

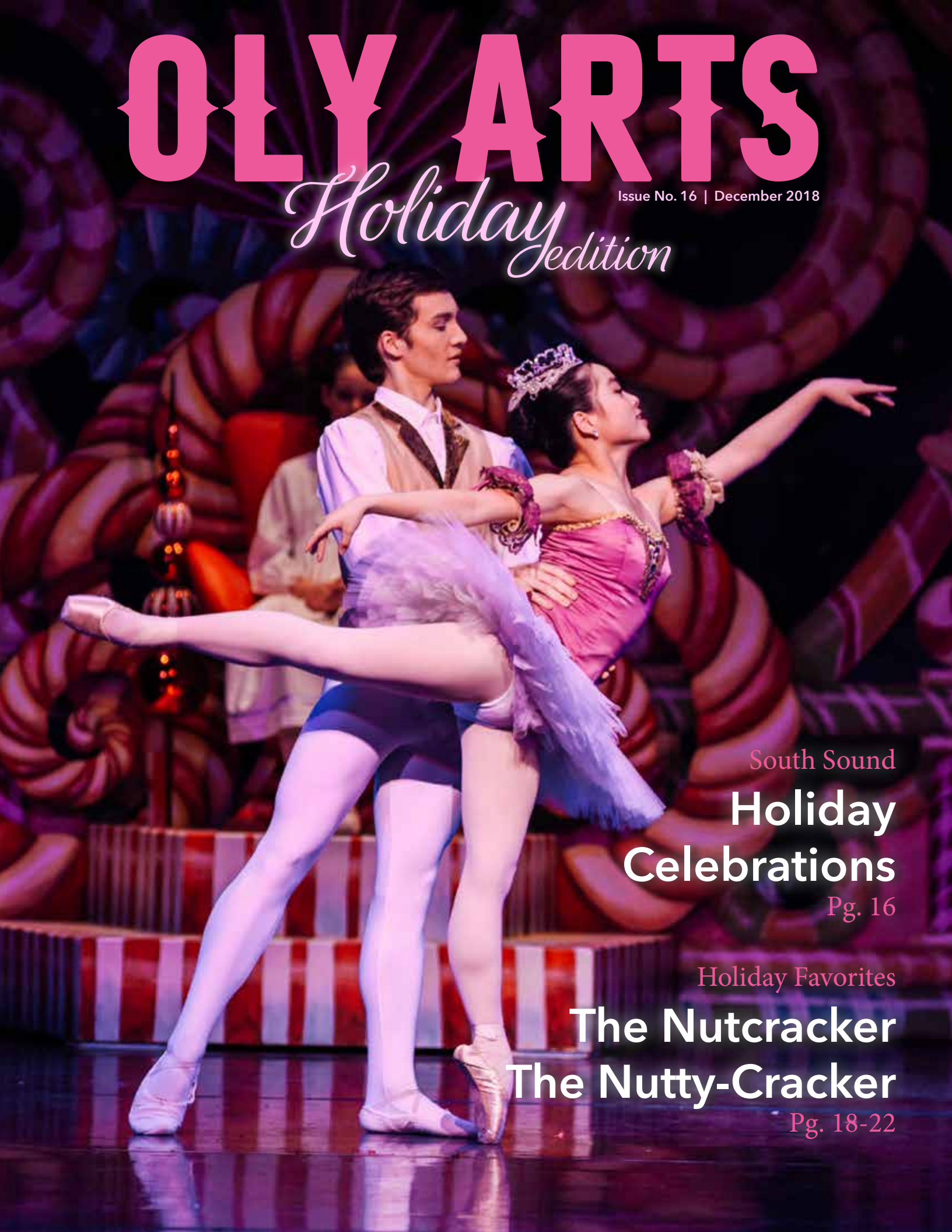
OLY ARTS

*Holiday
Edition*

Issue No. 16 | December 2018

South Sound
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Celebrations**
Pg. 16

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**The Nutcracker
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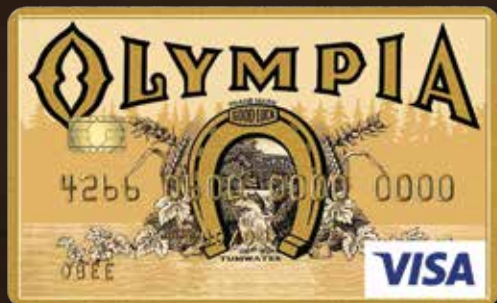
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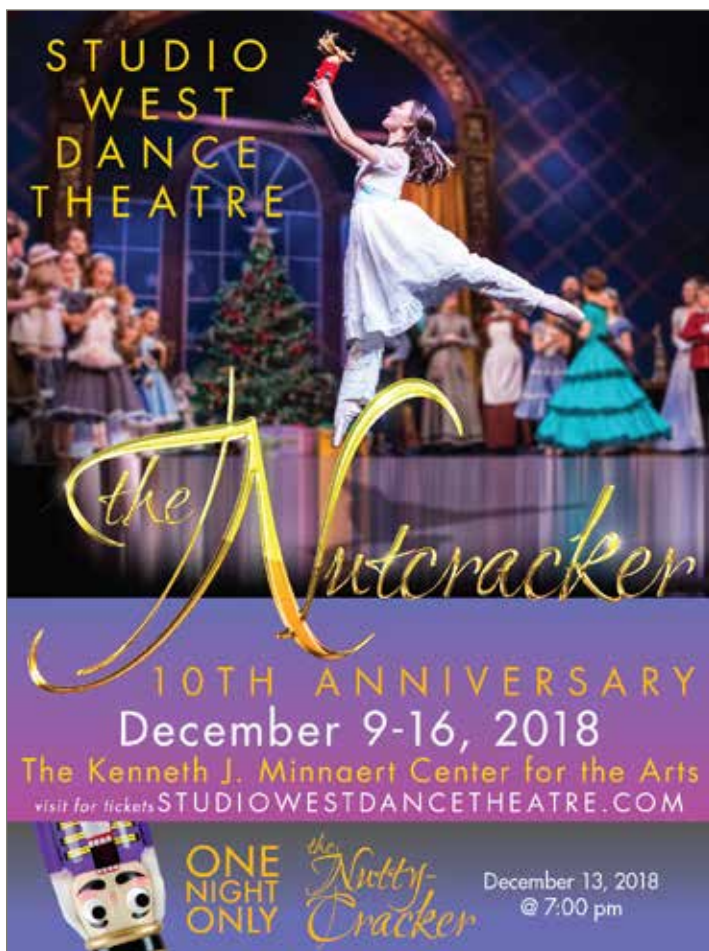


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Cover: Ballet Northwest's *Nutcracker*

OLY ARTS ISSUE No. 16

December 2018

OLY ARTS

The South Sound's premier multiplatform arts publication.

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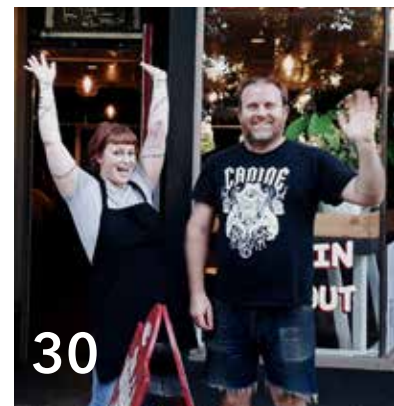
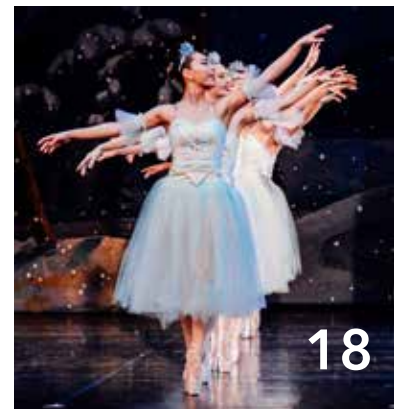
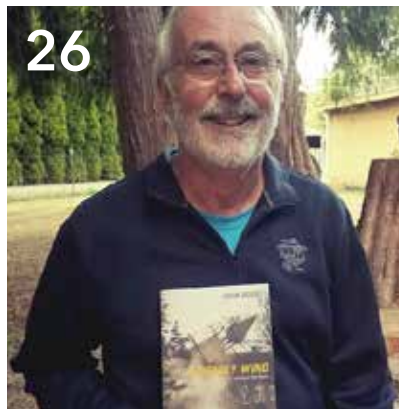
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OLY ARTS



Six Appeal



By Adam McKinney

The practice of getting together to sing songs a capella may be as old as music itself. After all, instruments aren't always available, and when they are, they aren't always cheap. What we're granted, though, is our voices, which can be used to create wonderful sounds. In the modern age, with the rise of recorded music and rock and roll, the subgenre of a capella singing had largely left the public eye. Lovable entertainments like the *Pitch Perfect* movies and the enormous success of groups like Pentatonix sent a capella rocketing back into the mainstream.

Minnesota-based a capella group Six Appeal possesses all the attributes that make the art form compelling to contemporary audiences: It performs songs drawn from a deep well of styles and time periods, incorporates whip-smart humor and inventive choreography and creates sounds that leave even the most credulous audiences stunned by the lack of instrumentation. Comprising Andrew Berkowitz, Michael Brookens, Reuben Hushagen, Evan Taylor Jones, Trenard Jones and Jordon Roll, Six Appeal began professionally performing in 2010 and quickly became one of the nation's preeminent a capella groups by winning the 2012 National Harmony Sweepstakes Championship.

"Audiences who have never seen a capella, or seen Six Appeal, they're just taken aback," says Berkowitz. "People are used to going to a show and thinking that there's a drum track, but with Six Appeal, it's actually just me making drum sounds on stage. On top of that, besides the sonic part of it, there's this huge visual element that we like to include in our show. It's choreography, and it's having a conversation with the audience."

Watching Six Appeal perform is really something to experience. These six, world-class vocalists have absolute control over their voices and interplay. At their finest, they successfully pull off the illusion of a fully orchestrated song.

They also have a way of putting their own spin on classics and new favorites. With a continuously rotating set list, Six Appeal is always looking to incorporate material from the unlikeliest of sources. See, for example, its impossibly smooth medley of Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean" and Van Morrison's "Moondance."

Before moving on to the national competition, Six Appeal won a National Harmony Sweepstakes at The Washington Center. Nearly seven years later, its returning to once again wow Olympia audiences. 0

WHAT

Six Appeal

WHEN

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8

HOW MUCH

\$27-\$47

WHERE

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

LEARN MORE

washingtoncenter.org

360-753-8586

May We Suggest Pigs on the Wing

By Adam McKinney

Few bands are as groundbreaking, iconic, indelible and interchangeably melodramatic and unknowable as Pink Floyd. They're a band defined by contradictions: How can a group that went through so many changes and phases still be instantly recognizable? How did an album as enormously strange and ambitious as *The Dark Side of the Moon* become one of the bestselling albums of all time? How is it that a band so beloved by baby boomers remains a rite of passage for defiant, young music fans?

While these questions may best be posed to those with blacklight posters and vinyl copies of *Wish You Were Here*, what we can say is these progressive rock pioneers, great as they were, disbanded long ago. Regret never catching them live? May we suggest the members of Pigs on the Wing? The group got its start in 2006 and has quickly grown into one of the top Pink Floyd tribute bands in the Pacific Northwest, if not the country. Recreating what made that legendary group so special is quite the feat, but Pigs on the Wing pull it off with aplomb by finding a delicate balance between reverence and being true to their own personality.

The lushness of Pigs on the Wing is aided by sheer numbers, with seven members making up the lineup: Jason Baker, Bryan Fairfield, Pete Galluzzo, Matt Jones, David Lindenbaum, Keeley St. Clair and Eric Welder. It's important for Pigs on the Wing to take every opportunity to approach the majesty, wonder, and overwhelming mood inherent in much of Pink Floyd's music, achieved by dipping into much of Pink Floyd's discography: *The Dark Side of the Moon*, *Meddle*, *The Wall*, *Wish You Were Here* and *Animals*, from which the band's name is borrowed.

What better way to ring in the new year, escaping 2018's gauntlet of turmoil and psychic stress, than to enjoy some of Pink Floyd's most righteous cuts? Pigs on the Wing will be on hand at Rhythm & Rye on Dec. 31 to sound the arrival of 2019. Beware, though: As Rhythm & Rye owner Andy Geersten says, "This is always a great party with one of our favorite bands, and we expect it to sell out." To avoid getting stuck in the cold, buy tickets in advance online. [0](#)

WHAT

Pigs on the Wing

WHEN

9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31

HOW MUCH

\$15-\$20

WHERE

Rhythm & Rye,
311 Capitol Way N, Olympia

LEARN MORE

facebook.com/rhythmmandrye



I Ought to Be in Pictures

By Noah Shachar

Theater lives and thrives in Olympia, thanks partly to the talent at Harlequin Productions. After a strong 2018 season, *I Ought to Be in Pictures* will open in mid-January 2019 to further the company's high artistic precedent. Written by acclaimed playwright Neil Simon, the play follows Hollywood screenwriter Herb after he re-encounters his starry-eyed daughter, Libby. Though the pair has been estranged for 16 years, Herb is determined to give fatherhood a second chance. Simon is a multiple-Tony Award-winning, era-defining writer, and experienced director Corey McDaniel is excited to take the show on for Harlequin. "His plays," said McDaniel, "heavily influenced my generation and are a genre of their own."

McDaniel possesses a smorgasbord of acting and directing credits. He founded Theatre22, a Seattle-based theater company, and earlier this year starred in Harlequin's production of the one-man show *I Am My Own Wife*. An award-winning actor, director and teacher, McDaniel has entangled himself with Harlequin for around 10 years. He says he and his family "make day trips

and half-day trips out of catching shows there. We love the venue and the productions are always great." After his work on *I Am My Own Wife*, directed by Harlequin's newly-appointed acting artistic director, Aaron Lamb, McDaniel said he expressed "interest in working more at Harlequin ... and here we are."

McDaniel described Simon's works as possessing a "raw, honest humanity in so many of his characters, as he deeply understood and taught us that true comedy usually comes from a place of honesty." Under McDaniel's direction, *I Ought to Be in Pictures* features Harlequin regulars Ann Flannigan (director of *Dry Powder*), Jason Haws (*August: Osage County*) and Elex Hill (*Magical Mystery Midsummer Musical*). With this superb cast, McDaniel said, "I'm very excited to take on this style, which is always a crowd-pleaser." As a true Simon fan, McDaniel said he intends to maintain Simon's style but is "certain that our lives in the new millennium will influence and modernize much of our interpretation of the script, for the betterment of the production."

Harlequin Productions plans an exciting beginning for 2019. *I Ought to Be in Pictures* is backed by an extraordinary cast, stellar crew and award-winning director. Come January, the State Theater will burst with life. **0**



WHAT

I Ought to Be in Pictures

WHEN

8 p.m. Wednesdays – Saturdays except Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, Jan. 17 – Feb. 9;

2:00 p.m. Sundays Jan. 30 – Feb. 3

WHERE

State Theater, 202 Fourth Ave. E, Olympia

HOW MUCH

\$20-\$35

LEARN MORE

harlequinproductions.org

360-786-0151

We're Off to See The Wizard

By Jonah Barrett

Grab those glamorous ruby slippers and follow the Yellow Brick Road all the way to Washington Street. L. Frank Baum's magical tale of friendship and green people plays one night this January at The Washington Center for the Performing Arts. Now a national touring production, the story of *The Wizard of Oz* gained significant popularity with the 1939 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film adaptation starring Judy Garland. Garland's gone this time. Actor Kalie Kaimann will



take the reins as Dorothy Gale, joined by actors Nick Gurinsky, Nicholas J. Pearson, Jack Saleeby and Murphy the dog as her quirky pals. To make things extra exciting, the production coming to Olympia will not be based on the 1900 book but rather the MGM movie itself.

Audiences can expect their favorite scenes to be recreated scene for scene in this new musical adaptation — with all the film's beloved, classic songs. *The Wizard of Oz National Tour* is directed by Dean Sobon, whose recent directing credits include national tours of *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*.

"We chose this production for a few reasons," said executive director Jill Barnes. "It is one of the most beloved musicals of all time, we had



an opportunity to bring the show here because it is touring in our region, and we know that our community loves musicals. This is a wonderful, staged production and we look forward to seeing the delight on the faces of adults and children alike as the magic of the story is brought to life before their eyes on The Washington Center stage." With colorful sets and costumes, dazzling songs and lavish special effects, *The Wizard of Oz* promises to be a treat for all. **0**

WHAT

The Wizard of Oz National Tour

WHERE

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

WHEN

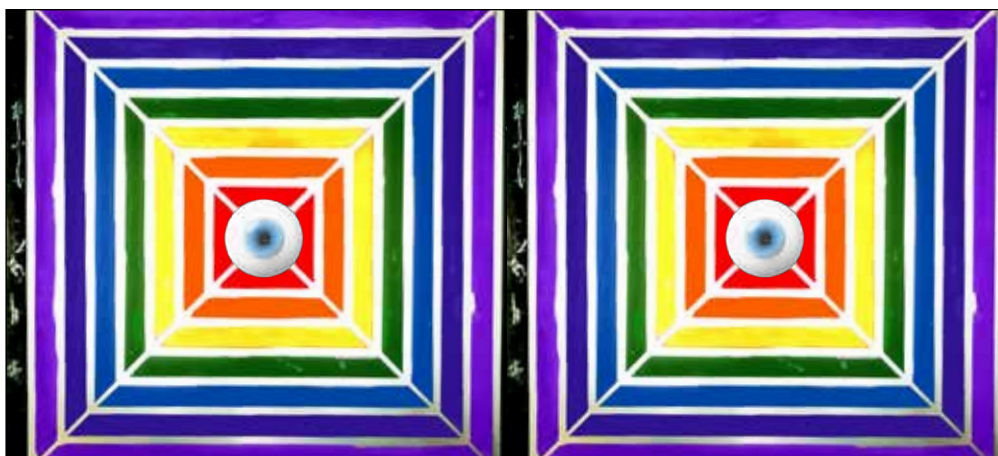
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16

HOW MUCH

\$55-\$120

LEARN MORE

washingtoncenter.org
360-753-8586



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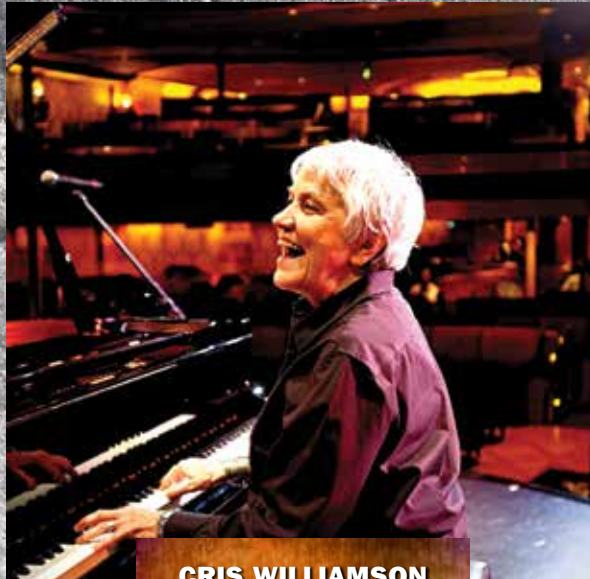
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Magic and Merriment at Oly On Ice

By Christian Carvajal

It's one of our favorite yuletide scenes: the *Peanuts* gang twirls happily around an ice-covered pond. In *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, Jack Skellington visits a hockey rink for vampires. Manhattan-based telefilms linger over kids and their parents skating beneath the fluttering flags of Rockefeller Center. Until this month, however, aspiring skate champions had to travel to Tacoma to spend time on the ice. That ends Friday, Nov. 16, with the soft opening of Oly on Ice, a project launched by City of Olympia's Parks, Arts and Recreation department and presented by Olympia Auto Mall. A grand-opening event is scheduled for the noon hour on Sunday, Nov. 25.

The covered, 4,000-square-foot rink will grace Isthmus Park, the Fourth Avenue public space created by the razing of two derelict county offices in 2015. Figure and hockey skates will be available for rental, plus double-runner skates for toddlers. Weekend vendors include coffee and hot chocolate stands. Thursday night events include Ballet Northwest's *Nutcracker on Ice*, Pride Night with Pizza Klatch, the South Sound Reading Foundation's "Wizards on Ice," Capital High School Chamber Choir, "Fairy Tale Night" from Glitter & Suede Events and an Olympic Cards & Comics tribute to superheroes.

"We're really excited about this," says Paul Simmons, director of Parks, Arts and Recreation. "We think it has the potential to have a big impact on the community and on the downtown, and hopefully give people a new holiday tradition to enjoy." Expect Oly on Ice to appear in a significant fraction of all Instagram photos taken in Thurston County next month.

The rink will be closed on Thanksgiving but offers special hours Christmas Eve (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.), Christmas Day (noon - 6 p.m.), New Year's Eve (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.) and New Year's Day (10 a.m. - 9 p.m.). A 10-visit pass can be obtained for \$89, and parking spots have been reserved for skaters in Isthmus Park's bookending lots. 0

WHAT

Oly on Ice

WHEN

3:30-9 p.m. Mondays - Thursdays, 3:30-10 p.m. Fridays, Nov. 16 - Dec. 18 and Jan. 3 and 4; 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Mondays - Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Fridays, Dec. 19 - Jan. 2; 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sundays, Nov. 16 - Jan. 6

WHERE

Isthmus Park, 529 Fourth Ave. W, Olympia

HOW MUCH

\$3-\$12

LEARN MORE

olyonice.com

360-753-8580



The 1940s Radio Hour:

Harlequin Productions Revives the Holiday Classic

By Billy Thomas

This holiday season, Harlequin Productions goes back in time to present the return of *The 1940s Radio Hour*. First gracing the Harlequin stage 22 years ago, *Radio Hour* inspired the launch of the iconic and successful *Stardust* series. The show replaces *Stardust* in Harlequin's 2018-2019 lineup. Aaron Lamb, acting artistic director for Harlequin Productions and director for *Radio Hour*, said, "We'd like to return to the beginning and show our audience what inspired our holiday series from the start."

The change should not disappoint. Full of nostalgic music, dancing and sound effects, the theatrical production of *Radio Hour* depicts the final, holiday broadcast of *The Mutual Manhattan Variety Cavalcade* on Dec. 21, 1942 – a year after the United States' involvement in World War II – for overseas soldiers.

In a long-departed era when radios were living room centerpieces, emphatically bellowing songs like "Strike Up the Band" and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" (both in the play), performers take the audience behind the scenes of WOV, an AM station in New York City. The audience is introduced to a harassed producer who copes with his drunk lead singer, a delivery boy who wants a chance in front of the mic, a "second banana" who dreams of singing a ballad, and a sound-effects trumpeter who chooses a fighter plane over Glenn Miller.

The show's assistant director, Maggie Doyle, is no stranger to the Harlequin stage, having played Joy Higgsby in the *Stardust* series for the past six seasons. She said in an email that the series "is a Christmas

tradition cherished by the Olympia community and one I hold closely to my heart. I can think of no better way to honor the legacy of *Stardust* than to go back to the story that inspired it all."

In a twist on the traditional, live-performance format, the show begins before the curtain rises. The audience will be immersed in the pre-show process, getting a chance to meet both the actors and the characters they play on the radio.

Lamb is thrilled to direct this radio performance, stating, "What's so fun about watching radio theater is that you get to hear the story being told, but you also get to see what's actually happening." Lamb recommends that for the full experience, audience members should at times close their eyes. Those instructions seem odd at first, but Lamb explains, "You'll get a completely different experience. Imagine hearing a Pepsi commercial, then opening your eyes to see that the actress is drinking a Coke. Radio is about what you hear, but what you hear isn't necessarily what's actually happening. So try closing your eyes for five minutes when you come to see the show."

The 1940s Radio Hour received a 1979 Broadway run in 1979 and was nominated for five Drama Desk Awards the following year, including "Outstanding Musical." 0



WHAT

The 1940s Radio Hour

WHEN

8 p.m. Thursday – Saturday, Nov. 29 – Dec. 1;

2 p.m. Sundays Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 and Monday, Dec. 24; 3 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 15, 22 and 29;

7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31 with champagne toast

WHERE

State Theater, 202 Fourth Ave. E, Olympia

HOW MUCH

\$20-\$49

LEARN MORE

harlequinproductions.org

360-786-0151

Masterworks' Yuletide Celebration

By Kameko Lashlee Gaul

Those looking for family-oriented, holiday fun that's equal parts comic and touching should stop by The Washington Center to experience the Masterworks Choral Ensemble's *Yuletide Celebration: A Holiday Concert*. December brings the ensemble's 38th-annual performance, historically presented on the first Saturday in December. Although the celebration is a family Christmas concert at its core, this year the choir places emphasis on the ancient Yule festivals from which many modern traditions stem.

Conductor and director Gary Whitley embraced change for this iteration, in terms of both chorus members and his artistic decisions. Says Whitley, "For this, our 38th season, I am most excited about the revitalization of our choir with many new members — as well as a very special, youth, guest artist, Camille McLean, performing Chopin's Ballad No. 1 on piano. We continue our long tradition of presenting very musically diverse concerts all season long. In our program, the audience will hear many familiar Christmas Carols — 'O Little Town of Bethlehem,' 'Masters in This Hall,' 'Silent Night,' 'Jingle Bells' — as well as some new songs by Enya, 'White Is in the Winter Night,' and music from *The Nutcracker* in a humorous arrangement for choir. Our women will perform an amazing seven-part tone poem called 'Tundra' that is just stunning for its beauty."

In classic Olympia fashion, some numbers run to the unconventional side. "We have four audience sing-alongs," Whitley continues, "and use various instruments — handbells, cellos, oboe, recorder and drums — to spice up the event. And we will have a couple of interesting twists on 'Jingle Bells' in this concert, including one in which the audience will be asked to download a free smartphone app to be used to accompany us while we sing. Lastly, we always find time to have some musical humor. In this concert we will sing 'A Wacky Family Christmas.'" 0

WHAT

Yuletide Celebration: A Holiday Concert

WHEN

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1

WHERE

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

HOW MUCH

\$25

LEARN MORE

mce.org



A Scrooge for All Ages

By Jonah Barrett



Ghosts aren't always the best subject matter for children, even as part of a Christmas story. There are, however, times when fantasy is more than meets the eye and ghosts aren't what they seem. Based on Charles Dickens' beloved 1843 novella, *Tiny Tim's Christmas Carol* opens at Olympia Family Theater Nov. 30 and runs until Dec. 23. OFT plans to take the spooky out of the story. It isn't paranormal entities that haunt the cranky Ebenezer Scrooge; in this adaptation, the culprit in question turns out to be Tiny Tim. The twist is simple: Instead of actual ghosts plaguing Mr. Scrooge, Tiny Tim and a number of London street vendors join forces to teach the old capitalist a thing or two about compassion. The result is a creative romp that presents a new perspective on an old tale.

"I really wanted to introduce our all-ages audience to Scrooge," said artistic director Jen Ryle, "because I love Charles Dickens, and it is such a great story. There are so many versions out there, and I read a lot of them. I wanted

to find a script that was not too scary for young kids. It is after all a ghost story. This version uses a very theatrical approach, where we see the townspeople and Tiny Tim using costumes, puppets and sound effects to recreate the night when Scrooge had his spiritual encounters."

"I've never worked with puppets before, so this is a new challenge for me," said director Michael Christopher. "Luckily we have a great puppet maker, so I'm looking forward to seeing what we can do with them." Other exciting challenges faced by Christopher and his cast and crew include limited time for scene changes and to find a way for Scrooge to walk on air. *Tiny Tim's Christmas Carol* is certain to delight and inspire guests of any age by reinterpreting a holiday classic. "This show is a nice retelling of the classic *Christmas Carol*," said Christopher, "and I think the timelessness of the messages of the story — that it's never too late to change, and to put others before yourself — Well, those are always good things to be reminded of." 0

WHAT

Tiny Tim's Christmas Carol

WHERE

Olympia Family Theater,
612 Fourth Ave. E, Olympia

WHEN

7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30; Thurs., Dec. 6 (pay-what-you-can); Fridays, Dec. 7-21;

2 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 1-22 and Sundays, Dec. 2-23

HOW MUCH

\$15-\$20

LEARN MORE

olyft.org

360-570-1638

South Sound Holiday Celebrations:

When Every Street Is Santa Claus Lane

By Christan Carvajal

The Olympia Downtown Association presents a cornucopia of holiday entertainment complete with parade the Sunday after every Thanksgiving. Over a thousand people are expected to attend this year's gathering. Shops compete in "Twinkle Fest" by decorating their storefronts; shoppers win prizes by voting. The Hotel Olympian (116 Legion Way SE) hosts a photo opportunity with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Here's a fun fact: Though Mrs. Claus has no canonically agreed-upon first name, two Rankin/Bass animated specials call her Jessica.

Starting at 11 a.m., The Washington Center will display gingerbread castles and houses. A sing-along screening of *The Greatest Showman* begins at 5 p.m. The Oly on Ice rink (see page 12) has its grand opening at noon. Handbell Ensemble brightens Batdorf & Bronson (516 Capitol Way S) from 1:15 to 2:45 p.m. The 3 p.m. Jingle Bell Parade culminates in a tree-lighting ceremony at Sylvester Park (615 Washington St. SE), with Washington Middle School Bulldog Concert Choir and other school groups caroling to beat the autumn chill. The master of ceremonies for this year's parade will be Mixx 96.1's morning-drive-time disc jockey, Ty Flint.

From Sunday, Nov. 25 to Christmas Eve, visitors to Hands On Children's Museum are encouraged to write letters to the troops with art supplies provided by the museum. Other activities scheduled for the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas include "MakeSpace: Still-Life Watercolor on Easels," "Nature Play: Cider Pressing" Thanksgiving weekend, "PlayWise: Sticky Fingers" a week later, wreath-making Nov. 30 and Dec. 14, holiday card-making on December weekends, and the intriguingly titled

"MakeSpace: Gnome in Your Home." On Saturday, Dec. 1, ballerinas from Ballet Northwest swirl through the museum between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. in advance of their production of *The Nutcracker*. Candyce Bollinger teaches a workshop on problem-solving Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. Winter camps for preschoolers and younger grade-school kids get underway Wednesday, Dec. 19.

As December begins, the 41st-annual Olympia Toy Run means thousands of motorcycles roar up Pacific Avenue onto State, Capitol, Fifth and Deschutes Parkway. Toys and proceeds go to the Salvation Army Toy 'n' Joy Shop program. All street-legal motorcycles are invited to participate, and many riders return from towns all over western Washington to thrill crowds each year.

Olympia Film Society's 16th-annual Duck the Malls fundraiser benefits independent artists and crafters in the South Sound while supporting visual-arts programming at Capitol Theater. It boasts items from over 50 vendors, including makers of board games, ceramics, dolls and other toys, ironwork, lighting and musical instruments. Homemade desserts are on sale at the concession stand, including such coveted treats as gluten-free and vegan pastries.

When Duck the Malls was first mounted in 2002, noted OFS executive director Audrey Henley last year, "It was more garage and yard-sale stuff and some handmade items." In recent years, however, planners shifted toward solely local products. "Part of the OFS mission," Henley explained, "is to not only support film and music but art in all forms." 0



WHAT

Downtown for the Holidays

WHEN

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 25

WHERE

Downtown Olympia

HOW MUCH

Free to visit

LEARN MORE

downtownolympia.org/Events/
360-357-8948

--

WHAT

Write Letters to the Troops

WHEN

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mondays -
Saturdays, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sundays (except Thanksgiving,
Nov. 22 and Christmas, Dec. 25)

WHERE

Hands On Children's Museum,
414 Jefferson St. NE, Olympia

HOW MUCH

Admission: free - \$13.95

LEARN MORE

hocm.org
360-956-0818

--

WHAT

Olympia Toy Run

WHEN

10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 1

WHERE

From South Sound Center, 711
Sleater-Kinney Rd. SE, Lacey
to Marathon Park, 1011 Deschutes
Pkwy. SW, Olympia

HOW MUCH

\$10-\$15 or a new, unwrapped toy
(no stuffed animals, please)

LEARN MORE

olytoyrn.com
olytoyrn@yahoo.com

WHAT

Duck the Malls

WHEN

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8

WHERE

Capitol Theater,
206 Fifth Ave. SE, Olympia

HOW MUCH

Free admission

LEARN MORE

[olympiafilmsociety.org/](http://olympiafilmsociety.org/duckthemalls)
duckthemalls
360-754-6670

A Holiday Tradition:

The Nutcracker

Presented by Ballet Northwest

By Molly Gilmore

In Ballet Northwest's 34th-annual *The Nutcracker*, sugarplums will dance, as will candies, mice, snowflakes and toy soldiers. It's Tchaikovsky's classic holiday tale with an extra dash of romance: Clara, the young girl who dreams of wintry fairylands, gets a duet with a prince.

Giving Clara in her toe shoes and the Nutcracker Prince a pas de deux in the Kingdom of Snow is a common alternative to versions that give the romantic dance for two to the Snow Queen and King. It's a different take for Ballet Northwest. "This is the first time that Clara is doing the snow pas de deux," said Ken Johnson, the company's co-artistic director.

The change showcases the skills of the prince, Giovanni Garibay, 15 and a sophomore at Pope John Paul II High School in Lacey, and dancers sharing the role of Clara: Natalie Allenton, 14, of Olympia, a homeschooled sophomore, and Nina Ivanenko, 14 and a freshman at River Ridge in Lacey.

This year's production, debuting Dec. 7, features 200 dancers of ages 8 and up. Dancing the featured role of the Sugar Plum Fairy will be Elina Brein, 17, of Centralia, a junior at the Insight School of Washington, and Hannah Capper, 17 and a senior at Gig Harbor High School. Two New York-based, professional dancers — Darwin Black, who danced with Sacramento Ballet, and Sanford Placide, formerly of Dance Theatre of Harlem — will share the role of her partner, the Sugar Plum Cavalier. "It's always a great thing for the audience and for our dancers to have new faces in the production," Johnson said. "They bring great experience."

Another treat will be the addition of a trio of French macarons to the Land of the Sweets. Advanced dancers, dressed as pastel, meringue cookies, will dance to music from Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*. Both Clara and the confections will have their big moments in Act II, which got a makeover last year with elaborate new sets by Jill Carter. "They were such a huge hit," Johnson said. "They're really stunning." 0



WHAT

Ballet Northwest's *The Nutcracker*

WHERE

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

WHEN

7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Dec. 7 and 8, 14
and 15; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 8, 9, 15
and 16

HOW MUCH

\$14-\$35

LEARN MORE

washingtoncenter.org
360-753-8586





Something Different: A Nuttier Nutcracker

Presented by Studio West

By Molly Gilmore

For its 10th anniversary of *The Nutcracker*, Studio West Dance Theatre has added new treats and trimmings to its production of Tchaikovsky's ballet about a young girl who receives a nutcracker for Christmas and dreams herself into a magical world of fairies and sweets. The production, opening Dec. 9, aims to invite audiences into Clara's fantasyland.

The experience will begin before audience members enter the theater, said Stephanie Wood-Ennett, Studio West's co-director. "Our lobby is going to be more ornate," she said. "The atmosphere will make you feel like you're on stage." The decorations aren't new — they're part of the sets the company bought 10 years ago from the Nashville Ballet — but this will be their Olympia debut, as the full set is too big to fit the Kenneth J Minnaert Center for the Arts' stage.

Onstage will be two variations on the *Nutcracker* theme. Seven performances will tell the traditional tale of Clara's nocturnal travels. The Dec. 13 performance, though, will be *The Nutty-Cracker*, which keeps the same cast and most of the choreography but adds a few silly surprises. "There are characters from other ballets who will come in," Wood-Ennett said, "and maybe Fritz [Clara's brother] doesn't break the nutcracker. Maybe someone else does it."

This year's production features 230 dancers (up from about 130 a decade ago), including Cole McMason, 17 and a senior at Keystone Online School. Cole, who danced in the company's first *Nutcracker*, will be the first student dancer to tackle the role of Cavalier for Studio West. He'll share that role with guest artist Joshua Grant, a soloist with Pacific Northwest Ballet, and will also share the role of the Nutcracker Prince with Reese Bergeson, 14 and a freshman at Capital High School. Dancing the Sugar Plum Fairy are Abigail Bunn, 15 and a freshman at Tumwater High School, and Hannah Smith, 15 and a sophomore at Olympia High School. In the role of Clara are Alexandra Bunn, 15 and a freshman at Tumwater, and Emma Krug, 14 and in eighth grade at Reeves Middle School. 0

WHAT

Studio West Dance Theatre's *The Nutcracker*

WHEN

5 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 9 and 16; 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10; 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 14 and 15; 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 and 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16

HOW MUCH

\$8.50-\$26

WHAT

Studio West Dance Theatre's *The Nutty-Cracker*

WHEN

7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13

HOW MUCH

\$17-\$26

WHAT

Clara's Nutcracker Party

WHEN

5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 and noon Sunday, Dec. 16

HOW MUCH

Free - \$12

WHERE

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

LEARN MORE

washingtoncenter.org
360-753-8586

Oh Fudge! Olympia Little Theatre Triple-Dog-Dares Ya

By Christian Carvajal

For many, the 1983 family movie *A Christmas Story* is an annual tradition. A middling success at the box office, it achieved immortality on marathon cable-TV airings and home video. Yet it may come as a surprise to fans of Ralphie and his avaricious adventures that they debuted, not in cinemas or book form, but over the radio. Beginning in the mid-1950s, late-night disc jockey Jean Shepherd told listeners stories about his Indiana childhood. Friends nagged him to type those stories out, then transcribed them on his behalf. The anecdotes saw print in a decidedly non-family venue, *Playboy* magazine, throughout the 1960s. B-movie director Bob Clark heard Shepherd radio tale around the same time those stories were collected into a book, *In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash*, in 1966. He resolved to turn them into a holiday movie. Only after he'd directed the salacious smash hit *Porky's*, however, did he have the industry cachet to do so.

It makes sense, then, that Olympia Little Theatre's president and artistic manager, Kendra Malm, chose to present Philip Grecian's stage adaptation of *A Christmas Story* as a vintage-style radio play. Its action may be set in the 1940s, but Malm envisioned her studio setting in 1972: "It's about Ralph remembering his childhood," she explains, "so '72 is about the right [year] for a middle-aged man to be remembering his childhood." Adult Ralphie, essentially Shepherd himself, will be played by Ben Tindall.

"I think it'll be a pretty good draw for us," says Malm. "It's got all that great humor, and the Christmas setting is inherent in the story." One of the practical advantages of doing *A Christmas Story* as a radio play, she concedes, is adults can be cast as any number of children. Megan Wakefield, for example, will play young Ralphie. Jean Kivi Thomas portrays Esther Jane and Ralphie's best buddy, Schwartz. Mike Turner is Ralphie's "old man," celebrated battler against furnace clinkers and the winner of a major award. Audience members will fill the roles of in-studio guests, laughing and applauding as dialogue and live sound effects are performed before their very eyes ... and ears. 

WHAT

A Christmas Story

WHERE

Olympia Little Theatre,
1925 Miller Ave. NE, Olympia

WHEN

7:25 p.m. Thursdays - Saturdays except Dec. 13, 1:55 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 7-23

HOW MUCH

\$9-\$15

LEARN MORE

olympialittletheater.org
360-786-9484

Winter Events

at Olympia Film Society

By Noah Shachar

Olympia Film Society plans a slew of enriching events for its historic downtown location, the Capitol Theater, this winter. Marketing director Jonah Barrett said OFS will start the winter season with Nov. 24, 25 and 28 screenings of “massive cult classic” *The Big Lebowski* in celebration of the film’s 20th anniversary. At the same time, Nov. 24-28, OFS will screen *Tea With the Dames*, which Barrett describes as “a film version of a gossip brunch with a few legendary women like Maggie Smith and Judi Dench.” With tongue in cheek, Barrett adds, “No big deal.”

Moving into December, OFS adopts an air of holiday nostalgia with a one-time screening of *Home Alone* for Dec. 2. “At OFS,” Barrett said, “we all remember having a great time watching this Christmas movie when we were small, so we hope everybody comes back this December for a little nostalgia.” This year’s Duck the Malls holiday-arts-and-crafts sale is Dec. 8. With over 50 vendors, folks can dodge lines of mall shoppers and explore the Capitol Theater to, in the words of the OFS website, “Shop locally, creatively and alternatively for the holidays and support true craftsmanship.” From Dec. 14 to 16, OFS celebrates the 30th anniversary of *Die Hard*, an R-rated holiday classic. Overlapping slightly with *Die Hard*, Dec. 15-19, OFS screens the documentary *Never-Ending Man: Hayao Miyazaki*, which was recently released in the U.S. With particular excitement, Barrett said, “I don’t think there’s a millennial in the Pacific Northwest who doesn’t know this genius man’s name. Everyone should come and see our beloved Miyazaki leave behind retirement once more and embark on the world of CGI [computer-generated imagery].”

After the successes of its film festival in November, Olympia Film Society is set to continue its exceptional, artistic reverie deep into the chill of the winter season. 0



WHAT

Olympia Film Society

WHEN

Lebowski: 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24; 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 25; 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28; *Dames*: 4 and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24; 2:30 and 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 25; 4 and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27 and Wednesday, Nov. 28; *Home Alone*: 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2; *Duck the Malls*: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8; *Die Hard*: 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14 and Saturday, Dec. 15; 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16; *Miyazaki*: 4 and 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15; 2:30 and 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16; 4 and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18; 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19

WHERE

Capitol Theater, 206 Fifth Ave. SE, Olympia

HOW MUCH

Free - \$10

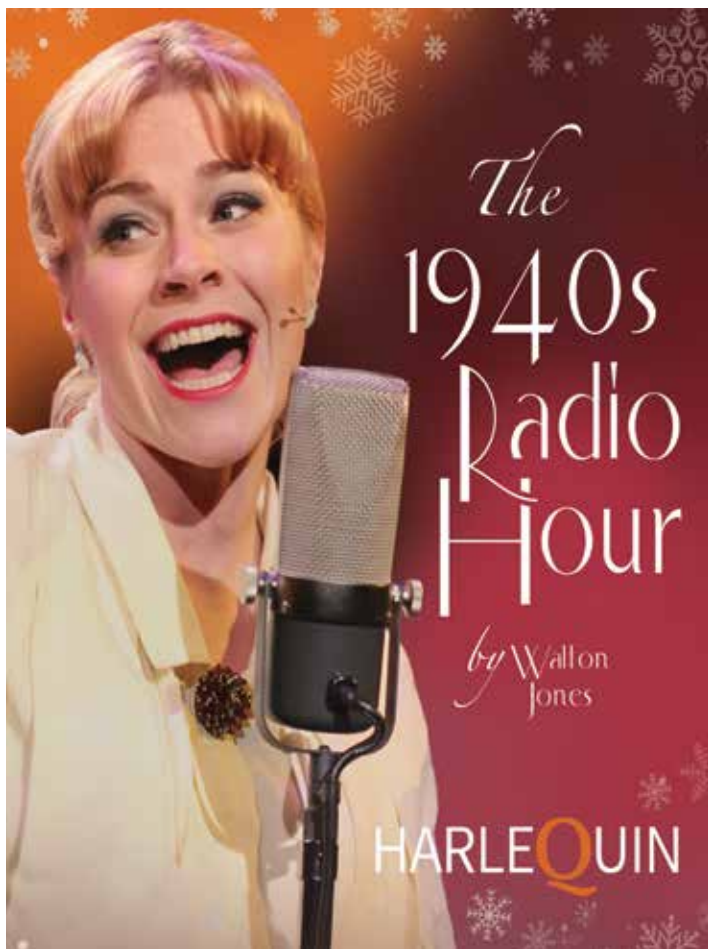
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olympiafilmsociety.org
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Nov 24, 25, & 28

WILDLIFE
Nov 30 - Dec 13

MCSI PRESENTS
HOME ALONE
Dec 2

DANNO PRESENTS
ANUHEA & ETHAN TUCKER BAND
Dec 7

NEVER-ENDING MAN
Dec 15-19

DIE HARD
Dec 14-16

Coming Soon: DUCK THE MALLS DEC 8, BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL DEC 8-9, REVEREND HORTON HEAT FEB 9, BROADWAY OLYMPIA'S THE WEDDING SINGER MUSICAL FEB 14-17

Broadway Olympia Presents:

A Christmas Story

The Musical

By Lucia Volker

A *Christmas Story, The Musical* is a musical-theater riff on the classic, holiday comedy.

“I desperately wanted this show to be part of our first season, because it has strong ties to Olympia,” says Kyle Murphy, managing director of Broadway Olympia Productions, “and watching the movie is also one of my most-cherished childhood memories. I still remember the first time I saw it, at the home of a family friend in Kennewick when I was about 6 or so.” Olympia’s own Ian Eisendrath was the original musical director of the production, which starred Olympia-born actors Clarke Hallum and Jenny Shotwell. The musical debuted on Fifth Avenue in New York, toured nationally and has become a Broadway staple. Eisendrath and Murphy grew up performing musical theater together, so that connection and Murphy’s childhood memories of the film made it a natural choice. “I wanted to do a show during the holiday season,” Murphy says, “that evoked both nostalgia and a sense of pride in our community. I could think of no better choice, and we were fortunate to get the rights.”

The 1940s-set movie *A Christmas Story* (1983) features a young boy named Ralphie who desperately wants a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. His parents are hesitant. The film and musical follow Ralphie through a series of comedic, Christmas adventures. The musical actively engages with the audience, encouraging listeners to think of their own wants and dreams in the context of Christmas and beyond. Director Rick Hornor comments, “Each of us retains vivid memories of Christmases past — some awkward or painful but, we hope, most warm and satisfying. *A Christmas Story* brings to life all of those memories so each member of the audience will see and hear it in her or his own way.”

Broadway Olympia Productions is a local, nonprofit organization committed to providing new opportunities to Olympia and Thurston County. It brings high-quality, musical theater to the public. Most of its actors live in Thurston County. The combination of emerging and experienced actors in this production reinforces the company’s mission of creating opportunities. Several seasoned actors have come out of retirement for this show. With so many emotional ties to the story, each actor brings a personal history to the production, as will audience members. 

WHAT

A Christmas Story, The Musical

WHEN

7:30 p.m. Thursday – Monday, Dec. 20-24;
1 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Dec. 23 and 24

WHERE

Capitol Theater, 206 Fifth Ave. SE, Olympia

HOW MUCH

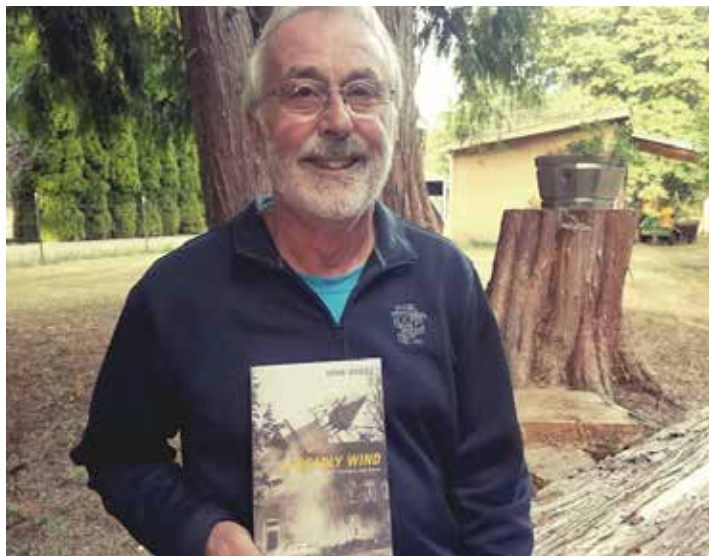
\$22-\$25

LEARN MORE

broadwayolympia.com
360-754-6670

A Deadly Wind

By Alec Clayton



Longtime columnist for The Olympian John Dodge has published a book about the most powerful windstorm ever to hit the West Coast. That book is *A Deadly Wind: The 1962 Columbus Day Storm*.

On Oct. 12, 1962, winds in this region topped 100 miles per hour. The Naselle Radar Station in southwest Washington clocked gusts of 160 miles per hour. At least 46 people were killed and hundreds injured, with damage to more than 50,000 homes including tremendous destruction in Olympia. Dodge was a 14-year-old boy at the time.

"I wrote the book with storm survivors in mind, betting that the windstorm was etched in their memory. So far it seems to be proving true," Dodge said. "It took me about five years to research, write and rewrite the book. I estimate that I interviewed about 100 storm survivors and heard storm survivor recounts from another 150. About 50 of the interviews I conducted made it into the book. I was motivated

to complete the project in large part by the storm survivors."

It's flying off the shelves. "We had more than 350 people at the book launch at the Capitol Theater Oct. 8," Dodge said, "and a show of hands suggested about 75 percent of those in attendance had lived through the storm. The same number held true among some 85 people who came to my next book event Oct. 18 at the Olympia Country and Golf Club."

The first printing of 2,000 copies sold out within days of the official release date, Oct. 12. Oregon State University Press has ordered a second printing. "A Facebook group with the same name as the book title has some 550 members, many with storm stories," Andrea Griffith, owner of Browsers Bookshop in Olympia, said. "At John's events, many people are buying more than one copy, usually to give to a sibling or a friend who remembers the storm. We also are selling the book very briskly in the store. I need to order more because my initial,

very large order is almost sold out. We have signed copies in the store and we are excited to hand-sell John's book during the holidays."

Olympia writer Jim Lynch wrote, "A Deadly Wind is a wonderful book written by one of the Pacific Northwest's best storytellers. With John Dodge's reporting and engaging prose, the biggest storm to ever slam the West Coast roars back to life on these pages."

Author of the popular "Soundings" column in The Olympian, Dodge spent 40 years as a reporter, columnist and editorial-page editor at several newspapers including 35 years at The Olympian. He earned numerous awards for his in-depth coverage of Pacific Northwest environmental issues. The father of two adult children, he lives on a small hobby farm in east Olympia with his wife, Dr. Barbara Digman. His leisurely pursuits include gardening, reading, birdwatching, hiking and sampling the many craft beers brewed in the Pacific Northwest. **0**



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WHAT

A Deadly Storm: The 1962 Columbus Day Storm

WHERE

Browsers Bookshop

HOW MUCH

\$19.95

LEARN MORE

360-357-7462

browsersolympia.com

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November 25, 2018



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February 7, 2019



PINKALICIOUS THE MUSICAL
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April 6, 2019

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Musicals

TO *My best friend, let's make it a day!*

FROM *Your bestie on the other side of town*



THE WIZARD OF OZ
January 16, 2019



THE CHOIR OF MAN
February 4, 2019
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KINKY BOOTS
February 27, 2019



NEW YORK GILBERT & SULLIVAN PLAYERS THE MIKADO
April 10, 2019

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TO *THE BEST DAD IN THE WORLD*

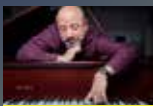
FROM *YOUR SON - LET'S JAM!*



BLACK BOX JAZZ PRESENTS DAN BALMER
January 11, 2019



BLACK BOX JAZZ PRESENTS SAMANTHA BOSCHNAK
March 8, 2019



BLACK BOX JAZZ PRESENTS BILL ANSCELL
May 10, 2019



TAIMANE
May 16, 2019

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Comedy

TO *Let's blow off some steam!*

FROM *Your favorite coworker*



BEST OF SEATTLE STAND UP
February 14, 2019



LADIES OF LAUGHTER
March 15, 2019



GOD IS A SCOTTISH DRAG QUEEN 2
May 4, 2019



COMEDY IN THE BOX
January 10 and 31, March 7, April 18, May 9, and June 13



Well-Told Tales at StoryOly

By Christian Carvajal

Professional storyteller Elizabeth Lord has been the host of StoryOly since she and Amy Shepard launched that raconteurial showdown in Nov. 2015. It fills Rhythm & Rye the third Tuesday of almost every month. The annual exception arrives each September, when the previous 11 winners come together for a weekend finals round. This year, to ensure as many audience members as possible have a chance to attend and potentially compete, the start times for Tuesday events have shifted from 6 to 7 p.m.

In StoryOly's first year, each monthly program "soft opened" with a featured, non-competing anecdote. Now each event boasts so many talented storytellers that icebreakers are never required. Audience members write their names on slips of paper, drawn by Lord at random from the pile. Once a name is drawn, that person has eight minutes to tell a true story drawn solely from his or her real-life experience, sans memorization or visual aids but adhering to a preselected theme. A trio of judges rates each story to determine that month's winner, who in turn competes with other monthly winners in September's "Grand Slam" finale.

The story theme for December's event is "Making Ends Meet," and Jan. 2019's yarns will venture into "Uncharted Territory." "Perhaps we'll have stories of people taking on work that was unpleasant," Lord says, "or perhaps we'll have stories of creativity." Competitors often use broader topics like January's as opportunities to describe all sorts of adventurous explorations.

Asked which elements of past stories connected best with the crowd, Lord offers, "The essential ingredients would be, of course, that it firstly is a story in that it has an arc — and also that the stakes are fairly high in that there is a revealing truth that is not often talked about out loud to the public." It's important, she notes, to tell the whole truth, even if one's story might be embarrassing or otherwise self-incriminating. "Stand-up comedians have learned that years ago," she adds, "that self-deprecation is a great form of humor. ... More often than not there's gonna be people in the audience that are breathing a sigh of relief to learn that they're not alone." 0

WHAT

StoryOly

WHEN

7 p.m. Tuesdays, Dec. 18 and Jan. 15

WHERE

Rhythm & Rye,
311 Capitol Way N, Olympia

HOW MUCH

\$10-\$20 suggested donation

LEARN MORE

storyoly.com
360-705-0760



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Cloudy,

With a Chance of Potato Balls

By Jonah Barrett

For a vegan, dining out can be a minefield. Options are usually limited to Asian food, bland burritos and the old fallback, green salads. Downtown Olympia has an alternative for that with this year's opening of The Wayside Cafe & Deli. Owners Jamie Vulva and Kevin Rainsberry opened their Capitol Way restaurant on July 20 to thunderous applause. "It's crazy," said Vulva. "People are excited. We've been so busy."

Vulva's previous job was at King Solomon's Reef on Fourth Avenue. During her time there as a server, she paid attention to what customers ordered. What struck her most was a gradual increase in the number of vegan and vegetarian items being ordered off the menu. The need for more vegan options seemed obvious. At the same time, Rainsberry was thinking about opening a vegan restaurant himself. The two figured out they shared a mutual dream and began work on The Wayside Cafe. "I knew we were going to be busy," Vulva said, "because there's nothing like this, and there are so many vegans and vegetarians that aren't being catered to."

A vegan is someone who doesn't eat or use any animal products. About 65 billion farm animals are slaughtered every year for meat and other goods, and vegans aren't okay with that. Being vegan means choosing no butter, cheese, eggs or meat — not even such items as fur, leather or downy feathers in pillows are acceptable. In recent years, veganism has become increasingly popular, especially in the Pacific Northwest. "I think people are interested in vegan food more and more," Rainsberry said.

Within the restaurant are a number of works by local artist Johnny Meade. Vulva stated it's important for The Wayside Cafe to highlight vegan artists. "I want to go with more animal-based art, because I think that's a big part of our focus," Vulva said. As for the food itself, the menu is a mixture of Rainsberry and Vulva's personal recipes, highlighting Rainsberry's experience as a kitchen coordinator at a 30-person commune and Vulva's lifelong obsession with food and food culture. "I feel like I have a really good idea of flavors and how to bring things together," Vulva said, "so I get these crazy ideas and I'm like, 'I'm just gonna try it and see if it works.' Sometimes it definitely doesn't, but a lot of the times ... it does. That's how I came up with a lot of recipes that I brought to this restaurant."

With options like cauliflower wings, Cajun "chick'n" sandwiches, potato balls and red-chili jackfruit, the possibilities at The Wayside Cafe are endless. 0



WHAT

The Wayside Cafe & Deli

WHERE

609 Capitol Way S, Olympia

WHEN

11 a.m. – 10 p.m. daily

LEARN MORE

facebook.com/thewaysideolympia

360-350-0233

Profile:

Sound and Vision Living

By Lucia Volker

Seasoned interior designer Nicole Duren and her husband Dan opened their store, Sound and Vision Living, in the beginning of October on Olympia's east side. They specialize in mid-century modern and boho furniture, design goods, one-of-a-kind gifts and the work of local artists. "Our concept is to have a store that is comfortable and approachable and feels like you are in someone's home, but you get to shop there and take all the cool stuff home for yourself," describes Nicole.

Dan and Nicole always planned on ending up in Olympia. Dan grew up in Tacoma, and both instantly fell in love with Olympia the first time they visited. They began to spend more and more time here and decided it would be a good fit for the concept and aesthetic of the store. Like many others they were attracted to the eclectic vibes of downtown and want to be in a small town with close proximity to bigger cities. Nicole worked as an interior designer for 16 years and missed the whimsy of decorating. "After years of schooling, learning drafting programs, et cetera, and essentially ending up with a degree in interior architecture," says Nicole, "it was easier to find a job doing the more technical side of design. I liked it, but I always kind of mourned the fact that I didn't really get to do what I truly loved." The Durens were living in Sacramento and working office jobs. Dan was working in government, Nicole for a residential-design firm. When Nicole's firm sold, it felt like the right time for them to make the move.

In addition to the retail aspect, Sound and Vision Living offers full design services. It'll help with everything from selecting paint colors to decorating and styling, and the Durens can be hired to make plans for a full-home remodel. "I have always told my clients that I am not the type of designer that is going to force my vision on them," Nicole says. "My job is to help them make their vision come to life." Through the Durens' realistic approach to design, the two are eager to become part of the community by helping Olympians design and decorate. The couple has gotten involved with the Olympia Downtown Alliance and is excited to be part of the change happening in Olympia. ⁰

WHAT

Sound and Vision Living

WHEN

11 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon-Sat, 12 p.m.-6 p.m. Sun

WHERE

721 4th Ave. E, Olympia

LEARN MORE

360-768-3209

soundandvisionliving.com



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Prices: \$14 - \$35 (plus \$3.00 service fee)

Student rush starts an hour before curtain

The Olympian



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A fundraising event in support of the nonprofit mission and goals of Ballet Northwest; tax ID 23 7123399