

# OLY ARTS

Issue No. 18 | April/May 2019

## SPRING ARTS WALK

Comprehensive coverage of  
Olympia's exciting cultural event

**ALSO:**

### **THEATER**

Go, Dog. Go!  
A Doll's House

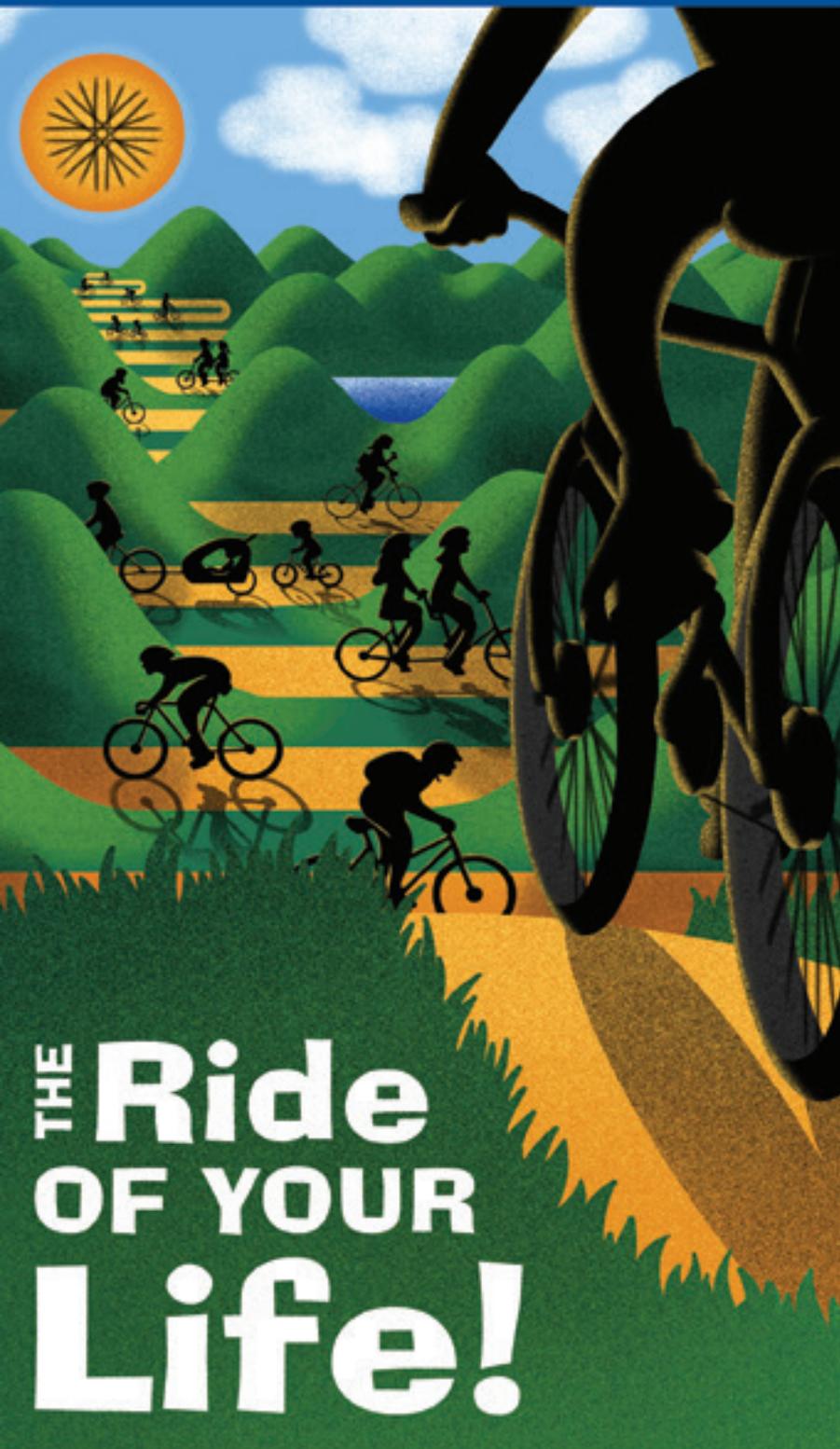
### **MUSIC**

Old Time Relijun  
Steamboat Jamboree

### **DANCE**

Studio West Dance  
Academy's Coppelia

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Cover: "Yellow" by Debra Van Tuinen

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April / May 2019

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# OLY ARTS

## THEATER

6 - 9

Olympia Family Theater

Harlequin Productions

National Monologue Competition

## EVENTS

10 - 11

Steamboat Jamboree

Olympia Design Month

## ARTS WALK

12 - 20

Arts Walk: Staff Picks

Procession of the Species

Olympia Artspace Alliance

## MUSIC

20 - 25

Profile: Old Time Relijun

Capitol Theater

Student Orchestras of  
Greater Olympia

Olympia Symphony Orchestra

## DANCE

26 - 27

Studio West Dance Academy

## BOOKS & WORDS

28

Review: Out of Salem

## FILM

30

Olympia Film Society

## FOOD

31

E-San Zap Café

9



31



12



10





# Returning Dogs, New Tricks

By Lucy Volker

This spring Olympia Family Theater will revisit the playful musical production *Go, Dog. Go!* “Eight colorful dogs will bustle, frolic, dance, scoot, work, sleep, play, sing and party across the stage as they move through their days,” says artistic director Jen Ryle. “Whether working, picnicking or preparing for bed, their playful antics will engage the youngest theatergoers while delighting the older ones.” The whimsical, canine characters will impress their audience by using humor and musical numbers to make attendees feel they’re experiencing a pop-up book sprung to life.

OFT first staged the play in 2012. This new production will feature some of those original actors in new roles. For example, Ryle says, “Heather Christopher appeared in our original version seven years ago as Yellow Dog. This go-around she will play Hattie, who has an awesome, show-stopping song-and-dance number at the end of the show.”

The book *Go, Dog. Go!* by P.D. Eastman was first published in 1961. It introduces concepts of everyday action, color, emotion and play to children. Playwrights Steven Dietz and Allison Gregory wanted to uphold the abstract, simplistic nature of the text, while making the story engaging for the stage. Dietz and Gregory added few of their own words to the characters, aiming instead to explore the words and pictures of the original book. The music, dance and emotive qualities enliven its minimalist narrative. The audience is meant to interpret the themes of the play themselves, as they would if they were at home with their families reading the story before bed.

This production is made possible by special arrangements with Plays for Young Audiences, Children’s Theater Company in Minneapolis and an OFT partnership with Seattle Children’s Theater. It’s directed by Deane Shellman, musically directed by Daven Tallinghast and has music by Michael Koerner. Olympia Family

Theater generously offers one pay-what-you-can performance on Thursday, May 16 at 7 p.m. 0

## WHAT

Go, Dog. Go!

## WHERE

Olympia Family Theater,  
612 Fourth Ave. E, Olympia

## WHEN

7 p.m. Fridays,  
2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays,  
May 2 – June 2;  
7 p.m. Thursday, May 16 (pay-  
what-you-can)

## HOW MUCH

\$15-\$20

## LEARN MORE

360-570-1638  
olyft.org

# A Doll's House Finds Present in the Past

By Melinda Minton

Henry Ibsen wrote the play *A Doll's House* as a daring portrait of a man who loves his wife as an equal. While that concept remains fresh in the #MeToo era, 150 years ago the thought of an equal partnership between man and wife was shocking. Ibsen himself said, as he was writing it in 1879, "A woman cannot be herself in the society of the present day, which is an exclusively masculine society, with laws framed by men and with a judicial system that judges feminine conduct from a masculine point of view." The glaring question, then, is how far we've come with regard to gender equality.

Aaron Lamb, artistic director for Harlequin Productions says, "It's especially an interesting play to visit at this juncture in history. The #MeToo movement gives us — especially men like myself — an opportunity to listen, to learn and to begin to understand. When we revisit a piece such as this after reflecting on what we've finally been able to hear from women, I think we can see it with a fresher eye and an opportunity to let the piece resonate. I do believe that this 150-year-old piece can have much more voice right now than it could've had even five years ago."

Using the adaptation by William Archer, Ibsen's long-time collaborator, Lamb made very few changes to the play. It's remarkable, then, that a play written so long ago feels so relevant. "The production will be a modern production," Lamb continues, "with all the men in sleek, neutral suits and all the women in period, 1890-ish dress. In this way, we see that the men have progressed 140 years while the women have only been allowed to grow 20 years at most." Nora will change into modern dress for her Act III discussion with Torvald.

Lamb said, "I think audiences of this generation will see a play that speaks very keenly to where we are as a society and will marvel that it was written 140 years ago. I hope to turn that question slightly: I think the better, more accurate and more appropriate question is, 'How have we progressed so little in the past 140 years?'" 0



## WHAT

*A Doll's House*

## WHERE

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

## WHEN

8 p.m. Thursdays – Saturdays,  
2 p.m. Sundays, May 2-25;  
8 p.m. Wednesday, May 8 (pay-what-you-can)

## HOW MUCH

\$20-\$35

## LEARN MORE

360-786-0151  
harlequinproductions.org

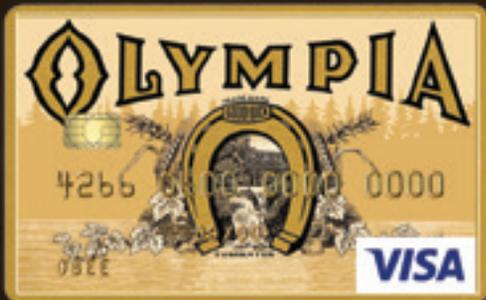
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# If She Can Make It There

Then this Timberline High School student can make it anywhere.

By Christian Carvajal

**T**imberline High School junior Analisa Allen scored a triumph February 28 at Seattle Repertory Theatre by taking regional first place in the 11th-annual National August Wilson Monologue Competition, thereby advancing to finals May 6 at the August Wilson Theatre on Broadway in New York City. Allen will test her mettle against finalists from regional competitions in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Pittsburgh among others. Her drama teacher, Robin Tuckett, believes this to be the most sought-after monologue prize in the country, adding, “This is a big deal.”

Allen will be treated to Broadway show tickets and a workshop with Tony Award-winning director Kenny Leon (*A Raisin in the Sun* revival, 2014) of Atlanta’s True Colors Theatre Company, a cofounder of the event. The winner of the two-round finals receives a cash prize of \$3,000, with further potential for college scholarships. “There’s no room for dillydallying,” says Tuckett of the three-day trip to New York. “It’s 16-hour days.” She’s hoping to secure funds to join Allen there. Celebrity coaches for the event have included Viola Davis and Denzel Washington.

Long before his death in 2005, August Wilson was hailed as one of America’s greatest living playwrights. His 1985 drama *Fences* won the Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for “Best Play.” *The Piano Lesson* (1990) was awarded a Pulitzer, and *Jitney* (1982) won the 2017 Tony Award for “Best Revival.” Participants in Wilson’s namesake competition perform three-minute monologues from his oeuvre. Allen, a 2018 semifinalist, chose to play “Vera” from *Seven Guitars*, a 1995 play set in the 1940s. She’s “an archetype of broken women,” Allen explains, on “a very deep emotional journey of hurt.”

“I try not to be too technical with what I do,” Allen continues. “After you memorize it, you kinda just become the character. Your peripherals blur, and that’s who you are right now.” 0

## WHAT

National August Wilson Monologue Competition  
(final round)

## WHERE

August Wilson Theatre,  
245 W. 52nd St., New York

## WHEN

7 p.m. Monday, May 6

## HOW MUCH

Free

## LEARN MORE

212-239-6200  
august-wilson-theatre.com

# Jammin'

## At the Fifth-Annual Steamboat Island Stringband Jamboree

By Jonah Barrett

Steamboat Island isn't known for its boisterous antics, but that changes every spring as it bursts with a variety of melodies. The fifth-annual Steamboat Stringband Jamboree, occurring the last day of May and first day of June, is hosted by Olympia bands The Oly Mountain Boys and The Pine Hearts. The jamboree's a celebration of acoustic music itself.

"All the great Northwest string bands come together for this small, intimate festival," said The Pine Hearts guitarist and vocalist Joe Capoccia. "It's put on by musicians who are friends of other musicians. All the musicians are basically inviting their friends' bands." Attendees can expect two days of live music with 20 bands, two stages and the opportunity to camp out while enjoying local beers, crafts and foods from local vendors. The festival doubles as a benefit for Arbutus Folk School.

The idea for the festival was born six years ago, when The Oly Mountain Boys and The Pine Hearts put on a one-day festival. Usually limited to small, bar shows, the bands found greater freedom on outdoor stages. "It's nice to have something outdoors," said Capoccia, "that we can control a little bit more and have families come so it's not always a

21-plus thing." It was after the success of this initial "mini-festival" that the bands decided they'd like to go bigger. The following spring, a similar but two-day jamboree took place on Steamboat Island. The festival has been going strong every year since.



The Oly Mountain Boys and The Pine Hearts have been friends for years, since long before they created the festival. Their signature musical (and sometimes food-fueled) celebrations are a result of creative relationships with roots in acoustic tunes. "The acoustic music community in Olympia is kind of small," said Capoccia, "which is why I think we all become friends and get to know each other." Steamboat Stringband Jamboree is the culmination of a tight-knit community of acoustic musicians with the goal of growing their small scene into something larger. For local music lovers, it's the perfect opportunity to hang with cool artists. "Attendees will have the chance to see these bands up close and casual before they hit the road for the big festival season," said Capoccia, "and for a cheaper ticket price." 0

### WHAT

Steamboat Island Jamboree

### WHERE

Prosperity Grange,  
3701 Steamboat Loop NW, Olympia

### WHEN

Friday and Saturday, May 31 and June 1

### HOW MUCH

Free - \$52.74  
(Weekend-camping pass \$16.52)

### LEARN MORE

[steamboatstringjam.com](http://steamboatstringjam.com)

We Build This City:

# Olympia Design Month

By Christian Carvajal

Janae Huber and other citizens launched the group Olympians for People-Oriented Places in 2015. Their goal was to support a compact, diverse Olympia designed around attractive public spaces. Abbreviated O-POP, the organization recognizes the challenges of housing an estimated thousand new residents each year without sacrificing environmental protections or civic beauty. Toward that end, O-POP announced a May calendar full of activities meant to celebrate and cultivate interest in effective municipal design.

Olympia Design Month gets underway Saturday, May 3, with a film screening and reception at Olympia Film Society's Capital Theater. On Wednesday, May 8, the First Christian Church's Koinonia Hall (701 Franklin St. SE) hosts a panel discussion called "How Buildings Happen," in which architects, bankers and other developers of affordable housing explain the roles they play in determining which projects move forward when. Two days later, O-POP presents "Elements of Design." This conversation between Olympia designers Jessicarae and Ruben Nuñez considers how local architecture can stir our emotions. On May 11, from 1 to 3 p.m., the Nuñezes will lead a walking and photography tour to

expand on how design principles were put to effective use in Olympia's historic buildings.

On May 15, planner Thera Black, architect Roussa Cassel, preservationist Michelle Sadlier and green-building expert Chris Van Daalen convene at Temple Beth Hatfiloh (201 Eighth Ave. SE) to discuss how design principles get realized as unified neighborhoods.

Throughout May, Browsers Bookshop (107 Capitol Way N) will feature design-themed books. Meanwhile, watch for photos and design facts in storefront windows all over the downtown core, plus a new guidebook for walking tours. "Thus," O-POP's festival prospectus explains, "downtown Olympia itself will become an educational gallery of architecture." In addition, the city will host a walking tour of Percival Landing to illuminate its redesign and future. City staffers will describe the merging of environmental restoration with public art on a thriving waterfront.

Olympia Design Month's closing event and reception will be held Friday, May 17, in Olympia Ballroom. Four Olympia architects will discuss designs that inspire them and where their field is headed. "Our hope," says Jami Heinricher, one of Olympia Design Month's chief planners, "is that people will change hats for a moment; and instead of playing

vigilant defenders of old Olympia, they will peer into the future and see how great design that responds to current methods, modern materials, emerging needs and urgent problems can help steer us toward the best possible outcomes. Olympia is changing regardless of anyone's hopes or interventions. Old Olympia isn't coming back. As an Olympia resident for over 43 years, I'm sad about that, too. Design is not a panacea. Anyone might argue that policy is bigger than design, but design is happening all the time. It impacts people for years — decades. It needs to be responsible. It needs to be great. We need to expect a lot more." 0

## WHAT

Opening reception and Olympia Design Month film night

## WHERE

Capitol Theater,  
206 Fifth Ave. SE, Olympia

## WHEN

7 p.m. Saturday, May 3

## HOW MUCH

Free

## LEARN MORE

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# OLY ARTS Celebrates Spring Arts Walk

Through a special partnership between City of Olympia and OLY ARTS, we are proud to present editorial coverage of Olympia's Spring Arts Walk, including staff recommendations, artist interviews and a special preview of Procession of the Species.

## By Alec Clayton and Ned Hayes

# Debra van Tuinen and Bob Coble Show Complementary Painting and Sculpture

By Alec Clayton

Once again, Bob Cable and Debra van Tuinen grace the space at Waterstreet Café for Arts Walk. “I will be showing my new oils on canvas,” van Tuinen says. “I have a new series. ‘Light Revealed,’ that I am also showing at my show at SPACE Gallery in Denver in July.” She’s celebrated for paintings that fill canvases with bright, sensuous color in free-flowing washes like rivers, waves or waterfalls. These are often varying tones of a single hue applied with wide, lilting strokes. “Bob Coble,” she adds, “my partner, is showing a new, metal-and-stone sculpture.”

Coble creates large, outdoor sculptures, two of which will be brought indoors and displayed alongside van Tuinen’s paintings. Each is about seven feet tall. For the past five years, Coble’s been engaged in an oyster-restoration project, and he’s promised to use

funds from selling his art for that project. “I have been planting about 8,000 seed oysters per year in 20 grow bags,” he says. “I release them into a larger, netted area after about a year. They spawn, and new, baby oysters form on the surrounding rocks.”

Photos of Coble’s welded-steel sculpture display monumental yet slender spires in natural settings. It should prove interesting to see how it’ll look inside a restaurant, next to van Tuinen’s complementary, abstract painting. 0

#### WHAT

Debra van Tuinen and Bob Coble

#### WHERE

Waterstreet Café,  
610 Water St. SW, Olympia

#### WHEN

5-10 p.m. Friday, April 26;  
Noon - 8 p.m. Saturday, April 27

#### HOW MUCH

Free

#### LEARN MORE

360-709-9090  
[waterstreetcafeandbar.com](http://waterstreetcafeandbar.com)

# A Trio of Artists Enlivens Former Salon Refu

By Alec Clayton

The gallery space once known as Salon Refu is now Lucy Gentry's studio. "For Arts Walk," Gentry says, "Susan Christian and I, plus a wonderful, Seattle artist named Lauren Boilini, are showing at my studio. Lauren's work is really wonderful. Susan will be showing some paintings and a stick sculpture. I will be showing new, sculptural dresses, and I am continuing to explore salt." Yes, salt: Gentry makes amazing, sculptural forms out of salt. These must be seen to be believed. Gentry's also a costumer for many shows at Harlequin Productions. She turns her dressmaking talent to fine art by creating sculptural dresses with a surreal, steampunk quality.

Boilini's often large-scale paintings depict fighting, as in a recent series about animals in jungle combat. "In my current body of work, I examine excess," Boilini says. "This idea of gluttony is reflected in our current culture, where images of excess become meaningless and fall into

the realm of pattern. We are a hedonistic society always looking for more, until the 'more' we are looking for loses its meaning."

Christian paints and assembles old sticks to create vibrant, abstract forms. She paints mysterious scenes that speak of loneliness and longing and stimulate the imagination. Often her paintings are long and thin, as many as 10 feet in length and one or two feet in height. Her stick paintings are sometimes propped against walls, hung from ceilings or put together in more traditional, rectangular formats. She says she doesn't know yet which works she'll show for Arts Walk. The show, she says, will be "a collaboration about enormity, about muchness." She also reveals Olympia artist Anne de Marcken may be added to make this trio a quartet. 0

## WHAT

Lauren Boilini, Susan Christian, Lucy Gentry

## WHERE

114 Capitol Way N, Olympia

## WHEN

5-10 p.m. Friday, April 26;  
Noon-8 p.m. Saturday, April 27

## HOW MUCH

Free

## LEARN MORE

360-280-3540 (Christian)  
360-561-3904 (Gentry)



Lauren Boilini

# Flowers and Other Works by Scott Waeschle

By Alec Clayton

For many years painter and teacher Scott Waeschle has shown his landscape and figure paintings in area galleries. This year, Olympians get to see something new from Waeschle — flowers.

Waeschle explains how the new work came about. “I had both knees replaced two years ago and spent two months in the spring mostly sitting in a chair looking out the window at the garden. I started taking photos of the cut flowers at the dining room table. When I could stand and work at the easel in July, it was a natural progression to try to paint a large painting, three by five feet, of the peonies I had captured. I wanted to paint in loose brushstrokes and create a fairly realistic image. It was fun, and I liked the results. My wife really liked the painting and wanted it to hang in our living room, which doesn’t happen very often. The new series was off and running. I have painted six or seven large paintings of flowers so far with two more in progress.”

For Arts Walk, Waeschle will show a group of these flower paintings at Developing Artists Olympia (above Don’s Camera on Capitol Way) along with some of his mixed-media figurative works from the life drawing sessions he runs at DAO on Tuesday evenings. A number of other artists will also be showing their work at DAO for Arts Walk.

His trademark figurative works are contour drawings of nudes overlapping paintings of the same or other nude figures, setting up an exciting dynamic of different styles combined. His landscapes often have actual parts of tree branches glued to the surface of paintings of trees, thus setting up a similar interaction. The flower paintings have no such gimmicks but are straightforward paintings of single flowers or stalks of flowers with rich color and expressive paint application.

Waeschle teaches photography and advanced art at Lakes High School in Lakewood. “I get out into the wilds for inspiration and adventure as much as possible,” he says. “My new knees work great, and I am back climbing, skiing and paddling with my camera and then in the studio to play with paint.” 0

## WHAT

Scott Waeschle

## WHERE

DAO Studio, 314 Capitol Way N, Olympia

## HOW MUCH

Free

## WHEN

5-10 p.m. Friday, April 26  
Noon-8 p.m. Saturday, April 27

## LEARN MORE

[scottwaeschle.com](http://scottwaeschle.com)



# Carved Wood and Ceramics at Childhood's End

By Alec Clayton

As long as there has been Arts Walk in Olympia, Childhood's End Gallery has been one of the most popular galleries to visit. In the past it's featured works by no more than three or four popular, area artists. This year it presents "Carved, Wood & Ceramics," a themed show with seven artists: Sara Gettys, carved wood; John and Robin Gumaelius, carved stoneware sculptures; Linda Heisserman, carved porcelain; Julia Janeway, carved, illustrative ceramics; Megan MacClellan, carved maps in porcelain and Richard Roth, floral porcelain.

Gettys says, "For this show I've drawn inspiration from around Washington — from the Kittitas Valley to the depths of Puget Sound — to create pieces that celebrate the natural beauty of our state. I begin my work by painting the medium I'm carving, wood or expanded PVC, and then I remove areas of the surface to create the image. I love the physical process of creating my work, and the finished pieces offer viewers a connection to that process. From far away, the viewer sees a bird in flight or a writhing octopus, and if you move closer the texture reflects every dip of my carving tool through the surface."

The husband-and-wife team of John and Robin Gumaelius sculpt animals, humans and animal-human hybrids that are funny, strange and wondrous.

Heisserman uses porcelain clay when she throws, as its whiteness and smoothness become a canvas for carved images. She uses dental tools and razor blades to carve into each piece. Finally, she uses blue-green Celadon glazes, which pull off high points and fill deep scratches to highlight the carvings. She'll show pieces that highlight her interest in the natural world: flowers, ocean life, trees. She and her son spent a lot of time at an aquarium in San Francisco watching jellies float through their own space. It took her three years to produce a jellyfish vase that she felt "captured the fluidity of those jellyfish."

This will be a first showing in Olympia for MacClellan of Oxbow Ceramics, who says, "I'm excited to be at Childhood's End since it's such an institution for Olympia." Her works at Arts Walk will explore how bodies of water carve paths into the earth, how those paths change over time, how we play a role in shaping them and our relationship with the water around us. She makes maps of coastlines and rivers in porcelain, using a technique called water etching.

Roth, who lives at his studio, Grand Prairie Designs in Whitlock, has been working in pottery for more than 50 years. He says, "My work includes a variety of stoneware, clay pieces that are designed with botanical, slip-cut carvings. These items are both functional and decorative, one-of-a-kind, and are intended to be used hand-to-hand for many generations." 0

## WHAT

Carved, Wood & Ceramics

## WHERE

Childhood's End Gallery,  
222 Fourth Ave. W, Olympia

## WHEN

5-10 p.m. Friday, April 26;  
Noon-8 p.m. Saturdays, April 27 – May 31

## HOW MUCH

Free

## LEARN MORE

childhoods-end-gallery.com  
360-943-3724

# See a New Direction for Tom Anderson

By Alec Clayton

**T**om Anderson is practically an art institution in Olympia. His studio has been open to the public since the 1980s. He's created many well-known, public-art installations: the Park of the Seven Oars on Harrison and a suite of mural-size paintings in the emergency-room lobby at Providence St. Peters Hospital. His works are in many private and public collections. Best known for mixed-media paintings on copper and other materials, he's recently been working in such traditional media as ink or acrylic on canvas and wood panels. These recent works are restful, meditative abstractions from landscape motifs in horizontal bands of rich color. "Obviously I'm digging the blues," he says, referring to his paintings in which bright blue is the dominant hue. It's also a nod to his love of music. He's known for his collection of blues and rock posters from his years in the heyday of San Francisco's Fillmore West.

"They are a bit different," he says, "less constructivist, perhaps. [I'm n]ot sure what I may be ready to show." He suggests he might also include copper work shown a year ago in Portland, Oregon, but never in Olympia.

"Canvas is something new for me," he says, "and I am enjoying the physical response of the ink on it. The theme I have been thinking about is horizons, metaphorically, symbolically and literally. I feel it represents a gathering spot for hope and optimism. It represents the end and the beginning. I have always been drawn, no pun intended, to horizon lines and viewpoints that are a source of guidance or balance for me. The inks have a richness of color, with their transparency that reminds me of my years of working in stained glass and what inspired me when I was." 0

**WHAT**

Tom Anderson

**HOW MUCH**

Free

**WHERE**

Thomas Architecture Studios,  
525 Columbia St., Olympia

**LEARN MORE**

360-915-8775  
[tasolympia.com](http://tasolympia.com)

**WHEN**

5-10 p.m. Friday, April 26;  
Noon - 8 p.m. Saturday, April 27

An Artistic Revue:

# Procession of the Species 2019

By Ned Hayes

**P**rocession of the Species is Olympia's annual celebration of the natural ecosystem. It's been enlivened in recent years by the massive creations of large-scale puppeteer Jerry Berebitsky, whose creations delight crowds with brilliant color, innovative imagination and awe-inspiring movement. This year, however, instead of a single, oversized creation, parade-goers will experience a full revue of Berebitsky's art from the past decade.

Berebitsky moved to the South Sound from rural Colorado in 2006, and in 2007 he first experienced the procession. He built his first creation for the parade in 2008, a huge elephant that shambled mightily down the street to gasps and delighted cheers. In 2012, Berebitsky improved on that elephant with a huge giraffe that had to bend her neck to get under power lines. In 2016, Berebitsky brought us a peacock that filled the parade with sparkling feathers. In 2017, the peacock was joined by 35 smaller peacocks; and in 2018, Berebitsky debuted a frog that delighted the crowd with enormous leaps.

The elephant hasn't been seen on the route for a decade. This year, for the first time since 2007, his head and 12-foot ears will be seen on parade. The giraffe's 24-foot neck and head will appear on the route as well. The peacock will be resplendent again in all its glory, and a group will bring back the 25-foot frog. This year, at least parts of all four of these powerful creations will grace the experience. The procession is a participatory experience, though, so Berebitsky is interested in recruiting additional volunteers who can help bring these fabulous creations to life. Interested readers should reach out to Berebitsky via his email address below.

The amazing Berebitsky revue caps off a challenging year for Procession of the Species. The volunteers who create the procession rely on the goodwill of local landlords for work space, and have been fortunate to be in the same location for their studio the past three years. This year, the snowstorm caused damage to the roof, which resulted in water damage to some creations and materials. This summer, volunteers must relocate their studio to a new location on Thurston Avenue.

Berebitsky has been through a year of challenges himself. He was affected by The Evergreen State College layoffs last spring, and in April, he started a new job managing staff at Western State Hospital. He's also working at Touchstone, helping youths just out of prison. "I am still an artist at heart," said Berebitsky. "I plan to continue on with the procession, and although I don't quite know when the next piece will come, I have lots of ideas of things to make. The procession should be fun. It always is." 0

**WHAT**

Procession of the Species

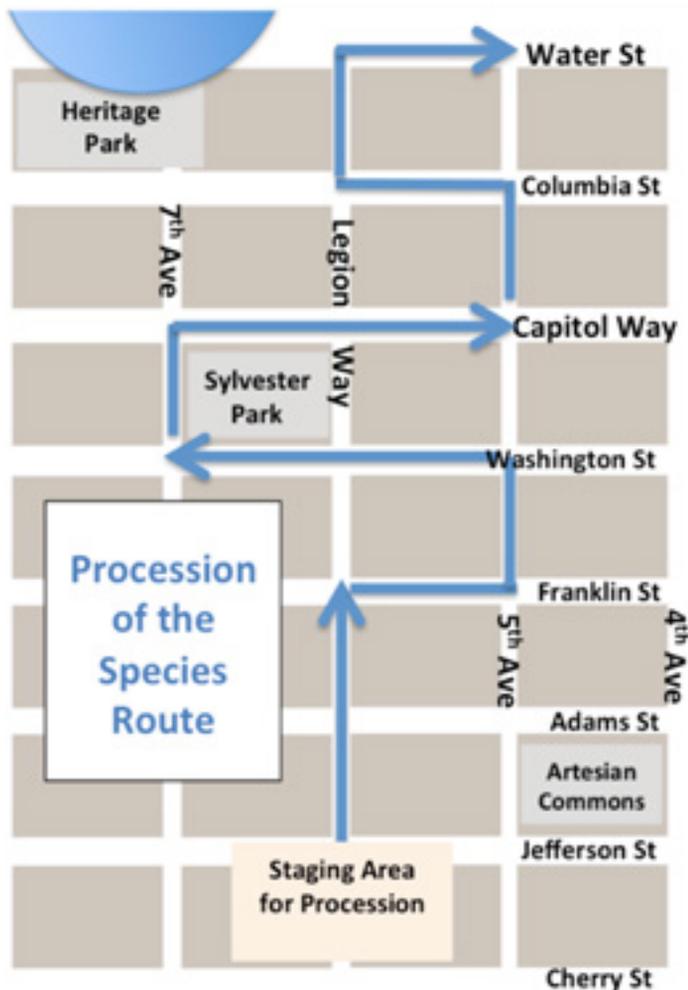
**WHERE**

From Jefferson St. and Legion Way to Water St. and Capitol Way, Olympia (see route map)

**WHEN**Luminary Procession: 8:30-10 p.m. Friday, April 26;  
Procession of the Species: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27**HOW MUCH**

Free

**LEARN MORE**jberebitsky@hotmail.com  
procession.org



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# Pop-Up Art Coming to Olympia Storefronts

By Billy Thomas

What's the best way to address empty storefront space in downtown Olympia? Fill it with art. The Olympia Artspace Alliance (OAA) has proposed an ambitious new project to do just that.

Beginning this May, the alliance will set out to create a series of three temporary installations that will show local artists in vacant, downtown-Olympia spaces. As of this article's printing, the first installation has tentatively been scheduled at the former Ken Schoenfeld Furniture at Capitol Way and Fourth Avenue.

The project, named "Art in Olympia Storefronts," is a concept that grew out of conversations between OAA, members of the Olympia City Council and the Olympia Downtown Alliance. It is based on similar projects in San Francisco, Seattle and Tacoma.

"Art in Olympia Storefronts will provide artists with short-term access to otherwise-empty commercial space,"

said Kris Tucker, board chair for OAA. She went on to explain the benefits of the project, which include "providing quality exhibition opportunities for local artists and increasing public access to professional art."

Olivia Burlingame, project coordinator for Art in Olympia Storefronts, stated the goal of the project was clear: "We want to draw people downtown." She said an added benefit to the pop-up galleries will be "increased light-shed and a more welcoming downtown environment."

Each temporary installation will begin through a juried proposal to ensure suitability and sustainability for each location. Then the selected pieces will be installed by the alliance and selected artist for six to eight weeks. "What that sounds like to me," Burlingame said, "is Arts Walk all year." **0**

## WHAT

Pop-up art galleries

## WHERE

Downtown Olympia

## WHEN

Three installations during 2019; Spring, summer and fall

## HOW MUCH

Free

## LEARN MORE

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

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## Profile: Old Time Relijun

By Adam McKinney

Though its four members now reside in Portland, Oregon, Old Time Relijun began life in Olympia. Indeed, few bands feel quite as much like Olympia: ambitiously odd, disarmingly immediate and unafraid of experimentation. The fiery, noise-rock group got its start in the '90s, eventually releasing eight knockout albums through 2007 before going on extended hiatus. After 12 years in the wilderness, Old Time Relijun has returned with its new album, *See Now and Know*.

Calvin Johnson, head of K Records – where Old Time Relijun made its home since nearly the beginning – spoke to us about how it feels to welcome the band back into the fold. “We’ve toured together, we’ve recorded together, we’ve done a lot of work together over the years,” he says. “They still have this crazy, fun sound, but it’s almost a little more normal – not in a way that turns you off. I was like, ‘The kids [have] still got it!’ ... I still think about that LP trilogy they did with *Lost Light*, *2012* and *Catharsis in Crisis*. Each of those albums was so epic and so perfect, and when you put them all together it’s really something special.”

When Johnson says Old Time Relijun sounds a little more “normal,” he’s definitely grading on a curve. The quartet (Germaine Baca, Arrington de Dionyso and Aaron and Benjamin Hartman) is capable of creating some of the most daring music around, so producing a more approachable sound on *See Now and Know* still results in something exhilaratingly strange. This is a bracing album that dashes through seven angular, cacophonous songs in 23 minutes.

*See Now and Know* saw its official release March 8, in preparation for an extensive tour through the Midwest and East Coast in the spring. We’re happy to know the country will get a concentrated dose of Old Time Relijun’s wild spirit. 0



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MAY 11, 12, 19

CHASTITY BELT  
W/ RED RIBBONS  
MAY 22

# Rock Party at Capitol Theater

By Todd B. Gruel



Julia Shapiro, guitarist and singer for Chastity Belt, considers what feminism means in the 21st century for an all-female band. “To me,” she decides, “it just means being a person with multiple identities, one of them being female, and not having to really think about the fact that I’m a woman constantly.” In some ways, her band has traveled some distance over its eight-year career — to be precise, over 270 miles. The band, which also features Gretchen Grimm on drums, Lydia Lund on guitar and Annie Truscott on bass, was formed in Walla Walla, Washington, before relocating to Seattle in the early 2010s.

Despite the distance the band has traveled, however, themes persist between its albums. From the very beginning there was humor. Chastity Belt’s first album, a short EP from 2012 unceremoniously titled *F— Chastity Belt*, was co-recorded by producer Peter Richards. The band claims Richards is deaf in one ear. Shapiro says the band stays empowered within its art by taking the attitude of people first. “Playing earnest music can feel really vulnerable,” she says, “and I think we all take comfort in humor.”

Also from the very beginning, there was sex. The song “Cool Slut,” off album *Time to Go Home*, may at first glance seem to celebrate promiscuity as a form of freedom; yet its refrain rings more like a call to party

than a call to arms. “To all the girls in the world,” it says, “trying to take off their shirts, ladies, it’s OK to be — It’s OK to be slutty.”

The band’s most recent LP, *I Used to Spend So Much Time Alone*, solidifies its Seattleite sound, deepening grooves and widening the lyrics. One gets the sense this group of four was drawn together, not only to make music, but to laugh and even cry together. Touring in support of it, Chastity Belt will headline a show at Capitol Theater with guest act Red Ribbons. Jonah Barrett, marketing director for Olympia Film Society and writer for **OLY ARTS**, helped organize the event. He looks forward to the show, saying, “They’re a super-fun band and embody the fun-loving, OFS spirit.”

Rob Patrick, OFS film programmer, says he idolizes guitarist Lydia Lund because she “holds the record for having the most tabs open on her phone at one time.” When asked if there were challenges organizing the show, Patrick joked it was difficult knowing the band’s favorite performance was that of Jared Leto in the movie *Mr. Nobody*.

Mid-week audiences should find motivation in the fact that Chastity Belt expect to play new music from an upcoming album alongside older hits. The result is a guaranteed party. “I love Olympia,” Shapiro said. “Great vibe there. Happy to have a reason to visit.” 0

## WHAT

Chastity Belt with Red Ribbons

## WHERE

Capitol Theater,  
206 Fifth Ave. SE, Olympia

## WHEN

8 p.m. Wednesday, May 22

## HOW MUCH

\$12-\$15

## LEARN MORE

360-754-6670  
olympiafilmsociety.org

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# A Year of Growth for Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia

By Lucy Volker

Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia (SOGO) provides musical education, technical training and performance opportunities for aspiring, young musicians. The group offers a variety of intensive classes and training programs for elementary, middle and high-school-aged youth. SOGO aims to prepare students for careers in classical music. Its programs focus on artistic development, ear training, ensemble and orchestra preparation, music education and theory.

“I am so pleased with how much all of our musicians have grown this year,” says SOGO’s new musical director, Cameron May. “Our youngest students in the debut orchestra, the aspiring artists of the academy orchestra and the ever-popular, brass-choir members are all reaching new heights, and this generates a great deal of excitement

throughout the organization.” The debut orchestra features elementary and middle-school students, the academy orchestra comprises advanced middle-school students and intermediate high-schoolers and the conservatory is for advanced high-school students. Placement is audition-based, and rehearsals are held weekly for each level throughout the season.

This year’s spring concert features Mozart’s overture to *The Magic Flute*, Elgar’s *Nimrod*, Sibelius’ *Finlandia* and Plog’s *Triple Concerto* for Trumpet, Horn, Trombone and Orchestra. “The main focal point,” says May, “is a triple concerto by contemporary composer Anthony Plog, featuring my graduating, principal brass players Carter Rowell [on] trumpet, Emma Tranum [on] horn and Ian Rigg [on] trombone, all of whom are long-time SOGO members.” Three

classic pieces and one contemporary selection will allow performers to learn by exploring new styles of music under May’s direction. May adds, “The end result from the perspective of the audience, I hope, is four very-different-sounding pieces that help us celebrate our musicians and the tremendous year we’ve had as an organization.”

The 2018-2019 season brought new experiences for audience members and SOGO students alike. The advanced conservatory performed diverse pieces from around Europe and the U.S. May wanted to focus on helping students and listeners grow musically by performing different works than SOGO has done in the past. This upcoming performance will be a great way for the community to experience new music and hear the results of all the hard work students put in throughout the year. 0

## WHAT

SOGO Spring Concert

## WHERE

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

## WHEN

4 p.m. Sunday, May 10

## HOW MUCH

Free - \$16

## LEARN MORE

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

# Season Finale for the “Characters” of Olympia Symphony Orchestra

By Melinda Minton

Olympia Symphony Orchestra’s grand finale for its 66th season provides the experience of visiting characters its audience will immediately recognize. The group’s upcoming concert, *Cast of Characters*, subtitled “an overture in four parts,” could also refer to the players themselves, whom conductor Huw Edwards calls “a cast of characters and a microcosm of society.”

The show kicks off with Spanish toreadors from Bizet’s *Carmen*. Then comes Sergei Prokofiev’s score for the epic film *Lieutenant Kijé*, followed by Ravel’s popular ballet score *Mother Goose*. That piece was inspired by such classic tales as Gabrielle-Suzanne de Villeneuve’s *Beauty and the Beast* (1740), “Sleeping Beauty” and “Tom Thumb.” Finally, Offenbach’s overture to *Orpheus in the Underworld* contains rich solos for cello, clarinet and violin. As a bonus treat, the season closes with a boisterous cancan.

Says Edwards, “One of the amusing stories within the symphony is the tale of Russian soldier Lieutenant Kijé, or Kizhea. The fictional protagonist of an anecdote is a mistake made by the Russian army. Eventually the character is presented to the czar and is sent to Siberia, where he meets the woman of his dreams and lives a completely different story.”

Describing the concert as “a tapas bar,” Edwards continues, “The main reason why there is no guest artist on this program is because the orchestra itself is the soloist. These varied pieces contain big solos and mini-cadenzas for so many instruments: violin, clarinet, saxophone, harp, cello, viola, celesta, oboe, trumpet offstage, flute, contrabassoon ... a true cast of musical and programmatic characters.” This show will be a rich folly for symphony patrons and players alike. 0

**WHAT**

Cast of Characters

**WHERE**

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

**WHEN**

7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 28

**HOW MUCH**

\$10-\$63

**LEARN MORE**

360-753-8586  
washingtoncenter.org





# Coppelia,

## Ballet's Romantic Comedy

By Karen Lunde

*Coppelia* arrives at The Washington Center for the Performing Arts April 18 through 20, bringing a tale of mayhem, mischief and mistaken identities. Studio West Dance Theatre's production follows the antics of Swanhilda and her friends as they try to discover the identity of Coppelia, a mysterious woman who's enthralled Swanhilda's fiancé, Franz.

"*Coppelia* is the iconic romantic comedy," said Stephanie Wood-Ennett, co-director of Studio West. "It's gratifying for us to present a ballet with such a rich history in the ballet world." Wood-Ennett explained *Coppelia* is not only a love story between Swanhilda and Franz but a tale about the camaraderie between Swanhilda and her friends, who try to learn more about Swanhilda's potential rival, the beautiful girl spotted reading on the eccentric Dr. Coppelius' balcony. It's also the story of Dr. Coppelius himself and his longing for companionship. "[It's about] our own mischievous natures and the curiosities that sometimes get us into questionable situations," said Wood-

Ennett. "It's the perfect ballet for our dancers to showcase their strong dance technique, artistry and acting abilities."

This performance is a farewell to two Studio West dancers, Naomi de Jesus and Cole McMason, who are setting off on their professional paths. Both dancers began their ballet training with Studio West over 10 years ago. This summer, de Jesus will attend the Joffrey Ballet summer program in Chicago before entering the Joffrey Conservatory Program in the fall. She's danced the role of Sugar Plum Fairy in *The Nutcracker* and the Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*. McMason departs to begin his training on a merit scholarship with the Pacific Northwest Ballet School in Seattle this summer, a program he chose over other scholarship offers from such prestigious programs as the San Francisco Ballet School. Both dancers expressed gratitude to Studio West's program for enabling them to perfect their art.

Renowned ballet choreographer George Balanchine once said, "Just as *Giselle* is ballet's great tragedy, so *Coppelia* is its great comedy." Enjoy the antics and artistry of Studio West's production at The Washington Center for the Performing Arts Easter weekend. 0

### WHAT

Studio West Dance Academy presents: *Coppelia*

### WHERE

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

### WHEN

7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 18 and 19;  
1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday, April 20

### HOW MUCH

\$19-\$31

### LEARN MORE

360-753-8586  
washingtoncenter.org



# Out of Salem

A teen-zombie-werewolf-witchy-faerie-murder mystery.



By Tom Simpson

**H**al Schrieve is well known to Olympians as a local word nerd, ardent reader, University of Washington graduate and trans activist. Schrieve, 22, is about to be well-known for hir—Schrieve’s preferred pronoun—powerful, debut novel, a transformative murder mystery that features teen zombies and werewolves.

“I tried to imagine a modern fantasy world where the systems of oppression I knew to exist weren’t just background noise to the main character but were at the center of the book,” said Schrieve in an interview with **OLY ARTS**. “As for werewolves—I have always been totally obsessed with them. They are the coolest monster, and when they come up in fiction they are often about dehumanization and otherness and suppressing one’s own desire or power—or not, and being afraid of it.”

Schrieve’s literary star is rising fast. Hir first novel, *Out of Salem*, has already been listed as one of the top “10 hottest YA releases of March 2019” by Bookstr.com, and praised by Kirkus Reviews, School Library Journal and Spooky Kid Lit. Kirkus described it as “on fire with magic and revolution.” Its publisher characterizes it as “the best Teen Zombie Werewolf Witchy Faerie fantasy murder mystery you’ve ever read.”

*Out of Salem* is an inventive story of intersectional identity that includes both trans and genderqueer identities, coupled with a subversion of common zombie tropes and magical elements. Set in an alternative United States in 1999, where fairy folk, selkies, werewolves and zombies are commonplace, the novel is a deeper literary accomplishment than your average youth fantasy. In late April, Browsers Bookshop will welcome Schrieve back to Olympia to celebrate its launch.

“I think that in terms of other kinds of transformations, I like talking about the changes all bodies go through in hyperbolizing kind of metaphorical language,” explained Schrieve. “I think werewolves represent the power people can find in themselves which can express itself in ways that make people uncomfortable or be interpreted as deviant or dangerous. My hope is that...people are able to read and respond and that more interest in this kind of fiction grows.”

Schrieve, who now holds a bachelor’s degree in history with a minor in English from University of Washington, currently studies library science at Queens College, New York. Schrieve resides in Brooklyn, New York, and hir poetry has appeared in *Vetch* magazine. **0**

## WHAT

Book launch and reading

## WHERE

Browsers Bookshop,  
107 Capitol Way N, Olympia

## WHEN

7 p.m. Monday, April 22

## HOW MUCH

Free

## LEARN MORE

360-357-7462  
browsersolympia.com

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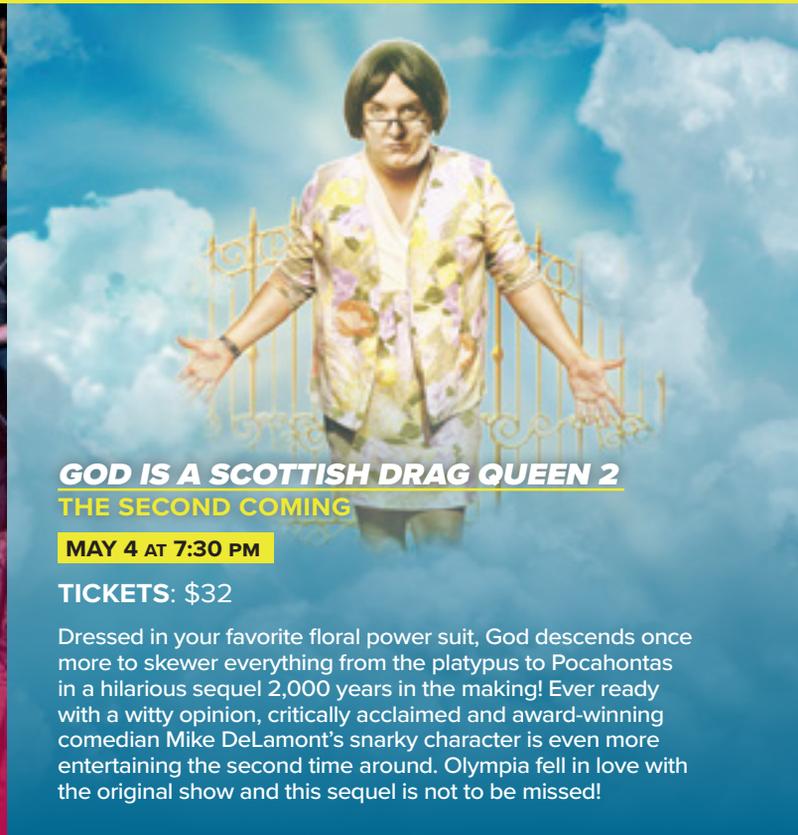


## **RISE UP** **THE HAMILTON TRIBUTE BAND**

**APR 27 AT 6:00**

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## **GOD IS A SCOTTISH DRAG QUEEN 2** **THE SECOND COMING**

**MAY 4 AT 7:30 PM**

**TICKETS: \$32**

Dressed in your favorite floral power suit, God descends once more to skewer everything from the platypus to Pocahontas in a hilarious sequel 2,000 years in the making! Ever ready with a witty opinion, critically acclaimed and award-winning comedian Mike DeLamont's snarky character is even more entertaining the second time around. Olympia fell in love with the original show and this sequel is not to be missed!



## **BLACK BOX COMEDY** **COMEDY IN THE BOX**

**MAY 9 AT 7:30 PM**

**TICKETS: \$25**

Set aside the cares of the week and enjoy the best evening of comedy Olympia has to offer. Washington Center's Comedy in the Box brings regional and national comedians to our Black Box theater—a unique, intimate venue with a full bar. With a new lineup of three comedians for each show, we're sure to tickle your funny bone!

## **BLACK BOX JAZZ** **BILL ANSCHELL**

**MAY 10 AT 8:00 PM**

**TICKETS: \$25**

Bill Anschell has studied, composed, and performed jazz piano across the country and around the world. In 2016 he was inducted into the Seattle Jazz Hall of Fame. A three-time recipient of the Earshot's Golden Ear Award his original pieces have been featured on many TV shows, including *The West Wing*, *The Wire*, and *NCIS: Los Angeles*.



## **TAIMANE** **UKULELE VIRTUOSO**

**MAY 16 AT 7:30 PM**

**A: \$47, B: \$36, C: \$25**

From Bach to rock, flamenco infernos to tribal hymns, ukulele virtuoso Taimane will captivate you! A prodigy with a contagious zest for performing, she honed her showmanship and stagecraft at age 13 with mentor and legendary crooner Don Ho as part of his venerable variety show at the Waikiki Beachcomber. Through a magical combination of supreme artistry and spell-binding entertainment, Taimane has garnered a worldwide audience through masterful performances and an incredible number of followers on social media.

Photo: Anthony Thoen

Olympia Film Society Introduces

# Screen Scores

By Noah Shachar

Cinema and music have been intertwined since the debut of moving pictures. With the invention of sound cinema, however, we lost the combination of a live orchestra playing alongside the silver screen. Starting in May, Olympia Film Society (OFS) introduces an all-new film program series, Screen Scores. The program attaches live ensembles to great cinema to create a scintillating movie-watching experience. During the May kickoff sponsored by Dillinger's Cocktails, an Austin, Texas-based quartet, The Invincible Czars, will accompany the classic, silent, vampire film *Nosferatu*. It's among the most iconic silent films, a giant of the horror genre. The pairing features a wide array of instruments from the organ to the violin, the glockenspiel to the group's own voices. The symbiosis of film and musical performance will send shivers up spines.

Screen Scores won't confine itself to silent films. In June the series features the animated *Sailor Moon R* with a score by Sundae Crush. OFS Marketing Director Jonah Barrett said he has "no idea how they're going to pull this off." Sundae Crush live-scored the *Sailor Moon* flick once before, at the Northwest Film Forum in Seattle last November, and the enzymatic combination of anime with live music proved highly popular. That prompted the band to give the performance a second go. Barrett added, "It's going to be an exciting experiment as we go ahead and figure this series out."

The exact date of the third Screen Score showing is still in the works, but we do know that in early July the Olympia band Lloyd Arkestra, fronted by Harrison Hannon of Monkflower, will score the 1925 silent film *The Lost World*. Lloyd Arkestra is a newly formed trio of gifted musicians, and it's their first time playing this score with Hannon on drums, Gabe Judd on effects and Judd and Theo Ragan on keyboards. All three play synths and vocals as well. In this performance, three experienced players come together to explore their talents in a truly spectacular venue. The classic, silent-era, fantasy thriller follows explorers journeying through the Amazon. There, deep in the jungle, they discover live, prehistoric creatures and primitive hominids. It's a memorable film, an obvious inspiration on Michael Crichton and Steven Spielberg, and the Lloyd Arkestra score allows viewers to enjoy it as it was meant to be seen.

"The [theater] space was originally created for this kind of thing," explained Barrett. While OFS has booked live, musical performances to accompany silent films in the past, it's never branded them "under a program title," Barrett said. "We wanted to make this program so that when people hear it's a 'Screen Score,' they know they're in for a treat." 0



## WHAT

Screen Scores

## WHERE

Capitol Theater,  
206 Fifth Ave. SE, Olympia

## WHEN

Nosferatu with The Invisible Czars: 8 p.m. Tuesday,  
May 14Sailor Moon R with Sundae Crush: time TBD,  
Thursday, June 6

The Lost World with Lloyd Arkestra: early July

## HOW MUCH

\$7-\$10

## LEARN MORE

360-754-6670

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



Zap, zing, pow! Flavors explode at

# E-San Zap Café

By Christian Carvajal

The largest region in Thailand, slightly smaller than Wisconsin, is a landlocked conglomeration of 20 northeastern provinces. Its name is four Thai characters, transliterated as Esan, Isaan, Isan or at least four other ways. In recent years, thanks primarily to Portland, Oregon chef Andy Ricker, its distinctive cuisine took American-foodie culture by storm. In his *Pok Pok* cookbook, Ricker describes his experience of trying Isaan food for the first time: “It was like seeing an entirely new color,” he says. “It was nothing like anything I had eaten before.” Now local diners can explore these bold, exotic flavors without leaving Thurston County, thanks to chef Ron Boonkue of Hawks Prairie’s E-San Zap Café.

Unlike central-Thai cuisine, Isaan food leans heavily on sticky rice, green papaya and nuclear-grade chiles. If a server at E-San Zap says a “two-star” dish packs a wallop, be advised to take that seriously. In an early-March visit, we noticed opening-month service issues, but the food was fresh, delicious and boy, did it swing for the cheap seats. Its flavors are cranked to 11, including the heat of chiles but also the sourness of tamarind pulp and umami of fish sauce.

E-san’s chicken-wing appetizer is chunky but crispy, its blanket shrimp (wrapped in rice paper, that is) joltingly savory. House cocktails run the gustatory gamut from sugary “Mango Madness” to volcanic jalapeño spritzers. *Som tum* generally means “papaya salad”; Boonkue’s *som tum pu* slams the palate with fish sauce and salty black crab. For a mellower pillow of crustacean sensation, dive into the crab fried rice, a luxurious comfort food. The duck red curry was almost as rich as a Mexican *mole*. We sprang for that night’s special as well, a red snapper whole-fried and sauced to perfection.

“We cook,” E-San’s website boasts; “people rhapsodize.” Adventurous diners may soon be agreeing in droves. 0

## WHAT

E-San Zap Café

## HOW MUCH

\$8-\$39

## WHERE

9323 Martin Way E, Suites 114 and 116, Lacey

## LEARN MORE

360-539-4799  
esanzapcafe.com

## WHEN

11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays;

11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Thursdays - Saturdays (closed 3-4:30 p.m. weekdays)

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