

ISSUE N°11 | SPRING 2018

# OLY ARTS

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

## PERFORMANCE 05-08

### New in Olympia

Pink Martini and Las Cafeteras headline the Washington Center, plus StoryOly and more!

## DANCE 09-10

### Spring Classical Ballet

"Swan Lake" at Ballet Northwest and Studio West goes down the rabbit hole with "Alice in Wonderland."

## PROCESSION 13-23

### Arts Walk & More

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## DRAMA 29-35

### Local Theater

Theater showcases La Cage Aux Folles, Cinder Edna, Three Days of Rain and Talley's Folley.

Special: Harlequin's Future - 29



Thurston County

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# OLY ARTS

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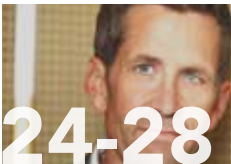
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Three Days  
of Rain

La Cage aux Folles

Cinder Edna

Tally's Folly





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### OLY ARTS

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

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## 1718 THINKING BIG!

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65 YEARS OF LIVE LOCAL CLASSICAL MUSIC



# Say Yes to Pink Martini at The Washington Center

By CHRISTIAN CARVAJAL

Portland-based Pink Martini is a danceable jazz combo with international flair. “More and more,” said founder Thomas Lauderdale, “as time goes on and we see the growth of so much bitter divisiveness in America and across the globe, our ambition is to find commonalities and bring people together with our music — Republicans and Democrats, the old and the young. ... Everywhere we go, especially when we’re in a country not represented already in our concerts, I ask people for suggestions of songs with beautiful melodies that are beloved in their culture.”

Lauderdale created Pink Martini almost a quarter-century ago — recruiting Harvard classmate China Forbes as lead singer — as a backing band for political fundraisers. He aspired to be mayor of Portland, but that ambition derailed when the band’s first single ascended French music charts. Since then, Pink Martini has been featured on *Parks and Recreation*, *Sherlock*, *The Sopranos*, *The Tonight Show*, *The West Wing* and in over half a dozen movies. Its single “Hey Eugene!” hit the pop charts in 2007, followed by a cover of “Joy to the World” in 2010. The band is touring in support of its 2016 album, *Je dis oui!* (“I say yes!”).



“I think the real theme of the record,” Lauderdale added, “is to bring people together, to find commonalities among different cultures ... Our goal is to end every show with the audience forming an enormous conga line during our final song, ‘Brazil.’ But before that there will be a couple of songs during the program, I’m sure, where we’ll invite anyone from the audience who brought their dancing shoes to come on stage and dance with us. We love a good neighborly dance party with our fans! People have stopped dancing. Dancing is so important. I think that Pink Martini has some great songs to dance to.”

## WHAT

Pink Martini

## WHERE

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

## WHEN

7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21

## HOW MUCH

\$67-\$102

## LEARN MORE

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





# Las Cafeteras: Eclectic Big Band Tastes Like L.A.

By ADAM MCKINNEY

One would be hard-pressed to find a band more intimately ingrained in the Los Angeles scene than Las Cafeteras. Their sound is an eclectic mixture of styles, combining elements of folk, hip-hop, cumbia, punk and Americana, reflecting the vibrant multicultural makeup of L.A. They formed at local community center Eastside Café, which inspired their name. Being as immersed as they are in a politically active area like East L.A., the band is deeply socially conscious, focusing as much on message as they do on crafting compelling music.

“We’ve always done community organizing and community education, so, for us, the political nature of our work is really natural,” said Las Cafeteras member Daniel French. “We’re trying to be more mindful about how we’re telling stories and how we’re amplifying stories that don’t get told as much. ... We’re hopefully inviting people who maybe need to listen to those stories to open up their ears more, and hoping to inspire people to come together and celebrate who they are and where they come from and to become more human — to dance a little together, to sing together.”

On their most recent LP — appropriately titled *Tastes Like L.A.* — Las Cafeteras comes out swinging with the bright shuffle of “Tiempos De Amor,” and they don’t let up for another nine songs of genre-blending bliss. Highlights like the joyous, brass-heavy “Vamos to the Beach”; the raucous cover of “This Land Is Your Land”; and the politically charged “If I Was President”, itself a spin on a Mexican folk traditional, all paint a picture of Las Cafeteras as omnivorous consumers of art and promoters of unity.

Las Cafeteras is a huge band, made up of Leah Rose Gallegos, Jose Guadalupe Cruz Cano, Denise Carlos, David Jesus Flores, Hector Paul Flores, Gloria Estrada, Jorge Mijangos and Daniel French. Through sheer numbers and an impeccable musicality, they create lush, immersive sounds that inspire their listeners to move. With their activist streak, they also aim to inspire people to, as French said, “leave the concert hall and go do something, whatever they know they need to do.”

# 06

## WHAT

Las Cafeteras

## WHEN

7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 26

## WHERE

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

## LEARN MORE

360-753-8586  
washingtoncenter.org

## HOW MUCH

\$26



# Lip Sync Contest at Lacey Fun Fair

By CHRISTINA BUTCHER

Each year, Lacey residents ready themselves for a weekend jam-packed with every form of entertainment imaginable. Food, crafts, live music, giveaways, local vendors, car shows, you name it — the Lacey Spring Fun Fair brings it all to Saint Martin's University every year. The intent is to strengthen community pride and identity while providing free, family-friendly entertainment to the South Sound.

"I hope everybody gains an appreciation for their community," said Jeannette Sieler, the recreation supervisor for Lacey Parks and Recreation. "I hope they have a chance to come out and have fun and meet people who live near them, and have fun while seeing all that Lacey has to offer."

This May will mark the Fun Fair's 31st anniversary. Entertainment will include pony rides, circus trains, ballistic swings, a "Jurassic adventure" playground and over 30 crafts, games and giveaway booths, all provided free to the public. Over 75 vendors will sell crafts and food. There are also entertainment options with audience participation. "We're holding a lip-sync contest," said Sieler. "This is going to be a lot of fun. Anyone can come out and take the stage and sing a song without sound. They can show us what they've got!"

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

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



## WHAT

Lacey Spring Fun Fair

## WHERE

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

## WHEN

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday, May 19  
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday, May 20

## HOW MUCH

Free

## LEARN MORE

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# StoryOly at Rhythm & Rye

By **BRYAN WILLIS**

They don't call her "Olympia's Diminutive Spitfire" for nothing. Amy Shephard is a driving force behind Olympia's popular story slam series, StoryOly. "I've loved storytelling for as long as I can remember. I've spent a lot of my adult life listening to storytelling podcasts and hoping to someday start a story slam event in Olympia," confided Shephard. That's exactly what she did with the help of co-founder and well-known storyteller Elizabeth Lord. Both women are accomplished actors who also share a passion for storytelling.

When a StoryOly event begins, storyteller hopefuls put their names into a hat. Names are picked, and, one by one, storytellers take the stage. The ten featured stories are scored by a team of judges selected from the audience. Each story slam generates a story slam winner. After ten slams, the winners face off in an annual Grand Slam Championship. Participants range in age from early 20s to early 80s.

Lord has a theory about the popularity of the medium. "People crave storytelling; always have. When they're presented with a real, live human being speaking directly to them without filters, they're enchanted. It is so real, so true. Raw storytelling in its simplest form is incredibly powerful. It creates a sense of intimacy between strangers unachievable with other formats."

StoryOly takes place every 3rd Tuesday of the month at Rhythm & Rye (all shows 21+) in downtown Olympia. Slams begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. Each show is pay-what-you-can (suggested: \$5 - \$10), with half of all ticket sales donated to local charities and non-profits. Shephard said the theme for the upcoming April 17 show will be Alone. "Will the stories be sad or liberating? Who knows? I can't wait to find out." 0

## WHAT

StoryOly

## WHERE

Rhythm & Rye  
311 Capitol Way N., Olympia

## WHEN

Tuesday, April 17  
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

## HOW MUCH

Suggested donation of \$5 - \$10

## LEARN MORE

storyoly.com  
360-705-0760

08

STUDIO WEST DANCE THEATRE

# Alice in Wonderland

May 3-5, 2018



The Washington Center for the Performing Arts

TICKETS 360-753-8586 WASHINGTONCENTER.ORG

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# Down the Rabbit Hole with Studio West

By MELISSA AVRIL HARRIS

In search of an escape this spring season? Take a trip down the rabbit hole with Studio West Dance Academy's production of *Alice in Wonderland*. The classic children's tale of a little girl who ventures into a world filled with tardy white rabbits, mystical caterpillars and fearsome Queens is, according to co-director Stephanie Wood-Ennett, a story "people cherish — both adults and children. It's full of surprises."

With an ensemble of immensely gifted students, Wood-Ennett can't hide how impressed she is with the talent they have in this production. "It's going to be exceptional," she confided. The Queen of Hearts is played by Naomi de Jesus with an intense ferocity. "This role is great for her because she gets to throw all of her energy into the fullness of the character," said Wood-Ennett.

Playing the Queen of Hearts offered de Jesus an opportunity that, in her own words, allowed her to "break traditional roles where you have to be perfect. In this one, you get to be fierce, almost angry. It's great to do so many different types of characters."



Photos from 2014 *Alice* production by Thi Dang

Another of Wood-Ennett's protégés, Cole McMason, returns to his ballet roots after venturing south to the Oregon Ballet Theater (OBT), where he played a number of roles in their production of *Alice (in Wonderland)*. Upon returning from OBT, McMason credited Wood-Ennett for preparing him "perfectly" to make the jump into the professional world of ballet. "Stephanie has been my teacher since I first started. She's incredibly kind and pushes you to where she knows you can be."

Audiences will have the chance to see both de Jesus and McMason the first weekend in May when *Alice in Wonderland* opens at the Washington Center Main Stage. Assures Wood-Ennett, "It's the perfect family show — a fun and really engaging ballet to bring your kid to." 0

## WHAT

Alice in Wonderland

## WHERE

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

## WHEN

7 p.m. Thursday, May 3  
7 p.m. Friday, May 4  
1 p.m. & 5 p.m. Saturday, May 5, with a  
Special Event: Alice's Tea Party 4 p.m. –  
4:45 p.m.

## HOW MUCH

\$16-\$28

## LEARN MORE

360-753-8586  
washingtoncenter.org





# Swan Lake Showcased by Ballet Northwest

By MOLLY GILMORE

Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* didn't earn much acclaim when it debuted in 1877 in Moscow, but once it took wing, the ballet continued to soar. Ballet Northwest's production of the classic about a young woman cursed to live as a swan opens May 11 at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts.

"After *Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake* is the most popular and well-known ballet in the world," said Ken Johnson, who directs Ballet Northwest with his wife, Josie Johnson. "It's performed by every major company."

Ballet Northwest debuted the ballet in 2010, combining the traditional choreography for the lead roles and the Johnsons' own choreography in other scenes.

The cast includes 75 dancers, ages 12 and up. All are members of the dance company, except guest artist Ashley Baker. Baker is a former member of the company who left Olympia in 2011 to train at Pacific Northwest Ballet School and now dances professionally with Ballet Idaho. "We're really excited," Johnson said. "She was in our original swan corps in 2010."

Baker is dancing the role of Odette, the story's heroine. Emily Walter, a high school senior in the Running Start program at South Puget Sound Community College, will dance the role of Odile, the black swan who seduces Odette's beloved Siegfried (Anthony Gamroth). Odile is the daughter of Von Rothbart (Jacob Brein), the sorcerer who placed a curse on Odette.

While professional companies usually have one dancer perform Odette and Odile, Ballet Northwest split the roles to showcase two dancers and emphasize the different styles of the two swans — smooth, lyrical and romantic for Odette and athletic for Odile, whose choreography includes lots of jumps and turns.

Johnson sees variety as a big part of the ballet's appeal. "There's the beauty and drama of the scenes with the swans," he said. "There's the fun and action of the town scenes; the people of the town and the jester dance to celebrate Siegfried's birthday. And in the palace ballroom scene, there are different dancers representing Spain and Italy and Persia. Those dances have different flavors and different characters." 0

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## WHAT

Swan Lake

## HOW MUCH

\$14 - \$33

## WHERE

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

## WHEN

7:30 p.m. May 11 and 2 p.m.  
May 12 & 13

## LEARN MORE

360-753-8586  
washingtoncenter.org



# Masterworks Choral Ensemble Celebrates Female Composers

By KAREN LUNDE



When one thinks of Mendelssohn, one likely thinks of Felix. But Felix Mendelssohn's older sister Fanny was a virtuoso pianist and a prolific, gifted composer. Her talents were obscured by the societal constraints of her time, which kept women from pursuing musical professions. For its April concert, Masterworks Choral Ensemble (MCE) will bring women in music to the forefront, highlighting female composers in a performance entitled *Hidden Musical Figures: Women in Music*.

"I was inspired by the movie *Hidden Figures* about the black women mathematicians that worked for NASA," said MCE Artistic Director and Conductor Gary Witley. "Our concert title ... is a play on the movie title. The current multi-part movements about equal pay, no harassment, etcetera, made it a good time to focus on the artistic achievements of women composers."

The concert will feature works dating back to the 12th century German mystic Hildegard of Bingen, to Fanny Mendelssohn, to Clara Schumann, to present day

pieces by contemporary artists like Emma Lou Diemer and Laura Farnell, and Northwest composers Karen Thomas and Dr. Gloria Swisher. "The hardest part about picking music for this concert was narrowing down the choices from literally 17 pages of single-spaced names of women composers throughout history," said Witley. "Sadly — and probably to be expected, given the lack of attention to women composers — there was not much music currently in print for the more historical figures."

"The most challenging and, I think, the most beautiful piece is 'The Peace of Wild Things,' by Joan Szymko," said Witley. "This piece is for four-part women that expands to seven parts at times. The harmony is close, dense and immensely beautiful. I picked this work to showcase the women in our chorus as well as the artistry of the composer." Witley noted that Joan Szymko is a Pacific Northwest composer whose work was featured recently at the American Choral Directors Association conference in Portland. 0

## WHAT

Masterworks Choral Ensemble's  
Hidden Musical Figures: Women in Music

## WHERE

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

## HOW MUCH

\$10 - \$22

## WHEN

7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 14

## LEARN MORE

360-753-8586  
washingtoncenter.org



# Olympia Symphony Orchestra Concert: Coming Full Circle

By KAREN LUNDE

In June of 1947, the Olympia Symphony Orchestra (OSO) performed its first ever work — Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s “Overture to Don Giovanni.” Now, at the culmination of its 65th season, the OSO will once again open with Mozart’s famous overture — in essence, coming full circle.

The concert will also debut Austin Schlichting’s composition, “Festschrift.” “The other circular sub-plot,” said Huw Edwards, the orchestra’s music director and conductor, “is that Austin is the grandson of former Music Director Fred Schlichting, who was at the helm of the OSO for many years. Austin plays in the OSO and is a composer... [this makes] a generational connection to the past to have him write a piece for our 65th jubilee.”

“Austin ... has merged some of the themes from the Mozart and Beethoven works into his piece,” said Edwards. “It quotes some other great works from the orchestral repertory, including some works he has played sitting in the viola section of the OSO. It’s always both fun and daunting to bring a new piece into the world — rather like delivering a baby.”

The Olympia Symphony Orchestra played Beethoven’s *Symphony no. 9 in D minor, op. 125* during the opening season of the Washington Center, making it another piece that fits the full circle theme. The powerful work, completed in 1824, was Beethoven’s final symphony. OSO has collaborated with the Olympia Choral Society and members of the Timberline High School Choir for the performance. Soloists Marlette Buchanan (soprano), Miya Higashiyama (alto), Brendan Tuohy (tenor) and Charles Robert Stephens (bass) will join the packed stage to perform.

Edwards notes that OSO’s 2012 performance of *Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony* sold out. “Beethoven is arguably the greatest embodiment of the human spirit in music, and his *Ninth Symphony* — especially the ‘Ode to Joy’ final movement — speaks to all mankind and has become a universal hymn of hope and renewed belief in humanity in today’s troubled world.”



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### WHAT

Coming Full Circle

### WHERE

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

### HOW MUCH

\$7 - \$60

### WHEN

7 p.m. Sunday, April 22

### LEARN MORE

[olympiasymphony.org/thinking-big](http://olympiasymphony.org/thinking-big)





# Arts Walk & Procession

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 - SATURDAY, APRIL 28



**Check Out Our New Look!**  
A new way to experience Arts Walk!



Mom and Peace - Laura Yu

# Olympia Arts Walk

& Procession of the Species Celebration



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# Arts Walk & Procession

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 - SATURDAY, APRIL 28



## FRIDAY, APRIL 27

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
5 PM	<b>ARTS WALK CENTER</b> Acoustic Street Performers
	<b>ARTS WALK FAMILY ACTIVITY AREA</b> OPARD Activities, with Hands on Children's Museum & Capital Lake Fair Royalty
	<b>WELL 80 BREWHOUSE</b> Matt Samson, Piano and Waldorf Student Marimba Band
	<b>MEDIA ISLAND</b> Voice of the People, Radio Segment
	<b>PARENTS ORGANIZING FOR WELFARE AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS</b> P.O.W.E.R. Block Party
5:30 PM	<b>GRAVITY YOGA</b> Yoga Demonstrations
	<b>CASCADIA GRILL</b> Mario Pan, Latin Music
	<b>BANDHA ROOM</b> Ashtanga Yoga Demonstration
6 PM	<b>CHILDHOOD'S END GALLERY</b> PC&J, Music
	<b>THREE MAGNETS BREWING, CO.</b> The Evergreen State College Artists at Arts Walk, Walking Tour
	<b>ART HOUSE DESIGNS</b> Hastings, Dennis, Quartet Music
	<b>EMBER</b> Kate Densmore, Singer Songwriter
6:30 PM	<b>AIKIDO OF OLYMPIA</b> Aikido demonstration
	<b>SWING</b> Greta Jane Pedersen & Vince Brown, Swing Jazz

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
7 PM	<b>WASHINGTON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS</b> Studio West Dance Academy
	<b>WASHINGTON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS</b> The Tuned In Academy
	<b>PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY CARE CENTER</b> The Lemmings, Music
8 PM	<b>ARTESIAN COMMONS</b> The Bridge Music Project
	<b>BANDHA ROOM</b> Ragdharna, Sitar & Percussion

### 9:30 P.M. - LUMINARY PROCESSION

From Fifth Avenue and Washington St. to Sylvester Park



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# Arts Walk & Procession

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 - SATURDAY, APRIL 28

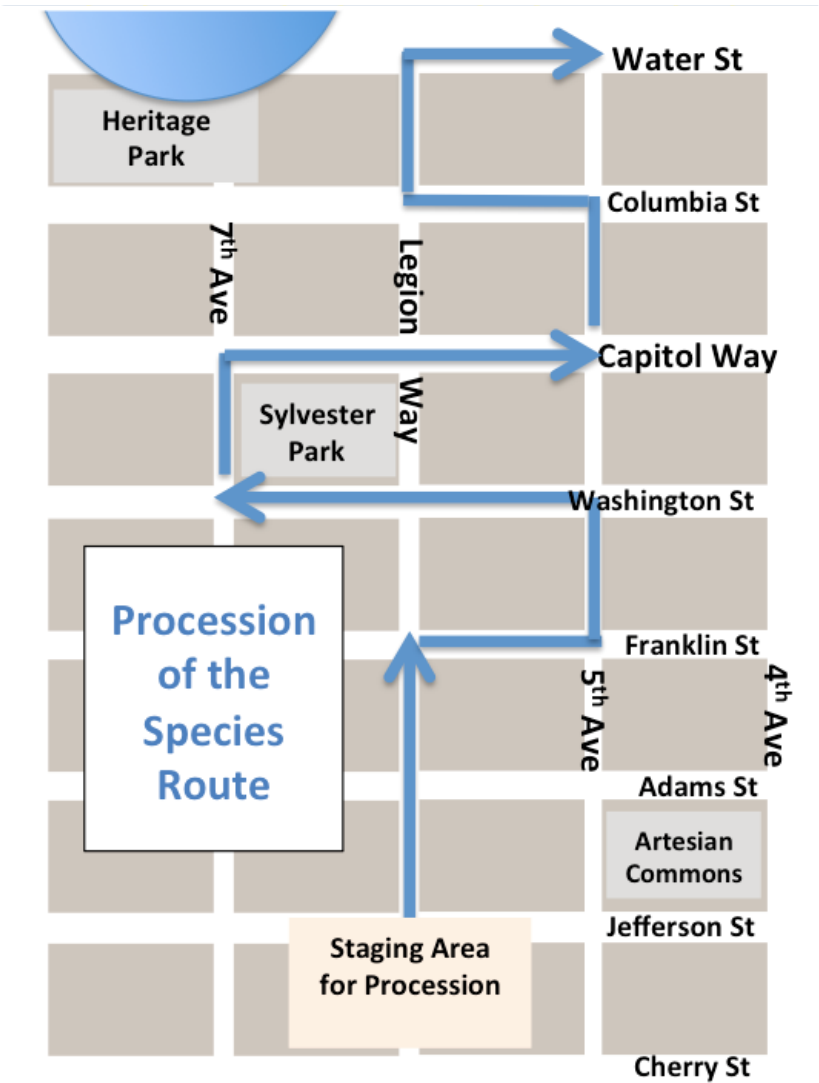


## SATURDAY, APRIL 28

	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
10AM	THE OLYMPIA FARMERS MARKET	Tumwater Hill Marimba
NOON	THE OLYMPIA FARMERS MARKET	Micaiah Sawyer
	THE OLYMPIA CENTER	Kupuna Ho'okani, Hawaiian Dance
	GRAVITY YOGA	Yoga Demonstrations
	GALLERY BOOM	Boom Market, Arts and Craft Fair
12:45PM	CITY OF OLYMPIA ART IN PUBLIC PLACES: MUSIC OUT LOUD	Music Out Loud: Dedication Honoring Steve Munger
	ARTS WALK FAMILY ACTIVITY AREA	Music Out Loud: Dedication Honoring Verne Eke
	TIMBERLAND BANK	Music Out Loud: Dedication Honoring Bert Wilson
1:30PM	CHILDHOOD'S END GALLERY	Ann Finn, Piano
2PM	WASHINGTON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS	SOGO Pet the Instruments
3PM	THE MOUSE TRAP	Vince Brown, Jazz Guitar
5PM	CASCADIA GRILL	Dinsmore, Kate, Songstress
8PM	BANDHA ROOM	Butohracle, Divination for Adults

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

From Jefferson and Legion to Heritage Park







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# Arts Walk & Procession

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 - SATURDAY, APRIL 28



## Procession of the Species

By ADAM MCKINNEY



The annual return of two Olympia institutions is approaching — the Luminary Procession and the Procession of the Species. Started in 1995 as the brainchild of local nonprofit Earthbound Productions, the Procession is a lovingly crafted, DIY march that aims to bring attention to the ever-present crisis of human impact on the global animal populace and Earth’s climate. Every year, an increasing number of folks spend months building puppets, costumes and lanterns (the latter namely for the Luminary Procession) —all designed to evoke the natural world— and then march their beautiful creations down the streets of Olympia.

“It’s become part of the culture and one of the things that stands out when people speak of this idea of, ‘This is where I live,’” said Earthbound Productions and Procession of the Species co-founder Eli Sterling. “People don’t watch the Procession and go, ‘Wow, the Procession is really cool.’ They watch the Procession and go, ‘Wow, this is a cool place to live.’”

Sterling makes the astute point that the mere existence of the Procession as a spectacle is not as important as its symbol for the coop-

erative community that Olympia engenders. The Procession is a manifestation of what Olympia can do when it combines forces. In the lead-up to the event, a number of workshops are offered for participants of all ages to get together and craft what they will be bringing to the march, with increasingly elaborate works of art popping up to elevate what is a fundamentally homespun experience.

“We have the opportunity to still engage with each other, and it’s a miracle. It really is miraculous that we get to have a life upon this planet,” said Sterling. “The Procession has always said that and has never apologized for that. It is a celebration that we are here.”

While Sterling is pragmatic about the direction in which the world has been going, when it comes to environmental causes, the Procession remains a fundamentally hopeful project. After 24 years of existence and its shares of ups and downs, the Procession marches forward into a brighter tomorrow, bringing along its own illumination. 0



### WHAT

Luminary Procession and Procession of the Species

### WHERE

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

### HOW MUCH

Free

### WHEN

Luminary Procession: 9:30 p.m. Friday, April 27

Procession of the Species: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28

### LEARN MORE

[procession.org](http://procession.org)



# Arts Walk & Procession

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 - SATURDAY, APRIL 28



## Berebitsky's Marvelous Menagerie

By CHRISTIAN CARVAJAL

Jerry Berebitsky is the technical director for performing and media arts at The Evergreen State College. He's also filled similar roles at Olympia Waldorf School and South Puget Sound Community College. Yet, when Berebitsky makes appearances at each Procession of the Species, it's his animal sidekicks that really draw the eye. That's because he's the team lead responsible for a flock of over 30 Procession peacocks, including a 24-foot-high puppet made of bird netting, burlap and fabric scraps over a frame of metal and plastic irrigation pipe.

Soon after they moved from Colorado to Olympia about a decade ago, Berebitsky and his growing family were recruited to play beavers in the Procession. That inspired him to build a pink elephant, then craft the large peacock and oversee a full ostentation of support characters.

"The peacock is quite easy to store," noted Berebitsky. "It breaks down into relatively small pieces. The giant tail folds up into one nice, long package." He was proud of that puppet's motion and colorful appearance, but this year he intends to add a creation with a much wider range of articulated

motions. "The legs won't just move down the street. It'll have another form of movement," he teased.

He recalls an Indiana production, *The Wiz*, for which he designed a great and powerful wizard puppet. "This was big. That piece had the strongest six seconds I had ever achieved on stage. It was 18 feet tall and 30 feet across ... and it went four rows into the audience." The wizard was performed by a crew working in military precision. Later "he" led a parade and was displayed twice in the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

It's easy to think of Procession creatures as emissaries from arts-minded organizations, but Berebitsky stresses that, in his mind, those puppets represent nothing more than earth's beautiful, threatened, irreplaceable animal populations. 0



### WHAT

Jerry Berebitsky-led Puppet Creations

### WHERE

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

### HOW MUCH

Free

### WHEN

4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28

### LEARN MORE

360-493-0906  
olympiawaldorf.org





# Arts Walk & Procession

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 - SATURDAY, APRIL 28



## Honk if You Love Dance

By **BRYAN WILLIS**



**A**rtesian Rumble Arkestra is teaming up with Radical Acts of Dance Company (RADCo) to create a movable meadow for the Procession.

Mary Nelson, one of four women who started RADCo in 1999, described the performance as a “flora entourage extravaganza. We’re incorporating some mind-blowing mandalas originally created for the Illuminated Ball. The artwork is just incredible, and we wanted to share it with a larger audience.”

“It’s a ‘Mystical Meadow,’” said Mike Carlson, trombonist with the Arkestra. “I think I might be a lady bug, but it’s still a work in progress.”

Carlson described ARA as “an eclectic, somewhat activist-street-band-musical social group. We’ve had a core of musicians over the years, but the Arkestra continues to change. We’re essentially a leaderless group. Anyone is welcome to come play at the dock (they meet every Friday at ‘the Kiss’), but you

need an invitation to join the group and play the other gigs.” Those other events have included The Evergreen State College graduation, Arbor Day and Seattle Honk Fest West.

Both local groups are mainstay contributors to the Procession. According to Nelson, RADCo members are featured throughout the parade. “But be sure to look for the spider mandala. It’s absolutely gorgeous.” 0

### WHAT

Artesian Rumble Arkestra & Radical Acts of Dance Company

### WHERE

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

### HOW MUCH

Free

### WHEN

4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28

### LEARN MORE

360-705-1216  
artesianrumble@yahoo.com





# Arts Walk & Procession

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 - SATURDAY, APRIL 28



## Luminary Lights Glow in the Night

By MOLLY GILMORE

The subtler sibling to the many-splendored Procession of the Species, the Luminary Procession shines brightly, filling the streets of Olympia with glowing paper lanterns and live music. When it began in 2009, this procession was intended exclusively for participants, as a ritual honoring the human spirit.

“There’s something extraordinarily special when you see a lit, glowing object at night,” said procession founder Eli Sterling. “It’s like a candle in the window for a traveler. The Luminary Procession emanates the same warm feeling of ‘this is home.’”

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



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

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

### WHAT

Luminary Procession

### WHERE

Luminary Procession from Franklin St. SE and Fifth Ave. to Sylvester Park

### WHEN

9:30 p.m. Friday, April 27

### HOW MUCH

Free

### LEARN MORE

360-705-1087  
Procession.org





# Arts Walk & Procession

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 - SATURDAY, APRIL 28



## Hansen Elementary Students as Ants for Procession of the Species

By KAREN LUNDE

Although few people welcome ants parading across their kitchen counter, the students in Julia Abrams' first and second grade class at Hansen Elementary are getting excited to put the industrious insects on parade for this year's Procession of the Species.

"I've been bringing my class to the Procession of the Species every year I've been teaching," said Abrams. In the past, her students have studied a local habitat, with one choosing a specific animal from that habitat and researching it before becoming that animal for the Procession. This year, Abrams took her class in a different direction. "One of the students' moms is an entomologist and taught us about insects," she said. "That got me thinking about maybe doing something with insects for the parade. I remember being totally captivated by leafcutter ants when I lived in Costa Rica, and I could just picture all the kids following in a squiggly line like the ants. I know I like to walk in all kinds of squiggles as much as possible when I'm the line leader. That's how I got the idea."

Leafcutter is the non-generic name for any of 47 species of leaf-chewing ants endemic to South and Central America, Mexico and parts of the southern United States. They're named for their habit of cutting and carrying leaves back to their underground nests. The ants don't eat the leaves, however. Instead, they use them to grow underground fungus gardens that provide them with food. A leafcutter ant can carry fragments that are up to 20 times their own body weight.

Abrams said that when she was growing up, she remembered making a banner for a similar parade. "I loved making art and building things. I loved projects," she recalled. "Now, I get to do it all over again with a bunch of kids and watch them create the most amazing creations. I can't imagine not doing it. It is hands-down my favorite thing about teaching." 0



### WHAT

Procession of the Species

### WHERE

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

### HOW MUCH

Free

### WHEN

4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28

### LEARN MORE

[procession.org](http://procession.org)



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# Arts Walk & Procession

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 - SATURDAY, APRIL 28



## DANIEL G. BERNSTEIN

BY ALEC CLAYTON

Daniel G. Bernstein's photography covers the land, animals, people, and important events in and around Olympia and the greater Pacific Northwest. He documented the multiple marriages that took place in the Capitol Rotunda in 2012 when marriage equality first became law. You name it, and he's documented it with his camera — not just newsworthy events, but the beauty to be found all around us.

For example, "Steps-to-Serenity" is a study of light and shadow. The brilliant yellow-green of leaves contrasts with the soft and withered gray of old tree limbs as the camera peers up an archway of branches on a ladder ascending to a tree swing overlooking a Zen garden near Yelm. It was built by Roderick Wolgamott Romero, lead singer of the former Seattle-based band Sky Cries Mary. Another stunner is a picture of a burning sunset over water at Titlow Park in Tacoma.

Bernstein will be showing 50 to 75 of these and other photos. Showing with him will be artist Julie Jansen. 0

### WHERE

The Pet Works

### WHEN

5 -10 p.m. Friday April 27

12 - 8 p.m. Saturday April 28



## DIANNA FAIRBANKS

BY ALEC CLAYTON

Art lovers should have little trouble finding Diana Fairbanks' paintings, as she is showing in multiple venues in Arts Walk.

Fairbanks is well-known locally for her paintings of iconic regional scenes, including a giant donut floating down the Deschutes River recently shown at South Puget Sound Community College. She also had a large showing of river paintings at the Washington State Department of Ecology. These were part of her quest to paint all the rivers in Washington. She says she's halfway through with the project.

Fairbanks is a classically-trained artist and former scientific illustrator who now paints landscapes and selected still-life subjects. At Gravity Yoga, she will show some of her large river paintings. Showing with her will be other artists who have worked with her at her studio, OlyImages, including Kay Guest and Dortha Paulson. At Blackbird Mercantile, she will show paintings completed while in Sienna, Italy this past October. 0

### WHERE

Gravity Yoga

### WHEN

5 -10 p.m. Friday April 27

12 - 8 p.m. Saturday April 28



## JONATHAN HAPP

BY ALEC CLAYTON

Jonathan Happ paints darkly mysterious winter scenes with isolated figures in landscape settings, often near streams or in deep, dark forests. The figures and their surroundings are painted with hardly any details and in mostly dark colors — wintry blues and off whites, murky yellowish-greens and dark grays, all with nuanced modulations of tone. They are night scenes or, in some instances, misty early morning or twilight scenes. Most attention-grabbing is that the figures wear monotone pants and hoodies and are nearly all seen from the back or side.

Who are these people who inhabit his paintings? They are isolated or in small groups, appearing to avoid detection, like criminals hiding in the woods. There is even one of a man hiding behind a tree. In another, the acidic yellow of a tree trunk has a ghostly glow, and yet another has tree limbs that look like giant insect legs. It is this mysterious and ominous quality that give Happ's paintings a signature look. 0

### WHERE

Childhood's End Gallery

### WHEN

5 -10 p.m. Friday April 27

12 - 8 p.m. Saturday April 28





# Arts Walk & Procession

FRIDAY, APRIL 27 - SATURDAY, APRIL 28



## CHRIS MAYNARD

BY ALEC CLAYTON

Chris Maynard's unique and unforgettable feather art has often been seen at Childhood's End Gallery in Olympia, and his work has been shown and resides in private collections worldwide, most recently at the Coors Western Art Exhibit and Sale in Denver. Using delicate instruments — such as tiny eye surgery scissors, forceps, and magnifying glasses — Maynard carves feathers into intricate art. Typically, a Maynard piece might be a single feather or group of feathers into which he has carved images of birds. Often the tiny, cut-out birds are mounted on the wall as a murmur flying around the larger feather. Some of the birds are almost microscopic in size, and his pieces — which he calls shadowboxes, even though they're not always in boxes — consist of birds presented as both positive and negative shapes.

It has been two years since he has shown his work at the Olympia Arts Walk. He will show 20 new pieces at Capitol Florist on Capital Way, and most of them have never been shown publicly. 0

### WHERE

Capitol Florist

### WHEN

5 -10 p.m. Friday April 27  
12 - 8 p.m. Saturday April 28



## MIA SCHULTE

BY ALEC CLAYTON

Mia Schulte creates brightly colored abstract paintings inspired by landscapes — many of which call to mind the majesty of mountain ranges, sea and sky — using mixed media including acrylics, charcoal, pastel, inks and watercolor.

Schulte was born in Turkey and grew up in a family that traveled and lived in many countries throughout Europe and the Middle East. Schulte was selected as one of the featured artists for the South Puget Sound Community College exhibition *Drawn to Abstraction: Four Artists, Four Visions*. Her work has been shown in the Washington Center for the Performing Arts, the Seattle Design Center, the Bellevue Art Museum, and the Tacoma Community College Gallery, as well as in galleries and exhibitions in Seattle, Bellingham, Edmonds, Bellevue, Yakima and other cities throughout the state. She was recently selected to be in a show at the Prince Street Gallery in New York City. 0

### WHERE

Fosbre Academy

### WHEN

5 -10 p.m. Friday April 27  
12 - 8 p.m. Saturday April 28



## CHINA STAR

BY ALEC CLAYTON

The Evergreen Arts Walk Tour describes China Star as “a conceptually-minded process artist working across disciplines in 2D, 3D, installation and performance.”

In Arts Walk this spring, she will show abstract, mixed-media paintings from a series called “MORTALITY: The Loss Paintings.” She explained, “The series of currently 40-plus paintings was started in late 2016 in response to a bunch of things going on that related to mortality, including losing friends in the Oakland Ghost Ship fire, dealing with difficult health situations and raising a teenager.”

Paintings in the series use layers of what she called “copious amounts of paint and pattern,” a way of painting that she calls an evolution of previous works on paper. “The point of the painting was to give myself creative time and space to just process my thoughts and emotions about loss and mortality in general, but what began to come into being felt very universal, much like loss and mortality is a theme for everyone, everything.” 0

### WHERE

The Brotherhood Lounge

### WHEN

5 -10 p.m. Friday April 27  
12 - 8 p.m. Saturday April 28



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# Spring Reading

By ANDREA Y. GRIFFITH

## THE GREAT CHICKEN ESCAPE

Nikki McClure



A reissued edition of one of Nikki's first books. Four chickens flee their coop for

the day in the Alaska wild. McClure will be at Browsers on April 20 to talk about the book. See our website for event details.

## MISS RUMPHIUS

Barbara Cooney

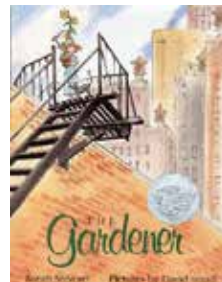


Alice Rumphius wants to travel the world, live in a house by

the sea and do something to make the world more beautiful. She doesn't know what that could be for a long time. An unforgettable story about how small acts can make a big difference in the world.

## THE GARDENER

Sarah Stewart



Lydia Grace Finch is a true gardener, bringing seeds from her rural town to the big city where she is sent to live with her uncle during the De-

pression. Needless to say, being in a big city doesn't stop Lydia from gardening. Such a sweet story.

## SMALL-SPACE VEGETABLE GARDENS

Andrea Bellamy



Planning a garden is an anticipatory pleasure, and this is a practical guide to gardening small. Bellamy explains how to find and

assess a space, how to plan and build a garden and highlights sixty edible plants to grow and harvest. Bring on the sunshine.

## RAIN GARDENS FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



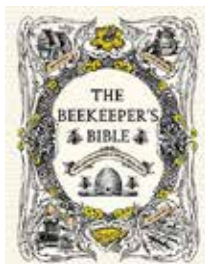
Pasztor & Keri Detore

The authors did an event last fall at Browsers, and they got a lot of Olympia thinking about how

to build these. This book shows how to create a beautiful area in one's yard while also trapping and filtering rainwater safely, which cuts down on polluted water draining into rivers, lakes and wetlands.

## THE BEEKEEPER'S BIBLE

Richard A. Jones & Sharon



Sweeney-Lynch

This wonderfully illustrated book is part practical guide, part cookbook, part history book. Topics

covered include how to manage hives safely, how to harvest honey and ideas on how to use honey and beeswax.

## THE EARTH MOVED

Amy Stewart



A glorious account of the humble earthworm's hefty feats. This book explores the worm as a savior and destroyer through the environmental

perspective of a curious gardener.

## BROLIOLOGY

Marion Rankine



As a rule, folks in Olympia resist carrying an umbrella. We don't mind getting a little wet. This engagingly written book on the place of the humble

umbrella in literature and history may change your mind. A perfect spring gift.

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

### WHAT

Browsers Bookshop

### WHERE

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Olympia

### WHEN

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# A Marvelous Adventure at Saint Martin's Summer Creative Writing Institute

By TOM SIMPSON

Writers, storytellers and budding novelists will have a chance to burnish their words, prune their paragraphs and hone their sentences at the Summer Creative Writing Institute at Saint Martin's University this summer. This year, the Writing Institute has rolling admission, but if you apply before May 15, you could receive priority consideration.

The third-annual Writing Institute takes place at Saint Martin's University from June 10 to 16. For one week, a chosen community of writers will edit, talk about their stories, and support one another as they cultivate their creativity and move their books further toward publication.

In this particular creative journey, acclaimed Olympia novelist Jim Lynch will be the muse and guide. Three of Lynch's bestselling novels have been set in western Washington, including *Before the Wind*, *The Highest Tide* and *Truth Like the Sun*. During the Writing Institute, Lynch will share his experience as a storyteller as well as his knowledge of the writing business. "In focusing on Pacific Northwest writers, we are realizing the tremendous wealth of authors we have in this part of the country," said Olivia Archibald, the Institute's director.

"The Writing Institute this summer should be a marvelous experience. We are delighted to have Jim return and enrich the work of all our writers," Archibald said. Other activities include evening presentations from local writers, special writing workshops and blocks of writing time to work on the craft. 0

## WHAT

Summer Creative Writing Institute

## WHERE

Saint Martin's University

## HOW MUCH

\$990 (resident to the area)

\$1,145 (includes room and board)

## WHEN

PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINE

May 15

WRITING INSTITUTE

June 10-16

## LEARN MORE

360-438-4564

[stmartin.edu/writinginstitute](http://stmartin.edu/writinginstitute)



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# Jess Walter Returns to Olympia

By BRYAN WILLIS



like to laugh at readings, so I generally try to write something that makes me laugh — although your results may vary.” Jess Walter will also be featured as the keynote speaker for the April 12 “Readers are Leaders” benefit breakfast for the South Sound Reading Foundation. This year is the sixth annual event, and last year featured nationally known librarian and novelist Nancy Pearl.

Walter, who is based in Spokane, explains why he jumped at the chance to be part of the Reading Foundation breakfast despite the long trip: “I’m always open to speaking requests from groups committed to literacy and building young readers. At the Readers Are Leaders breakfast I’ll be speaking about the power of books in the lives of young people.”

Advance reservations are highly recommended for both events. 0

## WHAT

Washington Center Salon

## WHERE

Washington Center Black Box,  
512 Washington St. SE, Olympia

## WHEN

7:30 p.m. Friday April 13

## HOW MUCH

\$12

## LEARN MORE

360-753-8586  
Washingtoncenter.org

Two of the Northwest’s most well-known novelists will be featured in events April 12 and 13 in Olympia. Jess Walter, the National Book Award nominee and winner of the Edgar Allan Poe Award, will join Olympia’s own Jim Lynch as featured literary artists at the Washington Center Salon. They’ll be joined by other artists as well – author Maria Mudd Ruth, actress Amy Shephard, environmental writer John Dodge and violist Lisa Dyvig.

Executive Director Jill Barnes hopes the Salon series will continue to flourish: “Where else can someone hear brand new works of fiction read by the author, learn about an artist’s process and be inspired by original poetry in one night? The intimate atmosphere (Stage II) and quality of talent makes for a truly special event.” This year will mark the Washington Center’s third annual Salon.

Jim Lynch is writing a short story especially for the Salon. “It’s about an Uber driver in Olympia — beyond that, you’re just going to have to wait,” he wryly explained. *The New York Times* recently called Lynch “an original and gifted novelist,” and he continues to receive accolades from readers around the world.

Jess Walter’s reading is still a surprise, even to himself. “I’m not sure yet. I

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# Spring Films and Events at Olympia Film Society

By JONAH BARRETT

## FRANKIE COSMOS | APRIL 18

"Frankie Cosmos is the best band to listen to while you're hugging a small dog or getting splashed with rain by a bus," said Programming Director Rob Patrick. "We recommend everyone come out to the show to cry together."

## SERA CAHOONE | APRIL 21

"We're excited to host the amazing Sera Cahoon. She is an influential Pacific Northwest artist who has played with Seattle luminaries such as Carissa's Wierd and Band of Horses. She is now fronting a sweeping string trio with the esteemed musician Alex Guy," said Patrick.

## INSIDE PEACE | APRIL 29

Prison is a hard place, and toxic masculinity doesn't help make it any easier. An experiment at a Texas prison involved several inmates attending a 10-session Peace Class. Inside Peace follows these inmates as they rediscover their humanity and self worth and begin the process of rebuilding their lives.

## MCSI PRESENTS: HARRY AND THE HENDERSONS | MAY 6

Do you believe in Bigfoot? The Hendersons run into the infamous beast one camping trip and decide to take him home. This film sparked many children of the 1980's to obsess over cryptozoology (the study of hidden animals), so maybe this film will inspire today's children, too. Just think of it, a whole town full of little cryptozoologists running around, trying to solve mysteries.

## DAVID ARCHULETA | MAY 9

American Idol alum David Archuleta made his Idol debut in 2007, and he will be performing songs from his new album *Postcards in the Sky*. This concert is sure to please fans of the show.

## WHITE RAVENS | MAY 30

This powerful documentary focuses on the islands of Haida Gwaii and the Haida Nation's experiences with colonization and genocide. "White Ravens invites questions of restorative justice, and, because it brings to light Indigenous histories for non-Indigenous folks, it has the potential to take down the kinds of walls that get built up in our minds," said director Georg Koszulinski.

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 <p>APRIL 6 – 12 ACADEMY AWARD WINNER GARY OLDMAN</p> <p>THE DARKEST HOUR</p>	 <p>APRIL 29 SPECIAL SCREENING WITH POST-FILM Q&amp;A</p> <p>INSIDE PEACE</p>	 <p>MAY 6 SPECIAL FAMILY FILM PRESENTED WITH MCSI</p> <p>HARRY &amp; THE HENDERSONS</p>

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

 <p>APRIL 14 CAR SEAT HEADREST NAKED GIANTS</p>	 <p>APRIL 18 FRANKIE COSMOS + IAN SWEET + SOAR + TRUST FALL</p>	 <p>APRIL 21 SERA CAHOONE STRING TRIO + ZOE MUTH</p>
 <p>MAY 9 AMERICAN IDOL ALUMNI DAVID ARCHULETA</p>	 <p>MAY 2018 1ST ANNUAL NORTHWEST HORRORFEST</p>	



# Harlequin Productions Turns a Corner, Creates a Brighter Future

By KAREN LUNDE AND NED HAYES

In the winter of 2018, Olympia's own theatrical powerhouse, Harlequin Productions, weathered a significant storm. The theater's Board of Directors took immediate and decisive action to correct behavior that they saw as endangering the safety and well-being of actors and members of the Harlequin community. Founding Artistic Director Scot Whitney resigned, and the company changed course in a dramatic fashion (for backstory, see OLY ARTS online at [OlyArts.com/harlequin](http://OlyArts.com/harlequin)).

Associate Artistic Director Aaron Lamb has been asked by the Harlequin Board to assist with current season planning alongside founding Artistic Director Linda Whitney. Under Lamb's guidance and direction, the board has righted the Harlequin ship and is headed in a positive direction for the future.

"The artistic legacy is intact, but we are focused on continuing that legacy into the future in a healthy and dynamic manner," said Lamb. "We are making changes to ensure that we are an inclusive, safe and respectful place to work at the same time continuing the artistic legacy."

All existing planned Harlequin shows remain on track, albeit with new directors. The current shows underway for this year – "Three Days of Rain," "Magical Mystery Midsummer Musical," "Ruthless!" and "A Steady Rain" each now have confirmed directors who have solid pedigrees in South Sound theater. Associate Artistic Director Aaron Lamb will be directing "Three Days," while the Harlequin community hopes to see Linda Whitney helm "Midsummer Musical".

Harlequin has chosen a new season for 2018-2019, which will be previewed and announced on June 1 at "Eclectica!", their re-scheduled Season Preview Gala. At the gala event, guests will hear more about each of the seven shows for the 2019 Season. The evening includes show readings, songs from musicals, a catered dinner and a live auction. Harlequin Board Treasurer Joe Hyer will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

In the days that followed the Board's rapid action, the theatrical community of Harlequin Productions worked together on deeper solutions that would ensure that the South Sound's premier, Equity-class theater would survive and thrive. An outside human resources firm, Stellar Associates has also been contracted to assist Harlequin in creating new policies and procedures. Stellar is a woman-owned management and human resources firm led by Julie Boyer, former Assistant Director at the Department of Natural Resources.

The artistic community in the Olympia area rallied around Harlequin's new direction.

"Harlequin has contributed to our cultural economy for almost three decades," said Washington Center for the Performing Arts Executive Director Jill Barnes. "We want to see sustainable theater in Olympia for generations to come. Our community desires and deserves quality theatrical productions."

Olympia Family Theater Managing Director Jen Ryle also provided her perspective: "Harlequin has been through a tough time, but we want them to survive and thrive. It is difficult to negotiate these waters, but speaking out and standing up for others is the right thing to do. This is a good reminder for all of us in this community to strive to do better."

Former Harlequin Production Stage Manager Kate Arvin, who recently returned from a national tour with The Russian Ballet, helped to voice the original allegations that brought to light past issues at Harlequin. Arvin also offered her support: "My intention in coming forward about this was not to cause harm to the theater, but to encourage improvements for future generations. Any business that can step up to that challenge is one worthy of support."

Lamb sees continued engagement with the community as crucial for Harlequin's continued positive momentum. "We can't be a good arts organization unless we listen to the community. What we owe the audience and the community is a theater company that challenges the social status quo and creates the conditions for positive dialogue and social change. We have already made real changes so that that we can come out of this with great opportunities for growth." 0

## WHAT

Eclectica! The annual Harlequin Gala and Season Announcement

## WHERE

The Historic State Theater,  
202 4th Avenue E., Olympia

## HOW MUCH

\$25; free for subscribers

## WHEN

6 – 9 p.m. Friday, June 1

## LEARN MORE

360-786- 0151

[harlequinproductions.org](http://harlequinproductions.org)

# Past and Present Come to Life in Three Days of Rain

By MOLLY GILMORE



Harlequin Productions' "Three Days of Rain," opening May 3, is a subtle mystery — not a whodunit, but rather a "what happened and why." Richard Greenberg's Pulitzer-nominated 1998 drama begins with a sister (Alyssa Kay) and brother (Fox Rain Matthews) and one of their childhood friends gathering to divide the legacy of their late fathers, partners in an architecture firm.

In Act II, set 35 years earlier in the same home, the same actors play their parents. Greenberg leaves space for the audience to find the connections between present and past. "It's a lovely meditation on the way in which generations sometimes misunderstand one another," said Kay.

"It's a wonderful challenge," she said. "As an actor, you're playing not just two different characters but different characters that are related to one another. It's neat to get that multigenerational perspective." It's also a rare opportunity for Kay — previously seen in Harlequin's "The 39 Steps," "Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike" and "The Language Archive" — to share a stage with Matthews, her husband, who'll be making his Harlequin debut.

The play's structure gives the couple a chance to build on one another's work. "We're very comfortable with each other," said Kay. "We don't have to take off that layer of unfamiliarity; we can just dive into rehearsals." 0

## WHAT

Three Days of Rain

## WHERE

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

## HOW MUCH

\$20-\$35 (May 9 is pay what you can)

## WHEN

8 p.m. May 3-5, 9-12, 17-19 and 24-26  
and 2 p.m. May 6, 13 and 20

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# La Cage Aux Folles Dances Across SPSCC Stage

By MELISSA AVRIL HARRIS

The highly acclaimed musical *La Cage aux Folles* will grace the Minneart Center Stage in May at South Puget Sound Community College. This production is helmed by the dynamic trio of Brenda Amburgy (director), Gwen Haw (choreographer) and Justin Cormier (musical director). *La Cage* should benefit from the high production values brought by this trio: Amburgy is a well-known local theatrical director who has worked with Haw for over a decade.

The story about a gay couple that must hide who and what they are during a surprise visit by their future daughter-in-law's ultra-conservative parents impressed Amburgy. Although based on a French drama, the story was first produced in the United States at the height of the AIDS epidemic. Amburgy recalled seeing *La Cage* in a New York theater in the '80s and marveled at the bravery of such a production in such a period. She saw the story as less political and more familial: "It's a play about a problem they must solve [as a family] with love, patience and understanding." The story resonates with audiences today. "It's joyful and fun," added Haw.

Stepping into the heels of the iconic lead characters are Bradley Hudson (Georges) and Henry Dorset (Albin). Dorset is excited about being featured as Albin in this vintage drag comedy. There's nothing fake about him," said Dorset. "Exaggerated maybe, but never fake."

With the full support of SPSCC President Timothy Stokes, Producer Lauren Love and the SPSCC Culinary Arts program (who will cater a special Mother's Day brunch matinee), *La Cage* aims to prove that "the arts exist at SPSCC."

Two local cancer organizations are also benefited by this production: The Mayday Foundation and Making Strides of Thurston County. Amburgy, herself a breast cancer survivor, wanted to use theater as a vehicle for awareness. Both cancer support organizations will have representatives on hand during the run of the production. 0

## WHAT

*La Cage aux Folles*

## WHERE

Kenneth J Minneart Center for the Arts Main Stage Theater,  
2011 Mottman Rd. SW, Olympia

## HOW MUCH

\$25

## WHEN

7:30 p.m. Thursday – Saturday, May  
10 – 12

Mother's Day Matinee: 2 p.m. Sunday,  
May 13

## LEARN MORE

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# Cinder Edna: A Bus to the Ball

By JONAH BARRETT

Once upon a time in a faraway land called Lacey, Cinder Ella was approached by her fairy godmother and arrived to the ball in a sparkly dress via magically converted mice and pumpkins and all that gibbilty nonsense. What you might not know is Cinder Ella's neighbor, Cinder Edna, also attended the ball that night in comfortable loafers and a dress she had put on layaway. Finally, after all these years (the play was last performed in 2013), the truth will finally be uncovered as Olympia Family Theater (OFT) performs Cinder Edna's story.

OFT's Artistic Director, Jen Ryle, will be directing this time. "This story is based on one of my family's favorite picture books by Ellen Jackson that I have been reading to my own daughters since they were tiny," said Ryle. "It's so funny and has a great message. My husband Ted got permission from the author and adapted the show into a musical over several years with several collaborators."

The title character, Cinder Edna, leads a similar life to her neighbor Cinder Ella, but she takes her setbacks in stride. A spunky and resilient character, Cinder Edna doesn't weep in the ashes or believe in fairy godmothers, but instead makes tuna casseroles to sell in order to make extra money. "That's the heart of Cinder Edna: while we don't have control over our circumstances, we do have control over how we react to them," explained Ryle.

Local actor Amber Sayman, who plays "Ava," one of Cinder Ella's wicked stepsisters, said, "It's a take on Cinderella that celebrates self-sufficient, homely girls. It's cute, unique, and gentle-hearted."

"I am so excited to work on this family favorite with both my theater family and my real family," said Ryle. "Please come see the play!" added Sayman. "It's adorable!"

## WHAT

Cinder Edna

## WHERE

Olympia Family Theater,  
612 4th Ave E, Olympia

## HOW MUCH

Children: \$13, Students/Seniors/Military: \$16, Adults: \$19  
Pay What You Can: May 17

## WHEN

7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m.  
Sundays, May 11- June 3

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# Folly and Fate on Stage at Olympia Little Theater

By MELISSA AVRIL HARRIS

Olympia Little Theater sets its sights on love with “Talley’s Folly”, a classic, romantic drama written by Lanford Wilson and directed by Jim Patrick. Talley’s Folly tells the tale of young Jewish accountant Matt Friedman, played by Jeremy Holien, who, after a devastating family tragedy, resigns himself to a life without love. That is, until he meets and falls head over heels for Sally Talley, the daughter of a wealthy, conservative family. Sally is played by Silva Goetz.

The two engage in a waltz of attraction, apprehension and inevitable separation. The idea of fighting for love resonates with Goetz. “It’s a simple love story. In a world that sees racism, school shootings and acts of terror, we need to be reminded that love is for everybody, regardless of race or background.”

“It’s an honest story, which I like,” said Patrick, who was introduced to the play by his good friend, the late Kathryn Beal. Talley’s Folly opens nearly a year after Beal’s passing, which Patrick sees as an opportunity to pay tribute to a dear friend who gave him his “first acting gig back in 2002.” At the heart of Talley’s Folly is a reflection of the complexities of life. “The choices we make in life are often difficult,” Patrick admitted.

Tally’s Folly offers a unique challenge in that both actors remain on stage for the entire ninety-seven minutes without an intermission. “It’s frightening and exhilarating at the same time,” Holien confessed. His excitement is amplified by the collaboration with his co-star and director: “Silva is an amazing actress. Jim is a fantastic director.” Though both actors have been seen on many Olympia stages over the years, Olympia Little Theater holds a special place in Holien’s heart. “The stage is so intimate. I adore the space and the people who continually work here.”

## WHAT

Tally’s Folly

## WHERE

Olympia Little Theater,  
1925 Miller Ave. NE, Olympia

## HOW MUCH

\$9-11: Opening Weekend

\$13-\$15: Post-Opening Weekend

Special Performance: 7:25 p.m., Friday  
May 10

## WHEN

7:25 p.m. Thursdays, April 27 – May 13

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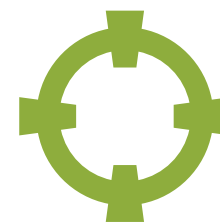


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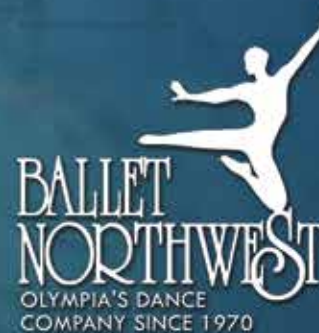
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