

ISSUE N°10 | WINTER 2018

OLY ARTS

Winter entertainment guide now includes Oly Old Time Festival Program



PERFORMANCE 05-10

Live on Stage

Enjoy Rosanne Cash, Brian Reed, and Harmony Sweepstakes at the Washington Center.

OLY OLD TIME 11-21

Program Guide

A complete performance and workshop schedule, and a guide to all the bands and dances.

CLASSICAL 24-25

Mesmerizing Music

Enter into the profound musical worlds of Mozart and Schubert, Copland and Bernstein.

THEATER 26-31

On the Boards

New plays featuring drag queens, transvestites, Islamic truth-tellers and Tennessee Williams.

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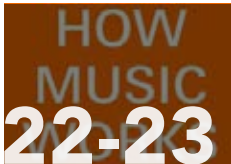
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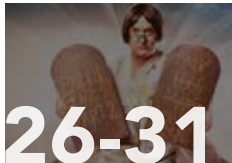
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FEBRUARY-MARCH 2018

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OLY ARTS

The Leading Guide to Arts and Culture in the South Sound

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The Rhythm and Romance of Rosanne Cash

By CHRISTIAN CARVAJAL

Being the daughter of a musical legend can open doors, to be sure, but it multiplies the difficulty of forging a career apart from his shadow. Consider, then, the talent of Rosanne Cash.

After the Man in Black recorded a song she wrote, Rosanne formed a partnership with singer-songwriter Rodney Crowell. They collaborated on her American debut album, “Right or Wrong,” which yielded three top-30 hits. Her follow-up, “Seven Year Ache,” was a crossover smash that sent three singles to the Billboard country chart’s top position. In 1985, she won a vocal Grammy for another number-one hit, “I Don’t Know Why You Want Me.” “King’s Record Shop” yielded four number-one country hits, among which was a catchy cover of her father’s “Tennessee Flat Top Box.” Cash claims she was unaware of the song’s origin when she recorded it. Now, she hits The Washington Center for the Performing Arts with John Leventhal, whose production and performance credits include albums by Cash, Crowell, Michelle Branch, Shawn Colvin, and Loudon Wainwright III.



Jill Barnes, executive director of The Washington Center, notes that the event serves a growing Olympia fan base for traditional forms of American music, as will the Lyle Lovett/Robert Earl Keen concert two days before it. “We’ve been sold out for [Lovett/Keen] for several weeks,” says Barnes. “We still have tickets available for Rosanne Cash in the mezzanine and balcony.”

“In the last several years,” says Barnes, “The Washington Center has presented one country show a year. We had full or almost-full houses for Clint Black, Travis Tritt and Vince Gill and The Time Jumpers. Not only are we selling out the shows, but we’re bringing in a lot of first-time Washington Center attendees. It’s a new audience for us, and many are coming from well beyond Thurston County. We’d been trying to bring Rosanne Cash here for a few years, but routing and dates didn’t work out until now. We can say the same for Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen. ... We carefully considered the impact of potentially overlapping audiences, but ultimately decided to go for it. Given the response with ticket sales,” she concludes, “we made the right choice.” 0

WHAT

Rosanne Cash with John Leventhal

WHERE

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

WHEN

7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29

HOW MUCH

\$45-\$72

LEARN MORE

360-753-8586

washingtoncenter.org

Get Your Pitch On

By JONAH BARRETT

Prepare yourself for *Pitch Perfect*, *West Coast Style*. The Harmony Sweepstakes acapella competition is coming back to the Washington Center this March, hosted by the Masterworks Choral Ensemble.

“Acapella is pure, it’s just voices in a microphone,” said Masterworks leader and show director Gary Witley. “You don’t have any sound effects, post-production editing, all the stuff that’s done in the studio. Acapella is live, and what you’re hearing is being created right in front of you. The vocal percussion is amazing. If you closed your eyes you’d think you were hearing people playing drums and bass.”

The Harmony Sweepstakes competition itself started in 1985, with seven regional contests across the country: Bay Area, Boston, Chicago, LA, Mid-Atlantic, New York, and Pacific Northwest—but it wasn’t until 1996 that Masterworks began hosting the competition in Olympia. “We’re a group that puts on concerts all the time. We know how to do all the presentation stuff, and we’re organized,” said Witley.

Regional winners go on to compete in a national competition later in the year. Coincidentally, the first year Masterworks hosted Harmony Sweepstakes, the Pacific Northwest group m-Pact! went on to win nationals. Things have changed since 1996 however. “One new wrinkle this year is that the group size has changed. The national rules used to be you had to have a minimum of three singers and a maximum of eight. Now the maximum has been changed to twelve. There are a lot of collegian groups right now that are really getting into acapella, and most of these collegian groups are bigger than eight.”

Why the rise in aca-popularity? Witley suspects the pop culture phenomenons such as the *Pitch Perfect* movies, television shows like *The Voice*, and the YouTube acapella group Pentatonix might have something to do with it. “All those reality based shows on television are really focusing attention on singing, and acapella is very interesting to people. These shows really paved the way to spark the interest for others,” said Witley. Last year’s regional winners, Renegade Quartet, will be performing throughout the night as well. Audiences can expect a night of singing, competition, and tuneful entertainment. 0



WHAT

Harmony Sweepstakes

WHERE

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

WHEN

Saturday, March 10. 7:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH

\$26

LEARN MORE

360-753-8586
washingtoncenter.org

Brian Reed of This American Life Live at The Washington Center

By CHRISTIAN CARVAJAL and NED HAYES

For over 20 years, *This American Life* has given public-radio airwaves an unusual perspective on current events, offering insightful commentary from such writers as John Hodgman, David Rakoff, David Sedaris, Sarah Vowell and of course, the inimitable Ira Glass.

Recently, *This American Life* has taken steps to expand the boundaries of the format that made it famous by stretching into a series of podcast episodes to be downloaded independently of the airwaves. These innovative new audio stories have the freedom to dive deeply into real-life mysteries, murder and the meaning of community. “Serial,” launched in 2015, is a true-life murder mystery. Follow-up series, “S-Town,” focuses on one man’s struggle to find meaning in the midst of despair.

The shows have been a remarkable success. To date, over 267 million listeners have enjoyed “Serial” and “S-Town.” The latter set new records with 10 million downloads in the first week and 40 million in its first month. All seven episodes of “S-Town” were released simultaneously, in the style of a Netflix TV series.

The “S-Town” series was designed like a novel, with an episodic story that revealed more about the characters with each episode. The story of “S-Town” began as an investigation of an alleged murder in Woodstock, Alabama. It quickly morphed into a profile of John B. McLemore, one of the town’s most colorful residents. “S-Town” co-creator and senior producer, Brian Reed, a Peabody Award-winning writer and on-air personality for *This American Life*, will speak at Olympia’s Washington Center in an appearance sponsored by **OLY ARTS**.

When Reed spoke to **OLY ARTS**, he pondered McLemore’s relationship with his hometown of Woodstock: “He had this intense love-hate relationship with this place he contributed to and that he was a part of. His self-loathing was tied up with his hatred of the town, and I find that so real. ... He was a very performative talker ... both for me and for the microphone.”

In Reed’s traveling presentation, he’ll explain the process of creating, researching and compiling “S-Town.” He’ll also discuss McLemore in more detail. What, for example, does he think McLemore would’ve thought of the completed series? “The mind of John B. McLemore is such a labyrinth,” Reed explains, “a complicated, perplexing, very unpredictable mind. I’m sure he would’ve had a gamut of reactions. I’d like to think he’d appreciate a lot of it. ... I’d like to hope he’d feel he had a legacy and that he’d feel heard and that his ideas and point of view were heard. I’m sure he would be annoyed by the publicity in a lot of ways or overwhelmed by it. I’m sure he’d be critical of parts of it, ‘cause he was a critical person.” To catch up on the groundbreaking “S-Town” and to dive into McLemore’s labyrinthine mind before the live show at the Washington Center, visit stownpodcast.org. 0



WHAT

Brian Reed, “This American Life” and “S-Town” producer

WHERE

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

WHEN

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10

HOW MUCH

\$30-\$55

LEARN MORE

360-753-8586

washingtoncenter.org/event/brian-reed/

A Really Big Shoe 12: Folk Music of America Benefits Homeless Kids

By KAREN LUNDE

Each year for the past 11, members of the Olympia musical group Entertainment Explosion have put on a show to benefit homeless children in Thurston and Mason counties. This year, the show features a guest artist, The Brothers Four. The group's musical career spans 50 years and includes sing-along American folk hits like "Try to Remember," "Yellow Bird," and "The Green Grass of Summer."

Entertainment Explosion, a singing group made up of members age 50 and older, has performed at elder care facilities and other venues around the South Sound since 2006. Through their annual benefit concerts at The Washington Center, they've donated \$276,000 to schools in Thurston and Mason county in support of homeless children. This year's show will help that donation level surpass the \$300,000 mark.

"These kids don't have a home to go back to at the end of the school day," said Scott Schoengarth, a member of Entertainment Explosion and producer and director of A Really Big Shoe. "Our donation provides money to help them get things like coats, clothing, and shoes." Worn clothing, he said, could cause a child to be singled out or teased. New, clean clothing helps to restore their dignity. "It gets you emotional to think about it."

The proceeds from each Really Big Shoe concert are divided equally among area schools and the schools use the funds as they see fit. "A couple years ago," said Schoengarth, "Rochester went out and bought 72 pairs of shoes and had them on the shelf for the kids when they came in."

This year, for the first time, members of Entertainment Explosion won't appear on The Washington Center main stage. "These shows are a lot of work, and we have more [members] turning 80 than are turning 60," said Schoengarth. "So we hired The Brothers Four and took a year off." Instead, Entertainment Explosion will perform in the lobby before the headline act takes the stage. Another group, Ham and Cheese on Rye, will keep toes tapping with blues and folk music at intermission and at the end of the concert. "From the minute you walk in the door until you leave, you'll be entertained," said Schoengarth. 0



WHAT

A Really Big Shoe 12: The Brothers Four Playing the Folk Music of America

WHERE

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

HOW MUCH

\$17-37

WHEN

2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 25

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Folk Musical Legend John McCutcheon at Traditions Fair Trade Cafe

By ADAM MCKINNEY

Since his emergence on the folk scene in the '70s, John McCutcheon has not only been one of the most respected songwriters and instrumentalists out there, but he's also been one of the most prolific. The man nailed a stone cold genre classic in 1977 with *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*, and he hasn't stopped creating since. Just over 40 years later, he's releasing his 39th album, *Ghost Light*.

"I didn't know what number it was, until my publicist pointed it out," says McCutcheon. "She said, 'You've got one more than Bob Dylan now.'"

So, where does this drive come from to keep creating, to keep getting into the studio after all these years?

"It's my job," says McCutcheon. "Like anybody who's got a job, whether you build buildings, or write songs, or write for a newspaper, you try to get better at what you do. There's a lot of great examples out there – Dylan not being the least of them – of people who've been creative their whole long life. Guys and women who I hung out with when I was starting out, who were elders of my community, these were people who would just continue to do the job. It got imprinted on me as part of what you do."

Ghost Light is a typically wonderful collection of new folk classics, showing McCutcheon as a craftsman, a storyteller, and an activist. Whether he's sketching a loving character study ("She Just Dances"), musing on his faith ("Me and Jesus"), or paying tribute to Woody Guthrie ("The Machine"), McCutcheon's songwriting is as vibrant as ever.

"I'm in the middle of doing my 40th album, right now, which is in honor of Pete Seeger's 100th birthday," McCutcheon says. "Pete was a mentor and a friend of mine, and he was someone who showed me, when I was a kid, that concerts can be more than just a guy showing off up on stage; they can be events that are transformative. That's what I always want my concerts to be." 0



WHAT

John McCutcheon

WHERE

Traditions Fair Trade
300 5th Ave SW, Olympia

WHEN

7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1

HOW MUCH

\$20-\$25

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Lacey Ethnic Celebration Returns

By ADAM MCKINNEY

The Lacey Ethnic Celebration returns in 2018 with a bevy of exciting performances, food, music and community-oriented activities. This is a free event appropriate for the whole family to enjoy. Children and families can enjoy music and dance from around the world while sampling exotic flavors and arts from food and craft vendors. Hands-on craft activities for children are also included in the experience.

Across three stages, the Lacey Ethnic Celebration will feature acts that connect us with not only people of varying origins but our community's collective history. Brazilian, Filipino, Irish, Indian, Japanese, Kampuchean, Native American, Scottish and other cultures will be represented at this celebration of all of America's many cultures and communities. "Not only are there sights, sounds, and tastes from around the world," says City of Lacey recreation supervisor Jeanette Sieler, "but you can share in your neighbor's culture through performances, information booths and craft and food vendors."

This year, groups in the Marcus Pavilion will include the Olympia Highlanders Pipes and Drums, the Lien Hoa Buddhist Youth Association, the India South Sound Association, Slieveloughane Irish Dancers, Khalsa School Olympia, the Filipino American Community of South Puget Sound & Filipiniana Multicultural Dance Troupe, Panama Folklore, River Ridge Taiko, and the South Bay Elementary Choir doing Japanese Opera as well as the Crow Drummers and Alaska Kuteeyaa Dancers.

In the Worthington Center, additional groups will perform, including the Troupe Rashaad, the Mas Uda Dancers, and Poonam and Viveka. Demonstrations and interactive experiences will also take place in the Worthington Center, including Origami Demo, a River Ridge Taiko demo, a Bonsai demo, an interactive storytelling experience featuring Celtic Women of Ancient Scotland and, finally, the Drums of West Africa. "The Lacey Ethnic Celebration is a great opportunity to learn about each other and celebrate together," says Sieler. "Our three stages are called Heritage, Unity and the World stage, as these words sum up the Ethnic Celebration." 0

WHAT

Lacey Ethnic Celebration

WHERE

Saint Martin's University
3500 Pacific Ave. SE, Lacey

HOW MUCH

Free

WHEN

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday,
March 10

LEARN MORE

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The Oly Old Time Festival: Celebrating Ten Years Strong

A short history, as told to OLY ARTS by The Oly Old Time Festival founders

As the Oly Old Time Festival celebrates a 10th anniversary year, the future looks bright for this festive experience. The reach and breadth of the festival keeps expanding! Oly Old Time Festival has joined forces for this 10th anniversary year with Arbutus Folk School, and is officially joined with Arbutus for activities and fundraising. This is also the first year that the Festival has City of Olympia sponsorship.

As the Oly Old Time Festival celebrates a wonderful 10th anniversary year, it's also worth looking back at a storied history.

In 2008, a group of people who enjoyed old time music—music played with fiddle, banjo and other traditional Americana instruments—began jamming in Olympia homes. At one of the monthly jams, the idea for a local, winter festival was born. The first festival was largely organized by Carolyn Arnold, Billie Burlock, Ardas Hassler, Laura Hurson, Mikey Moren, Callie Jan Mills, Erik Neatherlin, T-Claw and Emily Teachout. The early team also had input from Vince Brown, John Flory, Anthea Lawrence and Ray Leach.

The originators of The Oly Old Time Festival knew many great musicians and square-dance callers. Dancers packed the floor into the wee hours, and there was jamming in every corner. The jamming went on literally all night long. The founders knew they'd created something special and would want to make it an annual event.

Within the first five years, the festival team was able to bring in featured performers from the East Coast and Appalachian-Mountain states. The current planning committee is composed of Jerome Cox, Jerrod Davis, Tom Murrett, Erik Neatherlin, Shanty Slater, and Emily Teachout.

The festival is dedicated to learning, teaching and sharing traditional, old time music and dance. It's supported by individual and business sponsorships as well as ticket sales. The event draws an audience from as far away as Alaska, California, Idaho, Utah and British Columbia. The festival's program of free workshops keeps old time music and dance accessible, inviting and thriving. 0

A longer version of this history is available online at OlyArts.com/OlyOldTime



WHAT

Oly Old Time Festival Kickoff Square Dance

BAND

The Bow Weevils

CALLER

Kelsey Nelsen

HOW MUCH

\$5, 12 and under free

WHEN

Thursday, February 15, 7:00 p.m.

WHERE

South Bay Grange





Oly Old Time Festival

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18



Riley Baugus: Clawhammer Banjo and Appalachian Song

By ALEC CLAYTON

Banjo player and singer Riley Baugus will perform with Sabra Guzmán at the Oly Old Time Festival main concert Feb. 16. Baugus plays and sings in the Round Peak style from Surry County, North Carolina.

“Riley is a charismatic performer and excellent storyteller,” said Emily Teachout, festival co-founder and programming director. “His reverence for this music comes through in his presentation of the ballads, tunes and songs of his upbringing. If you’ve seen the movie ‘Cold Mountain,’ you’ve heard his singing. He’s the voice of one of the characters and he also made some of the instruments in the movie. All this and he’s a great teacher, too, able to break down his tunes and songs in a way that you can actually take them home with you.”

Riley frequently tours with the Dirk Powell Band and Tim O’Brien. He’s recorded with the likes of Alison Kraus, Robert Plant, and Willie Nelson. This year’s festival marks Baugus’s first Olympia performance. In addition to performing at the Friday night concert, he will teach two workshops in the festival: Southern Appalachian clawhammer banjo and Appalachian singing.

Guzmán, from Lafayette, Louisiana, played with Baugus in his old time string band, Old Buck. She now fronts a honky-tonk band called Sabra and the Get Rights. “Sabra was recently on staff at the Festival of American Fiddle Tunes where she knocked everyone out with her soulful singing and deep repertoire of traditional old time and old country songs,” Teachout said. Guzmán will also offer a couple of singing workshops: one on technique and one on country singing. 0



WHAT

Riley Baugus and Sabra Guzmán

WHERE

South Bay Grange
3918 Sleater Kinney Rd NE, Olympia

WHEN

7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16

HOW MUCH

\$20, 12 and under free

LEARN MORE

olyoldtime.com



Oly Old Time Festival

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18



Sabra Guzmán Returns to Her Roots for Oly Old Time Festival

By KAREN LUNDE

Old time music is perhaps the oldest form of North American folk music, pre-dating bluegrass. Vocalist, guitarist and bassist Sabra Guzmán was first drawn to its raw stylings at the turn of the millennium when she lived in Portland. Now, Guzmán is preparing to pick and sing old time tunes with Riley Baugus at the Oly Old Time Festival. “This will be my first time performing and attending,” she said. “I’m really looking forward to being back on the West Coast again.”

Guzmán, who now lives in Lafayette, Louisiana, became a full-fledged member of the old time music scene when she moved to the Virginia hills in 2007, where she was a founding member of the award-winning old time bands Old Sledge and Old Buck. She’s brought her guitar and bass chops, along with earthy, heartfelt vocal stylings, to many prestigious stages at festivals and venues across the United States.

“I was excited to hear that [the Oly Old Time Festival] wanted to book Riley Baugus and me for 2018,” said Guzmán. “They had seen me perform and teach at Fiddle Tunes in Port Townsend last summer and asked us to play for their festival. It’ll be a great reunion with Riley. He and I haven’t played together since 2015, when we toured with Old Buck and did a recording with The Stuart Brothers. I’ve been living in Lafayette, Louisiana for the last three years, and have focused more on honky tonk and classic country with my band, Sabra & The Get Rights. To get back to my old time roots is going to be a real treat.”

Guzmán believes that concert-goers will enjoy the song selection and harmonies when she and Baugus take the stage at the Old Time Festival’s Friday night concert. “Riley and I are singers at heart, through and through,” she said. “With old time music, we’re primarily drawing from songs and tunes from southeastern Appalachia, either from recordings from the early 1900s, or from hearing and learning from the folks we’ve been around. It’s the nature of the music, playing and singing songs and tunes that you’ve fallen in love with and heard and learned over the years.”



WHAT

Riley Baugus and Sabra Guzmán

WHERE

South Bay Grange
3918 Sleater Kinney Rd NE, Olympia

WHEN

7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2

HOW MUCH

\$20, 12 and under free

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Oly Old Time Festival

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18



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The High Waisted Ramblers



The Oly Old Time Festival is not only a musical showcase for new, emerging and established musical artists. It's also an experiential activity. Every evening of the festival hosts an interactive square dance with a fantastic live band and callers who provide clear direction, organization and a sense of humor.

On Friday night, the Festival hosts Chimacum-based old time quartet The High Waisted Ramblers. The Ramblers play a mix of Appalachian and midwest old time, early honky-tonk and country, and ragtime. The quartet is composed of Dave Bolt on guitar & mandolin, Melanie Curran on banjo & guitar, Tom Fenollosa on bass and Joanne Pontrello on fiddle. The Ramblers are brought together by their shared love of old time music. 0

WHAT

The High Waisted Ramblers

WHERE

South Bay Grange
3918 Sleater Kinney Rd NE, Olympia

WHEN

Friday, February 16, late night square dance

HOW MUCH

\$20, Free for kids 12 and under

LEARN MORE

olyoldtime.com



Oly Old Time Festival

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18



Brograss

By ADAM MCKINNEY AND TOM SIMPSON

Our music has a grand tradition of passing the love of music on from generation to generation. Brograss is a great example of this genre's continuity over time.

Tashi (16) and Kaj Litch (13) learned to appreciate bluegrass early on, thanks to their family's band, the Crow Valley String Band. At 9-years-old, Tashi took up the mandolin and began busking. Kaj joined in quickly on fiddle.

"We like the driving feel of bluegrass music, the close vocal harmonies, and the chance to break into crazy solos," said Tashi to OLY ARTS. "People have been playing this kind of music for a long time, but we try and find ways to bring this music to our generation."

Tashi and Kaj quickly took their playing to major stages. They've performed with Bran-di Carlile to a standing ovation at Seattle's Benaroya Hall and in Edinburgh's famous Whiski. The duo has also performed with Mike McCready of Pearl Jam, and shared the stage with fiddlers Liz Carole, Randal Bays and other celtic masters. Brograss (in their previous incarnation as Brother for Sale!) was also the youngest band to perform at the Doe Bay Fest.

Brograss has now released two albums of both original and classic bluegrass songs – the most recent of which dropped late last year. The two brothers are finding their voices as creators of music, rather than just interpreters of a classic form.

The brothers are looking forward to the festival. "The Oly Old Time festival is a great little festival with talented visiting artists and lots of young players around to jam with. There's always good workshops and a square dance packed with people," said the Brograss brothers. "It should be a lot of fun!" 0

WHAT

Brograss

WHERE

South Bay Grange
3918 Sleater Kinney Rd NE, Olympia

WHEN

7:00 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16

HOW MUCH

\$20, 12 and
under free

LEARN MORE

olyoldtime.com



Oly Old Time Festival

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18



| Concert and Dance Schedule

	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12-5 P.M.		WORKSHOPS <i>First Christian Church</i>	WORKSHOPS <i>First Christian Church</i>
5-6 P.M.		LOUNGE ACT <i>Misty Mountain Pony Club South Bay Grange</i>	LOUNGE ACT <i>Hawk Proof Rooster South Bay Grange</i>
6-7 P.M.	JAMMING <i>South Bay Grange</i>	JAMMING <i>South Bay Grange</i>	LOUNGE ACT <i>Crow Valley Stringbang South Bay Grange</i>
7-10 P.M.	KICKOFF SQUARE DANCE Caller: <i>Kelsey Nelsen</i> Band: <i>The Bow Weevils South Bay Grange</i>	CONCERT <i>Brograss Spencer & Rains Riley Baugus and Sabra Guzmán South Bay Grange</i>	BIG DANCE! Caller: <i>Maggie Lind</i> Band: <i>Spencer & Rains South Bay Grange</i>
10 P.M. TO LATE	JAMMING <i>South Bay Grange</i>	LATE DANCE! Caller: <i>Gabe Strand</i> Band: <i>Highwaisted Ramblers South Bay Grange</i>	HONKY TONK <i>Misty Mountain Pony Club South Bay Grange</i>
SUNDAY			
3-5 P.M.	CABARET <i>Grange</i>		





Oly Old Time Festival

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18



Friday, February 16

12 - 1 P.M.	MAKE A CRANKIE <i>Two-hour workshop</i>	Emily Teachout and Shanty Slater	Koinonia Hall	Crankies are basically fiddle tunes illustrated on paper or fabric and cranked on a spool so that they roll by in time to the music. We will demonstrate a crankie we've made and then we will make one together.
	ABSOLUTE BEGINNER CLAWHAMMER BANJO	Paul Silveria	Church Upstairs	Learn the fundamentals of clawhammer playing. Great for absolute beginners with no string instrument experience, as well as three-finger banjo players and other string players who want to try out clawhammer banjo.
1 - 2 P.M.	BEGINNING GUITAR	Ella Korth	Church Library	In this beginning guitar workshop you'll get tips on everything from how to hold the pick to ways to improve tone. Basic chords and strumming patterns. Bring a guitar and don't forget your pick!
	FUN FIDDLE TUNES IN GDGD	Charlie and Nancy Hartness	Church Upstairs	A repertoire session of current Cross G favorites, including tunes traditionally played in this tuning (or in Cross A) If there is time and folks are interested, Nancy and Charlie will teach a tune.
2 - 3 P.M.	SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN CLAWHAMMER BANJO	Riley Baugus	Koinonia Hall	Clawhammer techniques: we'll also play a tune and look at a couple of very helpful tunings that make it easier when playing in situations with lots of tuning changes. Riley's style is the Round Peak Style from Surry County, NC.
	FLATPICK GUITAR	Kaj Litch	Church Library	Kaj will teach a bluegrass tune and go over basic flatpicking technique. Suitable to all levels, even with limited flatpicking experience.
	SECONDING ON THE FIDDLE	Tricia Spencer & Howard Rains	Church Upstairs	Tricia and Howard will unlock the mysteries of their double fiddle sound with Tricia breaking down the seconding parts. Seconding on the fiddle allows you to focus on bowing and learn tunes more quickly.
3 - 4 P.M.	SHAPE NOTE SINGING <i>Two-hour workshop</i>	Marla Elliott	Koinonia Hall	Shapenote singing is an uninterrupted 200-year-old tradition of American vocal harmony. Also called "Sacred Harp" after it's best known tune book. Sung a capella, in four parts, and LOUD, shapenote singing has been called "gospel-punk".
	CAJUN FIDDLE	Lisa Ornstein	Church Library	"Empty Bottle Stomp" is a great modal crossed-tuned classic from Wallace "Cheese" Reed- it's a perfect crossover tune for old time fiddlers who would like to venture into Cajun country.
	OLD TIME BACKUP GUITAR	Tricia Spencer & Howard Rains	Church Upstairs	The big BOOM and the little chuck: chord choices, bass runs, and keeping. Explore the finger picking style that Howard learned from his Dad.
	SINGING	Sabra Guzmán	Main Sanctuary	Tricks, tips and tools on how to become a better singer. We'll concentrate on how to improve habits, practices and form to aid in making your own style blossom.



Oly Old Time Festival

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18



Friday, February 16

4 - 5 P.M.	MELODIC VARIATIONS IN OLD TIME MUSIC	Tony Mates	Church Library	This is not about big, hairy improvisations. Little changes, here and there, can give your playing more life. We'll look more at the left hand, not just bowing. We will do some listening & some playing.
	SINGING WHILE YOU FIDDLE	Maggie Neatherlin	Church Upstairs	Maggie will take a familiar old time tune and share tips and techniques for singing while you're fiddling.

Saturday, February 17

12 - 1 P.M.	KID JAM <i>Especially kid-friendly</i>	Maggie Neatherlin	Koinonia Hall	Maggie will lead a kid-oriented jam with familiar tunes. All acoustic instruments welcome. Instructors will help all interested youngsters participate and will be backed up by regular participants of the Olympia Kid Jam.
	MANDOLIN TUNES AND TECHNIQUES	Jack Dwyer	Church Library	We'll learn an old-time fiddle tune - taught by ear, phrase by phrase - and cover some useful tips on picking technique that will help you play cleaner and more rhythmically.
	CALICO TUNES ON FIDDLE	Sally Jablonsky	Church Upstairs	Sally will teach a crooked fiddle tune in Calico tuning (AEAC#), with an emphasis on bowing technique. Geared toward people who know tunes & can learn by ear. Fiddles, and mandolins welcome!
	A VISIT WITH THE OLD FOLKS	Brendan Doyle	Main Sanctuary	Brendan shares field recordings, photos, and stories from his visits with Tommy Jarrell, Melvin Wine, Luther Davis, the Hammons Family, Wilson Douglas, and other traditional old time musicians.
1 - 2 P.M.	ALL AGES DANCE <i>Especially kid-friendly</i>	The REDS with Prof. Banjo	Koinonia Hall	A square dance geared toward inclusion of youngsters. Professor Banjo leads a set of simpler dances to include everyone and have fun. The REDS will provide the tunes.
	MANDOLIN	Tashi Litch	Church Library	Tashi will teach basic left and right hand technique, essential chord shapes, and talk about backing up different kinds of tunes and songs on mandolin.
	OLD TIME FIDDLE	Lisa Ornstein	Church Upstairs	Tommy Jarrell's take on Cluck Old Hen is enough to make you shake your tailfeathers. This cross-tuned A tune has it all-- lots of blues, left-hand pizzicato, and drive to spare.
	APPALACHIAN SINGING	Riley Baugus	Main Sanctuary	From an area rich in mountain church singing traditions, Riley will lead the workshop in singing ballads and lined-out songs from the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. All are welcome, regardless of perceived singing ability.
2 - 3 P.M.	TAKE A TRIP TO UKULELIA	Charlie and Nancy Hartness	Koinonia Hall	We'll review the basic chords in the Keys of C, G, D, A and F, then play and sing songs together. We'll work on a steady percussive strum. Bring a uke in good playing condition, tuned GCEA.



Oly Old Time Festival

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18



Saturday, February 17

2 - 4 P.M.	OLD TIME GUITAR	Patrick Lind	Church Library	Let's play bass and drums at the same time! Oh wait, that's old time guitar. Fun and functional bass runs in various keys. I'll play fiddle for context and break down small guitar parts.
	OLD TIME FIDDLE TUNES FROM TEXAS, OKLAHOMA AND KANSAS <i>Two-hour workshop</i>	Tricia Spencer & Howard Rains	Church Upstairs	We'll teach fiddle tunes from the deep well of their repertoire. These are older and more archaic tunes than are typically thought as being from Texas and the midwest. A special, two-hour workshop for all instruments.
	SINGING	Sabra Guzmán	Main Sanctuary	Let's take some songs home with us! We'll sing an array of old time and classic country songs to add to your repertoire. Chords for guitar will also be included in the printouts.
3 - 4 P.M.	CLAWHAMMER BANJO	Ella Korth	Church Library	Ella will go over double thumbing and places to use it. You'll also explore different tunings, and melodic and rhythm styles.
	PARTNER DANCING 101	Jack Dwyer	Koinonia Hall	An intro to partner dancing for beginners and regulars alike. We'll cover all the basic steps you'll see out on the dancefloor, how to be better in your role as lead or follow, and some general do's and don'ts.
	UPRIGHT BASS	Eugene Jablonsky	Main Sanctuary	How to use the notes that are in between G, C and D. Eugene will also teach techniques for playing energetic bass lines with less physical effort. Eugene will answer all your questions that are not about life decisions.
4 - 5 P.M.	SPOONS	Milo Krims	Church Upstairs	Have you eaten cereal or soup and had an urge to make music? We'll go over using utensils as an instrument: how to hold them, keep rhythm and play along with tunes. Spoons provided, or bring your own.



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Oly Old Time Festival

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18



Hawk Proof Rooster

By ADAM MCKINNEY

Old time string music, with origins dating back to the late 19th century, never really went away. More accurately, it fell out of popular style, as most hit genres eventually do. Being a fundamentally American art form, though, it was always around, and it got a boost in national attention when the release of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* reignited public interest in older types of music. Listening to string duo Hawk Proof Rooster, you can imagine their songs must have been accidentally left off that instantly iconic soundtrack.

Even their name, Hawk Proof Rooster, stems from the sort of Southern-fried mysticism that would feel completely at home in the Coen Brothers' vision of early 20th century Americana: one man's chickens get picked off by hawks, one by one, until he sets off to find a rooster that could stand up to any old hawk. While this may sound like a tall tale that's been passed down through the years, it is actually a story told by Charlie and Nancy Hartness, the married duo that make up Hawk Proof Rooster, about a neighbor of theirs in Athens, Georgia.

Charlie and Nancy hailed from Portland, but found themselves living in Georgia. When they eventually released an album of their own – after time spent collaborating with groups like Spencer and Rains and the Sky Island Stringband – it was with the daunting 21-track *Got a Little Home*. Made up of a mixture of original songs and covers, the album runs the gamut of emotion, from carefree ditties ("Bill Sullivan's Red Steer") to mournful odes ("The Lynching") to something in-between ("I Only Want a Buddy Not a Sweetheart"). At their most charming, in "Dear Beethoven," they interpolate the fourth movement of Beethoven's ninth symphony, and transcend the inherent pitfalls of such a cheeky trick.

All along the way, Charlie and Nancy trade off instruments, incorporating guitar, ukulele, fiddle, banjo, and other hallmarks of old time music. The harmony they've found in their relationship lays a smooth line to the harmony they make in music, creating an utterly warm experience. 🐔

WHAT

Hawk Proof Rooster

WHERE

South Bay Grange,
3918 Sleater Kinney Rd NE, Olympia

WHEN

4:00 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17

HOW MUCH

Free

LEARN MORE

olyoldtime.com





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Oly Old Time Festival

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18



Spencer & Rains

By ADAM MCKINNEY

When we talk about old time music, there's an implicit promise in that description. We're discussing music that carries forward traditions that were baked into it from its inception. Like any other art form, innovations, excursions, and experiments have transpired over the years, but old time music, by design, is built on a steadfast foundation that has proven unshakable. Fans of the classic form have fastidiously endeavored to keep the original sound and spirit of this genre alive and in practice. If you look for the platonic ideal of this style, you needn't look any further than Spencer & Rains.

The duo of Tricia Spencer and Howard Rains display a clear desire to uphold the traditional sounds of old time music, but they reserve an ability to imbue their songs with the sort of vitality that must have hit the ears of those hearing this type of music way back when. Part of that is due to their thrillingly dynamic musicianship; on "Apple Blossoms," the opening track of their 2016 LP "The Spotted Pony," we're treated to their dual fiddle harmonies, wordlessly painting a picture of a joyous summer's day. In fact, Spencer & Rains prefer to allow us to get acquainted with their ability to tell stories purely instrumentally. When "Ida Red" comes around, four songs in, we finally hear Spencer & Rains' lovely vocal harmonies.

More often than not, Spencer & Rains are interested in making music that will make you dance. There's a vibe of a party that accompanies many of their songs, very much in line with old time music's history of soundtracking square dances and exuberant celebrations. Ideally, you'd not taking in the music of Spencer & Rains from any position other than standing and jigging. When you're given a moment of respite, it's on songs like "Dew Drop Waltz," which doesn't encourage a lack of dancing so much as a more intimate, gentle kind of dance. In keeping with their traditionalist style, they have their share of songs that have to do with old battles, such as "Mace Bell's Civil War March" and "Bonaparte's Retreat," as well as odes to a life lived in simpler times, like "Mississippi Snagboat" and "Louisiana Traveler." While the topics may be old, and the instrumentation may be even older, Spencer & Rains are preternaturally adept at making their music feel thrillingly vital. 0



WHAT

Spencer & Rains

WHERE

South Bay Grange,
3918 Sleater Kinney Rd NE, Olympia

HOW MUCH

\$20, Free for kids 12 and under

WHEN

CONCERT

7:00 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16

DANCE

7:00 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17

LEARN MORE

olyoldtime.com



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Music Books for Oly Old Time

By ANDREA Y. GRIFFITH

A WINDING STREAM

Beth Harrington

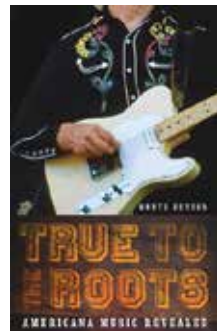


I grew up listening to Johnny Cash. In their own words, family, friends, musicians and historians offer first-hand recollections and

insightful observations that illuminate the Carter and Cash contributions to American pop culture.

TRUE TO THE ROOTS

Monte Dutton



A fascinating account of the people and places that define the countercultural aspects of the Americana music tradition (defined as

"American roots music based on the traditions of country.")

GIRLS LIKE US

Sheila Weller

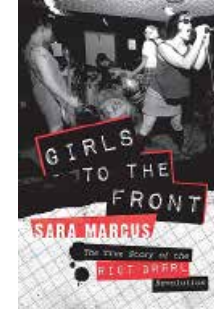


An engaging biography of three of America's most enduring musical artists--Carole King, Joni Mitchell, and Carly Simon. The 1960s

come alive through the depiction of these women's lives and songs.

GIRLS TO THE FRONT

Sara Marcus



Interested in the Olympia music scene? Start with Girls to the Front - the definitive history of the Riot Grrrl movement, the radical feminist

punk uprising of the 1990s.

TELEGRAPH AVENUE

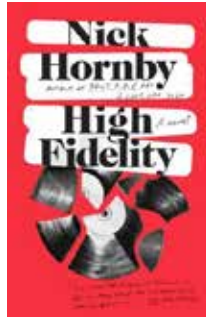
Michael Chabon



Michael Chabon's expansive and warm novel focuses on two friends who own a record shop in Oakland. Themes of race, friendship and soul music are explored.

HIGH FIDELITY

Nick Hornby



Another record store novel. British author Nick Hornby writes a more offbeat look at how music, pop culture and life interact in surprising, real ways.

HOW MUSIC WORKS

David Byrne

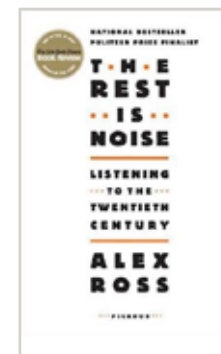


Based on his own life and career, Byrne writes a deeply enthusiastic look at music as a form and the influences

that shape it, whether acoustical, economic, social or technological.

THE REST IS NOISE

Alex Ross



Ross is the music critic for *The New Yorker* and this is a sweeping, dramatic and incredibly readable history of the twentieth century through the lens of its music.

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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WHEN

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Winter Movies, OFS

By JONAH BARRETT

Winter is in full swing in Olympia, so this is the best time of year to enjoy a warm theater, a big screen and a tub of popcorn at Olympia Film Society. OFS has curated a fine list of wonderful and unique films that will help you escape the cold and enjoy the screen! 0

MARY AND THE WITCH'S FLOWER

FEB. 3, 17, 24

Studio Ghibli's fearless leader, Hayao Miyazaki, can't seem to make up his mind about whether or not he actually wants to retire. A few Ghibli animators must've felt the same way when they branched off and created their own animation studio: Studio Ponoc. "Mary and the Witch's Flower" is Ponoc's first feature film, and the world is rejoicing over this noted spiritual successor to Ghibli. The film is about a young girl who is whisked away to a magic school called Endor College. But terrible things are afoot in the school, and it's up to Mary to set things right.

IN THE FADE / FEB. 16-22

Usually, revenge stories have the wife murdered and the husband going all out for justice. It's a tiresome trope. "In the Fade" flips the script. Neo-Nazis assassinate Diane Kruger's family and it's up to her to settle the score. It's a nice change on an old setup, and unlike a lot of past male-led revenge films (*cough* "Taken" *cough*) "In the Fade" seems to have something important to say.

THE 90TH ACADEMY AWARDS OSCAR PARTY

MARCH 4

Welcome to the Olympia-style Oscars evening. Rob Patrick, film programmer of OFS, tells us about this exciting night: "We're thrilled to have celebrated musicians Lisa Prank and Bree McKenna (Tacocat) host our live Oscars party. There is no better Pacific Northwest tandem than Bree and Lisa, and the Olympia Film Society recognized that the insight, energy, and observational humor they bring to every event would be perfect for the Academy Awards."

MEAN GIRLS / MARCH 17

OFS film programmer, Patrick describes the classic film "Mean Girls" as "an art house theater masterpiece." Known as one of the best films of the aughts, it stars Rachel McAdams, who has gone on to notable success in "True Detectives" and on the big screen.

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UPCOMING MOVIE EVENTS



SATURDAYS 1/24, 2/3, 2/27
OFS KID'S CLUB PRESENTS
MARY & THE WITCH'S FLOWER



FEBRUARY 23 - MARCH 1
CALL ME BY YOUR NAME



FEBRUARY 14
REALITY BITES
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FEBRUARY 16-22
IN THE FADE
GOLDEN GLOBE
FOR BEST FOREIGN
LANGUAGE FILM



MARCH 4
90TH ACADEMY AWARDS OSCAR PARTY



MARCH 31 - APRIL 1
THE OUTHOUSE
THE PUNK ROCK MUSIC
DOCUMENTARY CLASSIC

2018 OSCAR NOMINATED SHORTS



FEBRUARY 9 - 15
2018 OSCAR
NOMINATED SHORTS:
LIVE ACTION



FEBRUARY 9 - 15
2018 OSCAR
NOMINATED SHORTS:
DOCUMENTARY



FEBRUARY 16 - 22
2018 OSCAR
NOMINATED SHORTS:
ANIMATION

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 7:30 PM
OFS PRESENTS ON THE BACKSTAGE
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SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 8 PM
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THEIR NEW ALBUM
WAILIN' JENNY'S

Olympia Symphony Orchestra: Closing Remarks

By KAREN HERTZBERG

When an orchestra covers a beloved composer, it must take care to play his music with precision. “No piece of music is easy,” said Huw Edwards, Music Director and Conductor of the Olympia Symphony Orchestra, “but Mozart is famous for being so exposed — any blemish on [the performance’s] purity is magnified. The accompaniment is chamber music writ-large, so the players have to be very sensitive.”

The Olympia Symphony Orchestra will perform two pieces by beloved composers for its Feb. 18 concert, Closing Remarks. “Piano Concerto No. 27 in B flat major, K. 595” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart will feature Russian pianist Oksana Ezhokina, who is lauded for her Mozart playing. The offering pairs with “Symphony No. 9 in C major, D. 944” “Great” by Franz Schubert. The concert features late works by renowned composers, both of whom died in their 30s.

“Although these are ‘late’ or ‘last’ works, it should be remembered that both composers died so young ... so they are still the works of young men,” said Edwards. “There is a palpable valedictory mood about the Mozart, definitely an essay in final things, but the Schubert is full of energy and wide-eyed optimism. He hoped it would rank up there with the Symphonies of Beethoven. Alas, he never heard a note of it performed in his lifetime.”

“The Schubert ‘Great C-major’ is notorious for being an endurance test for the strings,” said Edwards. “There are thousands of measures in this work, so maintaining the energy and corporate pulse is a challenge. Schubert penned this Symphony when he was 29—quite remarkable! He’s the wisest and most world-weary 29-year-old I’ve ever encountered.”

The Olympia Symphony Orchestra celebrates its 65th anniversary this year with a season entitled Thinking Big. Closing Remarks kicks off three symphonies to be presented this spring, culminating with Beethoven’s Ninth in April. The concert marks a rare matinee performance. Edwards points out that it also occurs the day before Presidents’ Day, a school holiday, making it a family-friendly event.

Classical music lovers should expect a wonderful performance, says Edwards. “The players have been fantastic, and we’re getting better all the time. We have experienced some positive changes this year, so it was a good time to push the envelope and step-up our game. It’s going to be a fun three months.”

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Your “Other Closet”

WHAT

Olympia Symphony Orchestra: Closing Remarks

WHERE

Washington Center Main Stage
512 Washington St. SE, Olympia

WHEN

3:00 p.m. Sunday, February 18

HOW MUCH

\$7-\$60

LEARN MORE

360-753-8586
washingtoncenter.org/event/
oso-1802

Emerald City Music: Spiritual Journey

By KAREN LUNDE

In mid-February, Emerald City Music will take Olympia South Sound music lovers on a spiritual journey through classical music. This is the first time an Emerald City concert will feature a soloist, baritone Christopher Herbert, a two-time GRAMMY nominated member of the male classical quartet New York Polyphony. Gilbert Kalish (piano), Kwan Yi (piano), Alexi Kenney (violin), and Robert deMaine (cello) round out the cast of visiting performers from around the globe.

“Our concert experience is not what you’d expect from classical music,” said Andrew Goldstein, Executive Director of Emerald City Music. “We pull musicians from all over the world and pair them individually for concerts that are very casual and intimate. The things you see on our stage are unique. You won’t see them anywhere else.”

Goldstein described vocalist Herbert as an “interesting and charming guy” who was involved in politics prior to his musical career. Herbert will sing a set of songs by iconic American composers Copland and Bernstein. “This is one of the first times we’re exploring, very candidly, the emotional power of music, especially as it relates to spirituality,” Goldstein said.

One of the pieces featured in the concert, Ives’ Violin Sonata No. 4, “Children’s Day at Camp Meeting”, was composed with a twelve-year-old violinist in mind. But when the sonata was complete, Ives discovered that the young violinist couldn’t play the last two movements and neither could his teacher. The composition is based on the church hymns sung at children’s services and camp meetings in the early 1900s.

Emerald City Music, founded in 2015, produces virtuosic chamber music shows in Olympia and South Lake Union. A Spiritual Journey is the fourth offering of their second season. “In these spiritual themes,” said Goldstein, “we’re exploring what connects us as human beings.” 0

**WHAT**

Emerald City Music: Spiritual Journey

WHERE

Kenneth J. Minnaert Center Main Stage
2011 Mottman Rd. SW

WHEN

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17

HOW MUCH

\$25-\$40

LEARN MORE

360-753-8586
washingtoncenter.org/event/ecm-1802

God is a Scottish Drag Queen

By JONAH BARRETT

Not today, Satan! God is coming to Olympia, and she is looking fabulous. In early March, the Washington Center will host Mike Delmont's award-winning one-queen show, "God is a Scottish Drag Queen."

"I'm very excited for the show to play in Olympia," said Delmont. "Sometimes the title scares folks off, but we regularly have nuns, priests, and all kinds of clergy, so if people take a risk, I think they will leave having had a really great time."

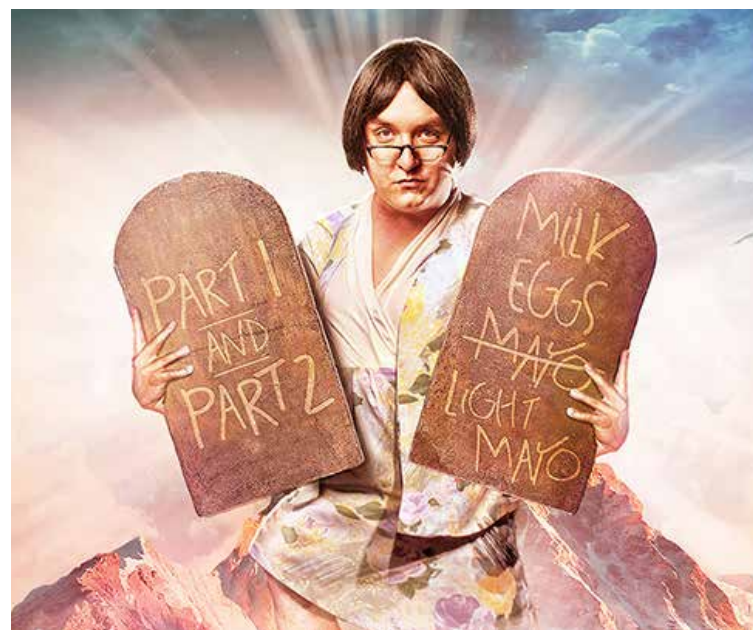
The character of God was originally created in a cabaret called Atomic Vaudeville, in which Jesus and Satan compete in a battle of the bands. Delmont stated that the character went through some changes before transforming into the dazzling drag deity we all know and love today.

"I played Jesus's dad. We knew that we wanted a masculine character in feminine clothing because we liked the dynamic. ... Originally, I wore a fiery red wig with large Lady Gaga-esque glasses [and used] a thick English accent," said Delmont.

For some reason though the audience just didn't dig the character, so Delmont went home and gave her a "dragulation" — a heavily needed drag makeover. The next night, Delmont arrived with a black bob wig and small reading glasses on his nose, switching out the English accent for a Scottish one. "It was a success," Delmont said. "Folks loved it."

Delmont continued to play the character in Atomic Vaudeville, and in 2011 decided to give her an entire one-queen show. After that, he said, "The rest is history." The show has been going strong ever since, and Olympia will witness it performed in two acts over the course of one night. God graces the stage, polished in a floral Honey Mahogany dress, and gets right to work in clearing up some misunderstandings via throwing shade.

"I adore this character," Delmont said. "I love that the character can speak about Justin Bieber and then about Mormons and it all makes sense and has weight. There is a sneaky side to the character, but I think it's the sincerity that brings the audiences back again and again." 0



WHAT

God is a Scottish Drag Queen

WHERE

The Washington Center
512 Washington St SE, Olympia

WHEN

March 8, 7:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH

\$32

LEARN MORE

washingtoncenter.org/event/god-is-a-scottish-drag-queen/

I Am My Own Wife at Harlequin Productions

By ALEC CLAYTON

Harlequin Productions has brought Doug Wright's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *I Am My Own Wife* to Olympia for their first play of 2018. It is the true life story of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, an eccentric and elegant German transvestite who hid from the Nazis in plain sight by presenting as a woman. It won not only a Pulitzer in 2004 but a Tony Award for Best Play.

Aaron Lamb, who most recently directed *August: Osage County* and who had leading roles in Harlequin's *The 39 Steps* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, will direct *I Am My Own Wife*. "It's a tour-de-force one-man show for an actor who must not only play the transperson lead, but an additional 30 plus characters as well," says Harlequin's Linda Whitney.

Seattle-based actor and director Corey D. McDaniel has been cast in the lead role. He is the founder and producing artistic director of Theatre22 in Seattle. As an actor, he has worked throughout the US and internationally with credits ranging from stage to television to the big screen. His most recent director credits include *Treasure Island* with Book-It Repertory Theatre, *Sister Act the Musical*, *Bonnie and Clyde*, and Naomi Izuka's *Good Kids* at Cornish College of the Arts, *The Pride*, *Wizzer Pizzer*, and *The Hours of Life* for Theatre22, *Julius Caesar* with Island Shakespeare Festival, and *The Wild Party* for Sound Theatre Company, which received a Gregory Award and a Gypsy Rose Lee Award.

I Am My Own Wife is a profound portrait of an individual who managed to survive both the Nazis and the Communists who followed. Doug Wright has written a work that is an exploration of the ambiguities of World War II Germany as well as the moral complexities of the second half of the 20th century. The play is based on a number of interviews the playwright had in the 1990s with the real and extraordinary Charlotte von Mahlsdorf. Openly gay and in drag, von Mahlsdorf was a celebrated and obsessed collector of Wilhelm II antiques. Yet controversy hounded her final post-war years in the form of accusations of complicity with the German Stasi. "Was she a hero of queer history or a Judas in a black dress and pearls?" Whitney asks. "*I Am My Own Wife* is a play about what it can take to be a survivor in a place and time intent upon the obliteration of your kind." 0

WHAT

I Am My Own Wife

WHERE

Harlequin Productions
202 4th Ave. E, Olympia

WHEN

8 p.m. Thursdays - Saturdays,
2 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 18 to Feb. 10

HOW MUCH

\$20-\$34

LEARN MORE

(360) 786-0151
harlequinproductions.org



The Art of Racing in the Rain

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Butterflies Are Free at Olympia Little Theatre

By ALEC CLAYTON

Next up at Olympia Little Theatre is the comedy with a message, *Butterflies are Free*, by Leonard Gershe, winner of two Tony Awards. Unusual for any play, this one has two directors: Barb Matthews and Allison Gerst.

Gerst says. “Many times we casually said, ‘We work well together, maybe we should direct a play sometime.’ Well, she came up with *Butterflies are Free*. The small cast and relatively small scene changes made it seem manageable. She said, ‘Will you do it as co-directors?’ I said yes, and here we are.” Matthews will direct the actors and action, and Gerst will direct the blocking, “which is very specific,” Matthews says, “due to one of the characters being blind.”

It is 1969. Don Baker (Conner Nuckols) has just moved into his very first apartment in Manhattan and met his new neighbor, Jill (Ashley Thomas), a free-spirited, wannabe actress. Don has been blind from birth. Nevertheless, he is sure he can learn to live independently — with a little help from Jill. But then his mother (Neicie Packer) shows up and wants him to come home. Also appearing is Phil Folan as Ralph Austin, Jill’s new boyfriend. “Don doesn’t believe (being blind) should stop him from making his own choices,” Gerst explains. But his mother has other ideas. “His mother loves him deeply, but has trouble accepting this bid for freedom.”

Matthews says, “About two years ago I asked Kathryn Beale, ‘How do you pick the right play?’ She told me, ‘Choose one you can’t stop thinking about.’ I thought about it and *Butterflies are Free* is one of those stories that has remained a favorite of mine since I first saw the movie in 1971.” OLT’s *Butterflies are Free* should prove to be a fun and heartwarming experience. 0

WHAT

Butterflies Are Free

WHEN

7:25 p.m. Thursday-Saturday

1:55 p.m. Sunday, March 9-25

WHERE

Olympia Little Theatre, 612 4th Ave. E, Olympia

HOW MUCH

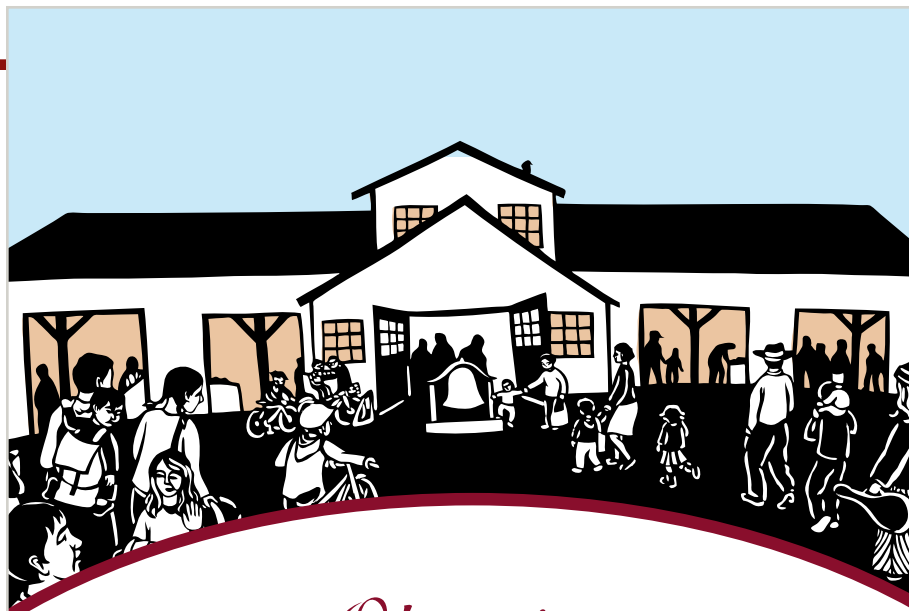
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3 Impossible Questions at Olympia Family Theater

By ALEC CLAYTON

Olympia Family Theater premieres a new play by local actor, director and playwright Christian Carvajal based on ancient Muslim legends of the Mullah, or master, Nasreddin. This entertaining play for all ages tells the tale of when three wise men challenge Nasreddin to answer three impossible questions. While Nasreddin tries to gather his wits, the gathered people tell stories of the Mullah and folk tales from the Muslim world. In this production, the stories are told by a dozen local actors including Tom Sanders as the mayor and Keith Eisner, Jack House and Chuck Meares as the wise men. Jon Lee plays Mullah Nasreddin.

Director Ted Ryle said, “Nasreddin, folk hero of Sufi Muslim lore, wise fool and spiritual jester, invites us to accept and enjoy the absurdity of our little selves and the folly of pretense. His learning stories have been passed down from parents to children across the Muslim world over the centuries. While ‘his’ mausoleum still stands in his ‘birthplace’ of Akşehir, Turkey — a large, padlocked gate protecting a building with no walls — it is questioned whether the ‘man’ actually existed. Regardless, the stories live on, perhaps with some important and timely light to shine on the western world. OFT is thrilled and honored to present this collection of Mullah moments, along with several other Muslim folk tales from the east, both middle and far.”

National politics drove Carvajal to write the script. He explains, “The 2016 election exposed a grotesque tumor of Islamophobia, even in Olympia, but that inspired me to visit a mosque for the first time in my life. I was told I’d find terrorists there. Instead, I found justifiably terrified parents and children. Even so, I was greeted with nothing but warm hospitality, humor and love. I resolved then and there to do what I could to celebrate the diversity of this community, especially our Muslim neighbors and friends.

We’re taught to see Muslims as humorless and violently defensive of beliefs we know little about. Yet in Mullah Nasreddin I discovered a character, known and loved throughout the Muslim world, who challenged his religion via comedy, parables and paradox. He reminded me of geniuses I admire from my own family’s faith tradition.” 0



WHAT

3 Impossible Questions

WHERE

Olympia Family Theater, 612 Fourth Ave. E, Olympia

WHEN

7 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 2-18

HOW MUCH

\$13-\$19

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The Glass Menagerie

By ALEC CLAYTON

Tennessee Williams' classic drama *The Glass Menagerie* is coming to South Puget Sound Community College in March, to be presented by student actors and directed by Lauren Love.

It is the tragic story of Amanda Wingfield — who lives in poverty in a dingy St. Louis apartment with her son, Tom, who drinks to excess, and her daughter, Laura, who is crippled and lonely — and what happens when Tom invites a friend home for dinner and Amanda sees the friend as husband material for Laura.

“Amanda strives to give meaning and direction to her life and the lives of her children,” Love said, “though her methods are ineffective and irritating. Tom is driven nearly to distraction by his mother’s nagging and seeks escape in alcohol and the world of the movies. Laura also lives in her illusions, intensified by her mother’s anxiety to see her married.”

“I considered this classic play initially to introduce our students, and perhaps reintroduce our audience, to Williams’ extraordinary poetic use of the dramatic form,” Love said. “I also felt our students were ready to take on the challenge of such an intellectually and emotionally complex play. Further, as I reread the play, I was authentically moved by its poignancy. Its power to generate a human longing for freedom, adventure, creativity, energy, innovation, cultural depth and human connection has reminded me of the universal poignancy of its themes. *The Glass Menagerie* is a true classic, owing to its layers of symbolism, its rich language and emotional profundity.”

The Glass Menagerie is thought to be an autobiographical but certainly fictionalized play. It premiered in 1944 and won the coveted New York Drama Critics Circle Award in 1945. Kimberlee Wolfson plays Amanda, Ethan Grabowski plays Tom, Sydney Keith plays Laura, and Zacary Bache plays the role of the dinner guest, Jim O'Connor. 0



WHAT
The Glass Menagerie

WHERE
Kenneth J. Minnaert Center Black Box
South Puget Sound Community College, 2011 Mottman Rd. SW


WHEN
7 p.m. March 1

HOW MUCH
\$12

LEARN MORE
360-753-8586
washingtoncenter.org/event/
spsdrama-180303

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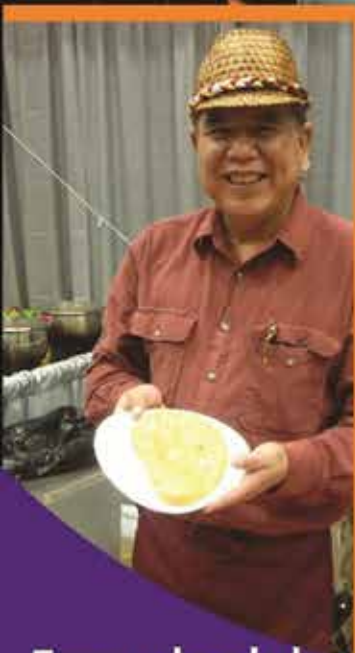
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