students move into upper grades.

Cast members from Waldorf include Leif Syversen as Scrooge, Ziya Maherali as Bob Cratchet, Ruby Davies as Tiny Tim, and Clio Morbello as Mrs. Cratchet.

"The students are really excited," said Sweekriti Apple, the eighth grade teacher at Waldorf. "It's their last year [at the Waldorf School], and they want to give it their best."

On Friday afternoon, Dec. 8, students will perform the play for students from the Wa He Lut Indian school. The performance is part of an ongoing relationship between the Wa He Lut School and OWS, which began when OWS students were invited to attend Wa He Lut's first Salmon Ceremony. All other performances are open to the public. The play is donation-based, and funds collected will help support the eighth grade's graduation field trip to Washington, D.C. 0

WHAT

A Christmas Carol

WHEN

7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8

WHERE

The Evergreen State College COM Building: Experimental Theatre 2700 Evergreen Pkwy. NW, Olympia **LEARN MORE**Olympiawaldorf.org

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Wintertime Cinema at Olympia Film Society

By JONAH BARRETT

he Olympia Film Society is proud to present a string of biopics and anthology romps, as the party keeps rolling after their yearly film festival dies down.

JANE

11/26 - 11/30

Who doesn't love Jane Goodall? Or monkeys? A good portion of this biographical documentary is comprised of 16mm film recorded by Hugo van Lawick, a wildlife photographer who became Goodall's first husband. With a delicious Philip Glass score to compliment the film, *Jane* promises to be a treat for documentary and nature lovers everywhere.

PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK

11/26 - 11/30

In this film, several schoolgirls and their teacher go missing during a seemingly harmless picnic. OFS film programming director Rob Patrick had this to say about it: "*Picnic at Hanging Rock*, a 1975 Australian classic, is a beguiling film that eschews conventional narrative. The director of the film, Peter Weir, managed to unsettle viewers by using nature as an omnipotent and mysterious force. We're particularly excited about presenting this film on 35mm."

THE BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

12/9 - 12/10

Sometimes this weather encourages us to stay inside. Ignite your passion for adventure and attend the Banff Film Festival. It showcases adrenaline-fueled action sports and explorers traversing remote landscapes. After the film's end, viewers are sure to be longing for their own adventures.

PROFESSOR MARSTON AND THE WONDER WOMEN

12/1 - 12/7

Not to hate on DC, but this 2017 Wonder Woman film sounds *so much better*. William and Elizabeth Marston form a polyamorous trio with William's teaching assistant Olive Byrne, and dramatic events eventually lead William to the creation of the character Princess Diana of Themyscira. Based on the scandalous true story!



KWAIDAN

12/22 - 12/24

Halloween may be over, but some people are always down for spooky stories. Patrick explains it again: "We're also thrilled to present the 1964 film *Kwaidan*, a horror anthology that won our last Janus vote. With its shocks of color, inspired use of set designs and true elements of terror and fright, this is going to be a terrific film to watch on 35mm–especially in the chill of winter."

0

WHAT

Winter Film Lineup

WHERE

Capitol Theater, 206 Fifth Ave. SE, Olympia

WHEN

Nov. 26-Dec. 24

HOW MUCH

\$5-\$9

LEARN MORE

360-754-6670 olympiafilmsociety.org



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



International **Guitar Night** Tuesday, JAN 23, 7:30 PM



Blonde Poison Thursday, JAN 25, 7:30 PM Friday, JAN 26, 7:30 PM



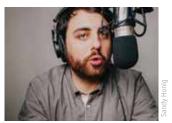
An Evening with Lyle Lovett Rosanne Cash and Robert Earl Keen Saturday, JAN 27, 7:30 PM SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT!



with John Leventhal Monday, JAN 29, 7:30 PM



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Brian Reed Saturday, FEB 10, 7:30 PM SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT!



Tiempo Libre Wednesday, FEB 21, 7:30 PM



God is a Scottish **Drag Queen** Thursday, MAR 8, 7:30 PM



Seattle Men's Chorus & **Seattle Women's Chorus** Saturday, MAR 17, 7:30 PM



Black Box Jazz **Climate Change** Friday, MAR 23, 8:00 PM



Stephen Petronio Company 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



Pink Martini Saturday, APR 21, 7:30 PM SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT!



Las Cafeteras Thursday, APR 26, 7:30 PM



Black Box Jazz Joe Mailhot Friday, MAY 11, 8:00 PM



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