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OLY ARTS

ART



4

David Mollari Sederberg

CLASSES



7

Oly Arts Classes!

ART



8

The House of Welcome

FILM



12

Patton Oswalt Presents

STORYTELLING



14

South Sound Story Guild

DANCE



16

Ballet Northwest's 55th

THEATRE



19

Dead Man's Cell Phone

CREATIVE CAMPUS



20

The Armory

MUSIC & THE ARTS



23

Oly Bulletin Board

THEATRE & DANCE



24

Fall/Winter Performances

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David Mollari Sederberg 45-Year Art Retrospective

by Alec Clayton

Nobody does it like David Mollari Sederberg, an artist whose work is simultaneously otherworldly and grounded in reality. Sederberg is like a character actor you might have seen in dozens of movies but whose name you can never remember in that you have probably driven by or walked past or stopped to stare in wonder at his art — often created in collaboration with other artists — without knowing who he is. You have certainly seen his otherworldly Glowhenge (2020-2021), nine brilliantly painted monoliths standing upright on the mound by the shore of Capital Lake, each lit with black light at night and each painted by a different artist.

During fall Arts Walk this year, Sederberg's work will be featured in a retrospective exhibition at the Olympia Ballroom of artworks created from 1981 to the present. His original and unusual compositions will be arranged chronologically into three main periods manifested in various media assembled by the artist: painting, sculpture, lighted installations, and video. The pieces share the dynamic of mobility, either in fact or image, and many pay homage to other artists in various media of the day. Environmental and social concerns make up much of the subject matter, which is global in some aspects and localized in others.

Sederberg says, "The gallery presentation is a microcosm of one version of the artist's vision of a dedicated art museum for Olympia — the Olympia Art Museum, and envisions collaboration with others who value art's place in society like the Thurston County Fine Art Museum and Olympia Arts and Heritage Alliance."

Sederberg is the owner of Pacific Stage, provider of lighting and audio for Music in the Park and many festivals and stage events throughout the area. He is an award-winning painter and sculptor whose work has been featured and sold in national and international exhibitions from New York to Los Angeles. His work has been featured in the Bellevue Art Museum, Palm Springs Desert Museum, Beverly Hills "Affair in the Gardens," the Amsterdam Whitney Gallery in New York City/Chelsea and the Florida State University Combined Talents International Exhibition.

For 10 years, he worked in his brother's auto repair/paint shop. There he painted a series of automobile hoods to be hung on walls as art. Many of these will be shown in the retrospective exhibition. Also included will be polymeric steel painted sculptures. "I created my own medium for these sculptures: mild steel, polymeric resin, acrylic urethane," Sederberg explained.



Zebra by David Sederberg

“The finished pieces look like glass, and make people wonder and guess at the material. The material accepts the paint in an arrestingly luminous fashion.”

There are stories implicit and explicit in his art. For example, his car hood art piece *Meet Me in Seattle* at the Fair “was named after a song I had as a kid on a 45 RPM by Joy and The Boys.

“A happy song about the 1962 Seattle World’s Fair; it described having a world by the string. We had elected JFK, the economy was on an upswing, an average white male boomer’s single income could easily sustain a middle-class family. ... I wanted to paint what could be the worst of times. While the scientific consensus at the time was the Earth was going to heat up due to increased carbon in the air, I chose to paint what it might be like if we went back into an ice age.”

Or *Sleeping Greener*, a parody of Henri Rousseau’s famous painting *Sleeping Gypsy*. Instead of Rousseau’s sleeping lion, Sederberg painted a sleeping geoduck, the silly Evergreen State College mascot.

Sederberg also invited other artists to show with him in the exhibition, including: Natalie Coblenta, who collaborated with Sederberg on the *Glowhenge* and *Inspire Oly* installations; Andrew Ebright and Suza Manges, collaborating video artists for *Four Letter Word*; and several other artists who collaborated with Sederberg on *Glowhenge*, *Inspire Oly* and *Precarious Stacks*; and others of a broad range of background, inspiration, and demographics (including age).

This exhibition should not be missed.

WHAT: David Mollari Sederberg a Retrospective

WHERE: Olympia Ballroom, 116 Legion Way, SE, Olympia

WHEN: 5-10 p.m., Oct. 3 and noon to 6 p.m. Oct. 4.

HOW MUCH: Free

LEARN MORE: Email dave@pacificstage.com, MollariArt.com



Sleeping Greener, acrylic lacquer on steel car hood



Detail of Moodusa, steel polymeric resin, acrylic urethane, by David Sederberg

Oly Arts Now Offering Writing Classes!

Oly Arts is now offering classes to hone your writing skills and learn more about the art and craft of writing.



The 10-Minute Play

Taught by
John Longenbaugh

The 10-minute play is a great entry into the world of playwrighting, with various festivals and even full evenings of short pieces popular both in the region and across the country. In this course he gives you the long on the short in classes that include:

- A history of the genre
- How a play differs from a sketch
- Finding inspiration when you're backed into a corner
- Choosing a subject
- A survey of publishers, contests, and production opportunities.

Playwright John Longenbaugh (*Our House*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*) is a multiple veteran of 14/48, Doubleshot and other overnight theatre festivals, and his short plays have been published in *Cirque*, *City Arts*, *Poems and Plays*, and the collection *Arcana*, published by Dramatic Publishing.

WHAT: The 10-Minute Play

WHERE: The Longenbaugh home in Olympia

WHEN: Four two-hour classes on Mondays: November 3, 10, 17, and 24, 6:30-8:30pm

HOW MUCH: \$65.

LEARN MORE: Email john.longenbaugh@gmail.com to register and for more information.



Writing for Newspapers & Magazines

Taught by
Alec Clayton

Oly Arts editor Alec Clayton will teach an informal, hands-on, four-week workshop on writing for newspapers and magazines. This workshop includes:

- Proposing the article
- What every article must include
- Make it fun, exciting
- Writing ledes and cutlines (newspaper jargon)
- AP Style Guide

There will be writing assignments and opportunities to read for group critique. Bring a laptop or pen and paper for writing and taking notes.

Alec Clayton has more than 30 years experience writing for newspapers and magazines, including *The News Tribune*, *The Olympian*, *The Weekly Volcano*, *Fiber Arts*, *Mississippi Arts & Letters* and more.

WHAT: Writing for Newspapers and Magazines

WHERE: Alec Clayton's home in Olympia

WHEN: Four one-hour classes on Saturdays: November 8, 15, 22, 29 from 1-2 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$56.

LEARN MORE: Email alec@alecclayton.com to register and for more information.



The s'g'wi g'wi ? altx^w The House of Welcome at The Evergreen State College Celebrates 30 Year Anniversary

By Lynette Charters

Nestled in the heart of the beautiful and lush grounds of the Evergreen State College is s'g'wi g'wi ? altx^w House of Welcome, also known as the Longhouse, on the Indigenous Arts campus. The gathering place hosts many opportunities for Native artists as well as workshops providing a nurturing common ground to share art, wisdom, cultural practices and experiences which educate and empower the community.

The Longhouse helps promote self-determination and cultural resilience; representing, facilitating, and nurturing Pacific Rim Native arts and culture, by creating programs through grants that create and host Native arts classes. These programs connect Native artists with students and collaborators.

There were 1000 people at the opening ceremony there, this also marked the first year of the Daniel J. Evans Scholar program, which enabled five Native scholars to study on campus, including: Hazel Pete of Chehalis, John Hottowe of Makah, and Billy Frank Jr. of Nisqually.

s'g'wi g'wi ? altx^w House of Welcome celebrates its 30th anniversary with an open house from noon to 6p.m. on Saturday, October 25. It will begin with a procession (procession participants are to gather at 11 a.m.).

The event is led by Director Laura VerMeulen, Tlingit, and emceed by John Goodwin, Makah. It will feature speakers



Lightning Bear - Dan Friday, Lummi

Completed in 1995, s'g'wi g'wi ? altx^w House of Welcome was the first longhouse built on a college campus in the United States. It was the combined construction effort of many tribes, The Quinault Indian Nation donated some of the timber, The Burke Museum donated the cedar posts and shakes from a display longhouse from the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle, The Squaxin Island Tribe provided money with fundraising dinners, and the Makah and Skokomish Tribes were consulted for cultural and spiritual leadership. The students at TESC contributed to the Welcome Woman figure at the entrance of the campus.

from the pillar families who helped create the Longhouse including the Witner family from the Squaxin Island Tribe, the Hillaire family, Lummi Nation, the Hottowe family from the Makah Tribe honoring Alex McCarty, the Hazel Pete family: Yvonne Peterson and Trudy Marcellay, Chehalis, Colleen Jollie, Turtle Mountain Chippewa, speaking about the early days, the Vi Hilbert family, Upper Skagit, and Bruce Miller family, Skokomish.

Also, we will be hearing from Founding Director Tina Kuckkahan, Lac du Flambeau Tribe.



Hononga - Connection - Kaaterina Kerekere, Māori

The s'gwi gwi ? altxw The House of Welcome Continued

In addition, there will be performances from the Alaska Kuteeyaa Dancers and the Git Hoen Dance Group led by David Boxley. Lunch will be served, and PNW Alutiiq Culture Camp artists will share song during the meal, and we will hear from the Coast Salish Wool Weavers speak about their work. There will be a supporting art show in the Gallery, which ties to the celebration and will be showing from Sept. 29 - Dec. 12. The show features Native artists that have a connection to the Longhouse either through the pillar families or a Longhouse Grant.

Alexis Xochihua, Gallery Coordinator and the Indigenous Arts Campus Studio Technician shared: "Since 1995, the House of Welcome has been honored to work with many Native artists from all over the world. Through grant programs, workshops, residencies, events, and art shows, the House of Welcome has worked to uphold and revitalize traditional art forms, expand expectations of what Native art is, and support Native artists in their artistic journey. This show is to celebrate the amazing artists who have been an integral part of the past 30 years of the House of Welcome. Featuring artists such as Kayeri Akweks, Upper Mohawk First Nations, from New Zealand, Dan Friday Lummi, Ashley Frantz, Makah, Jennifer Younger, Tlingit and many more!"

WHAT: The 30th Anniversary of s'gwi gwi ? altxw The House of Welcome

WHERE: s'gwi gwi ? altxw The House of Welcome at The Evergreen State College, 2700 Evergreen Parkway, Olympia, and The Gallery at The Evergreen State College, 2737 McCann Plaza Dr NW #2204, Olympia

WHEN: Celebration ceremony: Noon-6 p.m. Saturday, Oct 25. Native American art show: Sept 29-Dec 12.

Gallery hours: Please check website for details

Also, don't miss the Native Market, which will be in December, Fri & Sat 12 & 13

HOW MUCH: Free

LEARN MORE: evergreen.edu/houseofwelcome, evergreen.edu/give/houseofwelcome



The s'gwi gwi ? altxw The House of Welcome



Kayeri Akweks, Upper Mohawk First Nations



Milk - Sara Siestreem (Hanis Coos)



Tináa Chest Plate - Jennifer Younger, Tlingit

Patton Oswalt Presents Pig and McCabe & Mrs. Miller

The comedian and actor will discuss two classics of Pacific Northwest cinema

by Adam McKinney

If you've grown up loving movies, and fantasize about having a career around film, you may pursue the coveted paths (director, actor, screenwriter, special effects artist, film critic), but find that the purest expression of this love is the most straightforward one: film programmer at a movie theater. With this job, you are responsible for picking the films that get shown to the public, a natural extension of every cinephile's instinct to show all their favorite movies to everyone they know.

"Because Patton is such an enthusiastic and deeply passionate movie lover, we knew it made sense to invite him to the Capitol Theater for a programming residency of sorts," says Olympia Film Society Director of Programming Rob Patrick. "If you have seen the comedian and author in the Criterion Closet, it's easy to understand how painterly and hilarious he is when it comes to discussing movie history.



Julie Christie and Warren Beatty in Robert Altman's revisionist Western-classic, *McCabe & Mrs. Miller*. Credit: Warner Bros.



Nicolas Cage and his titular friend in the strangely touching *Pig*. Credit: Neon

Put it this way: it may not be a coincidence that Quentin Tarantino's filmmaking output has slowed down since he bought the New Beverly Cinema in Los Angeles in 2010, and started taking a more hands-on role in its programming in 2014.

There are few entertainers out there with a more outspoken love for film than comedian/actor/writer Patton Oswalt. His memoir *Silver Screen Fiend: Learning About Life from an Addiction to Film* will resonate with anyone who's found themselves keeping a journal of films they've seen, and agonizing over the star ratings. It's a perfect fit, then, to have Oswalt come through Olympia's Capitol Theater in November, presenting two films that have the Pacific Northwest coursing through their veins: 1971's *McCabe & Mrs. Miller* and 2021's *Pig*.

"Not only that, but Patton loves arthouse theaters as much as we do," Patrick continues. "At the Olympia Film Society, we love guest curation. Everyone from Beatrice Loayza at The New York Times to Jonathan Marlow at Scarecrow Video in Seattle has programmed at the theater."

According to Patrick, it was Oswalt's idea to choose these two films, which depict the Pacific Northwest in two radically different times. In Robert Altman's classic revisionist Western, *McCabe & Mrs. Miller*, Warren Beatty moves into a mining town in 1900s Washington, trying his best to become a big shot in the middle of a boom period. Michael Sarnoski's new classic, *Pig*, explores the fringes of modern day Portland, with Nicolas Cage starring as a reclusive former chef whose truffle pig gets stolen. Both films showcase the Pacific Northwest's natural wonders as an overwhelming force that has to be bent to, not conquered; and both films have an elegiac atmosphere that hangs over them.

Oswalt will take part in onstage discussions following each film, delving more into their themes and providing his unique point of view. Oswalt's gifts as a raconteur are perfectly matched for exploring two films so rich in detail that reward analysis, and that tantalizingly refrain from providing narrative road maps. Anyone who's heard Oswalt discuss movies will know that his enthusiasm for the form crosses over from infectious into borderline evangelical.

For anyone looking for more cinematic dives into our part of the world, Patrick has a couple of suggestions that might float your boat.

"If asked to program a film set in the Pacific Northwest, I would pick Showing Up, simply because I've never seen someone eat out of a Tupperware container more convincingly than Michelle Williams," says Patrick. "Stage Door,



Patton Oswalt will be presenting two films that capture the soul of the Pacific Northwest. Credit: Richard Shotwell/Invision/AP/Shutterstock

while not set in Washington state, features Lucille Ball as a Seattleite. That has to count for something."

WHAT: McCabe & Mrs. Miller and Pig and Post-Film Discussions with Patton Oswalt

WHERE: The Capitol Theater, 206 5th Avenue SE, Olympia

WHEN: McCabe & Mrs. Miller, 7 p.m., November 15
Pig, 7 p.m., November 16

HOW MUCH: \$38.25-\$43.25

LEARN MORE: olympiafilmsociety.org
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The South Sound Story Guild's Monthly Story Swaps and Annual "Tellabration!" Fundraiser

By Molly Walsh

On the second Wednesday of the month, the South Sound Story Guild gathers at Olympia's Harbor House at Percival Landing, where attendees preserve and celebrate the art of oral storytelling. Whether a funny yarn passed down through the generations, a spooky legend or the tale of a great mythological hero, the South Sound Story Guild holds space for members of the guild and the greater community to be entertained, learn something new, and share their own stories.

Maggie Lott has been a member of the Story Guild for more than two decades, and many of the oral storytelling traditions that the group started long ago continue into the modern day, including an annual Stories in the Park event that takes place each August.

Lott's interest in oral storytelling began at a young age, when exchanging family stories at her grandmother's kitchen table. Through these family tales, Lott learned about the basic components of oral storytelling, from narrative structure to emotional resonance, to humor. As an adult, Lott was once again drawn to storytelling, remembering the times she would dramatize voices when reading to her children.

And as an elementary school teacher, she remembers how engaged students would be when she shared stories with the class. Lott decided to join the South Sound Story Guild as a way to learn more about the art of storytelling.

Tobey Ishii-Anderson is another longtime member of the Story Guild. As a teacher for more than four decades, Ishii-Anderson noticed a connection between teaching and storytelling, and how a story could be more than just a narrative, but also an educational tool.

"I consider stories just part of teaching, kind of a natural thing," said Ishii-Anderson.

The South Sound Story Guild works to bolster storytelling as its own unique art form, combining space for entertainment and space for new story tellers to practice and expand their storytelling skill set. Ishii-Anderson said the guild also helps to build a local appreciation for the art of oral storytelling in the community. The South Sound Story Guild welcomes new storytellers, and the guild's more experienced members are happy to serve as mentors, whether providing a listening ear, advice or feedback.



All photos courtesy of South Sound Story Guild

The art of oral storytelling isn't a monolith, and can span countless genres and interpretations. Stories may have roots in folklore, be semi-autobiographical or recount moments from everyday life. Storytellers may approach tales through a historical lens, and may focus on the life of a famous figure or past event. Storytelling also has ties to theatrical performance, with some storytellers taking on a specific character or persona, similar to an actor in a play. Some storytellers also incorporate additional media into their craft. Lott says that at past Story Guild events, there was a storyteller who combined storytelling with poetry, and other storytellers who melded their stories with musical instrumentation, including the harp and guitar.

According to Lott, storytelling can also help form close ties between families and the greater community. Stories allow the listener a deeper appreciation for the experiences of their ancestors or the town where they grew up. Storytelling can also foster literacy skills, helping young students expand their imagination while learning more about plot structure and character development. Lott also credits stories for their ability to cultivate traditions, community values and empathy through a memorable medium.

"You hear how this person struggled and overcame their problem, and that gives you impetus that you can solve your problems," said Lott. "And it gives you empathy for that person."

Storytelling is also a source of entertainment, humor and connection. Ishii-Anderson especially loves stories that make her laugh, in addition to spooky stories that can spark the imagination.

The South Sound Story Guild hosts a Story Swap on the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of July, August and November. Story Swaps take place at Harbor House in downtown Olympia. Each Story Swap includes an Opening Teller, a Featured Teller and opportunity for participation from swap attendees. Ishii-Anderson said the Story Swap is an ideal venue to practice a story in front of a live and welcoming audience.

The next Story Swap events will take place on October 8, December 10, and January 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Harbor House. Those who cannot attend the event in person can also attend virtually via Zoom.

On November 28, the South Sound Story Guild will also host their annual fundraiser, "Tellabration!" from 7 to 9 p.m. at Traditions Fair Trade. This storytelling performance event will feature a lineup of eight tellers from the South Sound Story Guild, and is expected to be an evening of fun and community connection, drawing from folk tales, fables, personal narratives and more.

WHAT: South Sound Story Guild Monthly Story Swaps

WHERE: Story Swap: Harbor House in Olympia, 217 Thurston Ave NW, Olympia, "Tellabration!" Fundraiser: Traditions Fair Trade, 300 5th Ave SW, Olympia. Events are also available to attend virtually via Zoom

WHEN: October 8, December 10 and January 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. "Tellabration!" will take place on November 28 from 7-9 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Story Swap: Free; "Tellabration!" Fundraiser: Suggestion donation of \$10

LEARN MORE: southsoundstory.org/events/



The South Sound Story Guild hosts a Story Swap the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of July, August and November, at Harbor House in downtown Olympia.



The art of oral storytelling can span countless genres and interpretations, with roots in folklore, mythology, and historical events.



Ballet Northwest 55th Season

By Rachel Benton

All photos courtesy Ballet Northwest

Ballet Northwest boldly enters its 55th Season with highly innovative, inspirational and diverse programming in store. Time flies by quickly, so mark your calendars now and make a plan to purchase tickets for the following events:

Crescendo: a one-night-only event October 11, when dancers will share the stage with Masterworks Choral Ensemble and Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia.

The Nutcracker: Olympia's favorite December tradition that invites the whole family into a land of sweets and all others we create in our imagination.

As we count down the days to each event, we are excited to give you an inside glimpse into everything that is in store.

Crescendo

Promising to be a historic performance, Crescendo will bring Ballet Northwest, Masterworks Choral Ensemble, and Student Orchestras of Olympia together on stage for the first time. Artistic Co-Director, Ken Johnson commented, "It's going to be something audiences in Olympia won't want to miss because it's really rare for that many artists of different disciplines to share the stage...it's going to be very special."

The 9-piece program will feature world premiere choreography paired with a diverse music selection, including (but not

limited to) *Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saens, excerpts from *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff, and an Irving Berlin medley. The cherry on top, so to say, is the fact that each piece will be choreographed by Ballet Northwest or Johanson Olympia Dance Center Alumni including:

- Ashley Baker: BNW alumna, current soloist Ballet Idaho
- Rachael Parnell: BNW alumna, BFA, University of Hartford and Olympia Dance Center faculty member
- Emily Walter: BNW alumna, BFA, Point Park University
- Ann Sanders: BNW alumna, Olympia Dance Center faculty member
- Xijun Fu: Olympia Dance Center faculty member
- Kristin Burch: Olympia Dance Center alumna, performer, 5th Avenue Theatre and Villager Theatre
- Natalie Allenton: BNW Alumna, dancer with Diablo Ballet (CA)

Reflecting on the magnificence of this performance, Johnson shared, "We're bringing these nine new pieces to the stage with very diverse choreographers and music. It's a big task, but it's really exciting for our dancers."

Get your tickets from the Washington Center Box Office, or by visiting: washingtoncenter.org/organizer/bnw/

The Nutcracker

If you close your eyes, you can hear magic accumulating and beginning to take shape as we draw near Nutcracker time. Going strong for 40 years, Ballet Northwest continues to refresh and maintain the pure magic that comes with the Nutcracker Ballet. This is a tradition that not only BNW audiences love, but that the dancers continue to look forward to each year.

Johnson commented, “I never get tired of it. It’s just such a huge part of the holiday season. The music, the story, the beautiful sets, the costumes...” He continued, “it just creates a wonderful opportunity for families, friends, and people of all ages to come together at the holidays (and enjoy something truly special).”

Occasions like these are always fun opportunities to get dressed up, enjoy a meal at one of our many delicious downtown restaurants and add some wonder to the holiday shopping. The Nutcracker oftentimes is a show that brings people to ballet for the first time and truly allows them to enter a whole other part of the arts they have never explored. This privilege to make positive impressions on people’s lives and to have such high-quality art in our community feels priceless but cannot exist without the continued presence and generosity of audiences.

Further in, Johnson shared, “Both my wife (and co-director of Ballet Northwest) Josie and I have such fond memories of growing up and performing in The Nutcracker. I actually grew up performing The Nutcracker at the Washington Center, performing in Ballet Northwest’s Nutcracker starting at eight years old. The Camaraderie and the bonds that happen backstage behind the scenes with the cast and crew are truly special and have created such wonderful memories.”

Later in his years at Ballet Northwest, during his time as Artistic Co-Director, Johnson fondly remembers a year when there was a major snowstorm and most things were shut down, but the show went on. “Most of our performers were able to make it in, and the theatre staff shoveled sidewalks out front so that audiences could make it in. It was (incredible) to see everyone come together and make the show possible ... Winters in Olympia are generally mild, but it was (magical to experience) Olympia covered in snow and people still coming to see The Nutcracker.”

Memories are made in the arts, and especially at Ballet Northwest. Make your plan, come to the show, and soak in the hope that the magic of it all brings.

Tickets will be on sale at the beginning of October. Keep an eye on the Washington Center Box Office.



Grace Collins

WHAT: Crescendo

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

WHEN: October 11

HOW MUCH: \$35-\$45

LEARN MORE: Phone: 360-867-8824, balletnorthwest.org
Tickets at: washingtoncenter.org/organizer/bnw

ANNOUNCING CLASSES!

That's right! Oly Arts
will be sponsoring classes
for all ages in:
Journalism &
Playwriting!

Some scholarships are available.

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See Page 7 for more information

Ballet Northwest's The Nutcracker

December 12-21, 2025

at the Washington Center
in Downtown Olympia

Ballet Northwest's SWAN LAKE

May 8-10, 2026

at the Washington Center
in Downtown Olympia

Artistic Directors: Ken & Josie Johnson

Tickets: WASHINGTONCENTER.ORG/BNW | 360-753-8586

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Amanda Stevens

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Dead Man's Cell Phone at OLT

by James O'Barr

Theater, from the beginning, has been a space for confronting death, and life's existential questions. Shakespeare, in *Julius Caesar* (currently on the boards at Ashland), has much to say about both: "I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him," quoth Marc Antony, "The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones." Fast forward to the current zeitgeist, and the evil that men, mostly men, are doing, from one side of the earth to the other—climate derangement, a new ICE age, nuclear proliferation, war crimes and lawlessness from sea to shining sea—looks very much like it will have enduring if not undying consequences.

Now comes Olympia Little Theatre's production of Sarah Ruhl's quintessentially quirky comedy, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, directed by Kendra Malm and Toni Holm, opening September 12. No spoiler alert necessary, the title says it all. At a café, when a man (Isaac Garfias) sitting alone at a small table, doesn't answer his incessantly ringing cell phone, Jean (Kaidrin Cain), the woman at the next table, answers it herself, realizing only slowly that the man is dead. In the moment of recognition, staring into his transfigured face, Jean falls in love. She speaks to the corpse, and sits with him until an ambulance arrives. The dead man's name, it turns out, is Gordon, and, Jean later discovers to her dismay, he sold body parts for a living. But to keep alive the reality of her newfound love object, Jean answers his calls and fabricates stories about his dying thoughts to lovers, business partners, and family, all of whom she eventually meets: Gordon's brother Dwight (Derek Rutter), his mother Mrs. Gottlieb (Laurie O'Brien), his wife, Hermia (Dayna Childs), and The Other Woman/Stranger (Cyan Townley).

Dead Man's Cell Phone premiered at the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company in 2007 and won the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding New Play. Death, in Ruhl's plays, often serves as a catalyst for transformation and a deep dive into themes of love, memory, and the porous boundary between life and death. In *Eurydice* (directed by Lauren Love in a luminous production at South Puget Sound Community College in 2021) death is the central event, allowing *Eurydice* (Oedipus's beloved) to journey to the underworld and explore her relationship with her deceased father while confronting the limits of love and memory. In *Dead Man's Cell Phone* death is an ongoing, transformative force that people grapple with, even using cell phones in the afterlife. Other Ruhl plays, like *Letters From Max*, directly explore grief after a friend's untimely death, further emphasizing death's profound impact.



Left to right: Mrs. Gottlieb, Gordon's Mom played by Laurie O'Brien
Hermia, Gordon's wife, played by Dayna Childs,
Jean played by Keadrin Cain
Dwight, Gordon's Brother played by Derek Rutter.

Ruhl has achieved a level of fame and good fortune over the years, getting widespread recognition and a Pulitzer Prize nomination for *The Clean House* in 2004, and winning a MacArthur Fellowship ("genius award") in 2006. She has gone on to create a prodigious body of work that includes not only plays but memoirs, poetry, essays, and an opera libretto based on *Eurydice*. Ruhl, in an interview discussing *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, said, "Cell phones, iPods, and computers will change people in ways we don't understand." Olympia Little Theatre offers us a welcome opportunity to experience her wildly imaginative attempt to play with that unknowing.

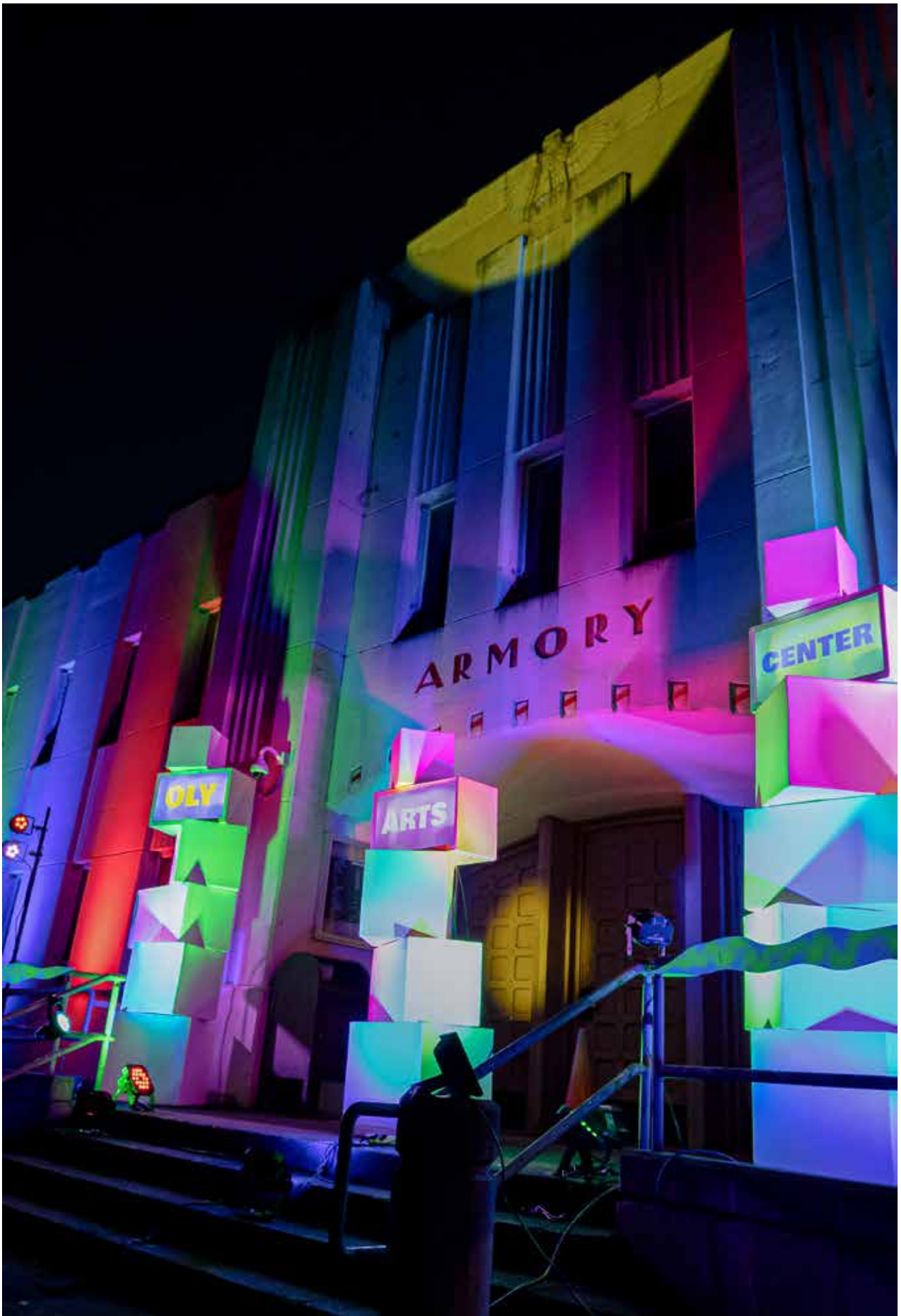
WHAT: *Dead Man's Cell Phone*

WHERE: Olympia Little Theater, 1925 Miller Ave NE, Olympia

WHEN: 7:25 pm: September 12, 13, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27

HOW MUCH: \$10-\$16

LEARN MORE: Email oltadmin@olympialittletheatre.org
360-786-9484



The Olympia Armory Creative Campus Looks to Reconnect With Its History As a Community Hub

by Molly Walsh

Since the Olympia Armory's construction in the late 1930s, the building has cemented an illustrious legacy, from serving as a facility for the Washington National Guard to hosting regular sporting events and community dances. The Armory is nestled off of the tree-lined Legion Way just outside Olympia's downtown corridor, and according to Valerie Roberts, Armory building manager, the building has been a key event venue in Olympia throughout the decades.

This includes the building's Drill Hall that measures in at 10,000 square feet. At the Armory, the National Guard would host community dances that were open to both service members and community members. Eventually, organizations like the Dance Club of Olympia would take over as host to the community dances, and the nearby Saint Michael Catholic Church would host a Harvest Festival each year, decking out the Drill Hall for the occasion.

The Armory's spacious size also allowed for a wide range of sporting events to take place, including weekly boxing and wrestling matches on Friday nights. The Drill Hall has also been used as a basketball court, including by Saint Martin's University during the 1950s.

For more than three decades, a wide swath of Olympia residents has expressed interest in the creation of a community art center, with this demand recorded in nine separate City of Olympia planning documents since the late 1980s. And multiple local stakeholders, including the Eastside Neighborhood Association, City of Olympia staff, and State of Washington officials, saw potential for the Armory building as a community creative campus. In 2021, the state gifted the Armory building to the City of Olympia, with the condition that the building be turned into a community art center for at least a ten-year period.

According to Roberts, the Armory received designation on the Olympia Heritage register in 2021 through research and advocacy from dedicated community members. And in 2022, the city committed to help get the building added to the National Register of Historic Places, collaborating with Washington's Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation. The Armory was added to the National Register of Historic Places this year.

The Armory qualified across multiple criteria, including its significant military history and acting as a base for coastal artillery units during WWII, and in later days, housed the 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment of the 81st Infantry Stryker Brigade. Constructed in 1938, the building also presents a distinctive

Art Moderne style and was designed by esteemed local architect Joseph Wohleb.

After taking possession of the Armory, the City of Olympia started to invite extensive community input. In late 2022, the Olympia City Council adopted the Olympia Armory Creative Campus Concept Plan, a comprehensive outline that incorporates feedback from community members and contractors. The concept plan showcases the mission and vision for the Creative Campus, in addition to potential resources and spaces that residents would like to see from a city-owned creative space. The plan also outlines an operating structure for the Creative Campus, including the use of nonprofit Anchor Partners.



For more than three decades, a wide swath of Olympia residents have expressed interest in the creation of a community art center, with this demand recorded in nine separate City of Olympia planning documents since the late 1980s.

This space will house eight nonprofit anchor partners who are set to hold long-term leases and programming inside the Armory Creative Campus. They will carry out their regular programming in addition to special events and workshops, with community access in mind.

The nonprofit anchor partners are The Bridge Music Project, Kokua Services/Hummingbird Studio, TC Media, Olympia Film Collective, Capital City Pride, Olympia Lamplighters, the PARC Foundation and Community Print. During the application process, selection criteria included organizations connected with a wide swath of the community that offer distinctive programming, are capable of being collaborative, and whose mission aligns with the vision of the Armory Creative Campus as outlined in the concept plan.

Olympia Armory Continued

The Concept Plan also identified necessary renovations and upgrades and outlined multiple phases of construction, with the most critical health and safety upgrades being identified in phase one, including necessary upgrades to accessibility, fire suppression, restrooms, seismic retrofitting, the electrical system, and other projects that will help ensure the building meets current code.

The building is currently closed to the public until the necessary upgrades are made. Construction is set to begin around October, with an estimated re-opening date in 2027.

There will be multiple sources of funding for phase one construction, including a \$1.5 million grant from the Washington State Historical Society and a \$1.5 million grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce for installation of solar power and battery storage.

The Olympia City Council also approved 30-year bond funding for phase one of the construction, which will be repaid with funds set aside for the procurement and development of new city Parks, Art and Recreation spaces, and revenue from the voter-approved Olympia Metropolitan Parks District junior taxing district.

According to Roberts, the building is set to maintain much of its current layout, both because of its historical significance, and because the layout is already conducive to a community art center, with opportunity to house both anchor partners and common spaces that can be rented by community members.

The Armory's upper level will house several anchor partners, where community members will be able to access regular programming and special events. On the main floor, the 10,000 square foot Drill Hall with surrounding conference rooms, offices and a commercial kitchen will be available for rental. Through the Drill Hall and other rentable spaces, the Armory will be revisiting its past as a community hub, and according to Roberts, may once again be host to events like art markets, roller derby matches and nonprofit fundraisers.

The Armory's lower level will also serve as a base for multiple Anchor Partners, with resources available for music production and three-dimensional art. The lower level will also have a community stage area that is slated to be available for a range of events and live performances.

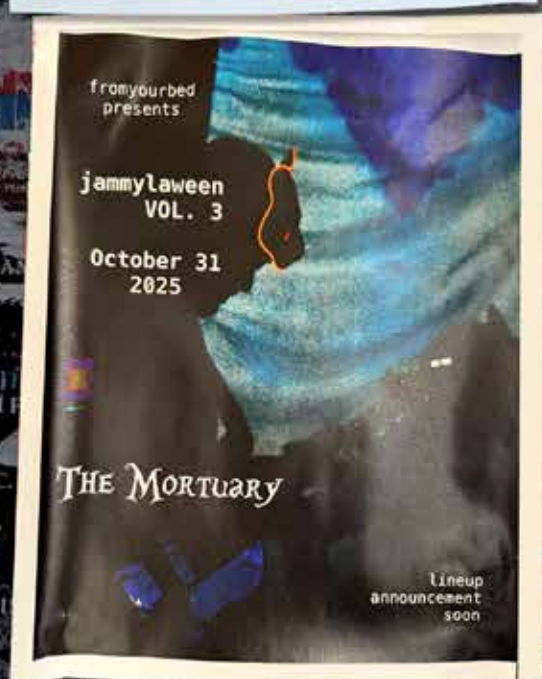
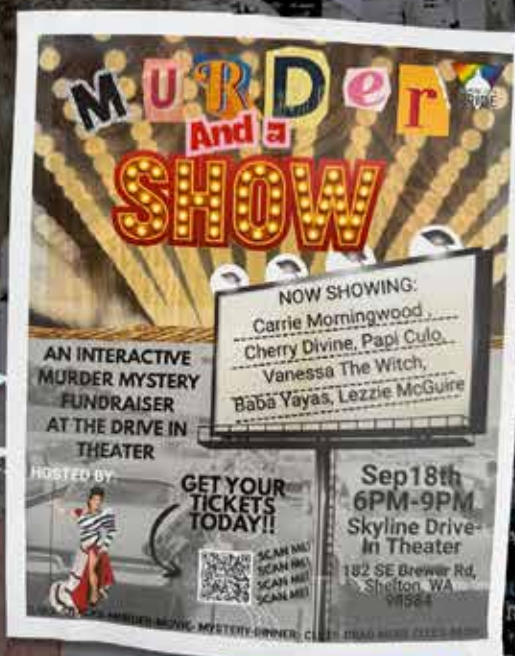
WHAT: Olympia Armory Creative Campus

LEARN MORE: olympiawa.gov/community/arts,_culture____heritage/olympia_armory.php



Since the Olympia Armory's construction in the late 1930s, the building has been host to countless events, from sporting events to community dances.

Bulletin Board



Fall/Winter Live Theatre & Dance



BALLET NORTHWEST

WHAT & WHEN: 55th Anniversary Celebration Performance: October 11. *The Nutcracker*: December 12-21.
Olympia Dance Festival 2026: February 28.
 Check website for times and cost.

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

LEARN MORE: balletnorthwest.org, 360-943-8011



HARLEQUIN

WHAT & WHEN: *Murder On The Orient Express*: October 3-26. *Halloween at Harlequin*: October 31. *Musical Theatre Cabaret (Bold Voices)*: November 8. *A Christmas Carol*: November 28- December 24. *Wait Until Dark*: January 23-February 8. *The Foreigner*: March 6-29
 Check website for times and cost.

WHERE The State Theater, 202 4th Ave E, Olympia.

LEARN MORE: harlequinproductions.org



LAKEWOOD PLAYHOUSE (LAKEWOOD)

WHAT & WHEN: *Seussical The Musical*: December 5-28
The Normal Heart: February 20-March 8.
 Check website for times and cost.

WHERE: In 5729 Lakewood Towne Center Blvd SW, Lakewood,.

LEARN MORE: lakewoodplayhouse.org



OLYMPIA FAMILY THEATRE

WHAT & WHEN: *A Wrinkle In Time*: October 9-26. *The Snow Queen*: December 4-28.
Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus: March 5-29.
 Check website for times and cost.

WHERE: Olympia Family Theatre, 612 4th Ave. E, Olympia.

LEARN MORE: olympialittletheater.org



OLYMPIA LITTLE THEATRE

WHAT & WHEN: *But Why Bump Off Barnaby?*: October 24-November 9. *The Christmas Express*: December 5-21.
The Fairest Flame: January 23-February 8.
Exit Laughing: March 6-22. Check website for times and cost.

WHERE: Olympia Little Theatre, 1925 Miller Ave NE, Olympia.

LEARN MORE: olympialittletheater.org



PARAMOUNT THEATER (SEATTLE)

WHAT & WHEN: *Stereophonic*: October 7-12.
Shucked: November 4-9. *The Lion King*: December 4-January 4
The Neil Diamond Musical: Beautiful Noise: January 13-18.
The Wiz: February 10-15. *The Notebook*: March 3-8.
 Check website for times and cost.

WHERE: 911 Pine Street Seattle.

LEARN MORE: seattle.broadway.com



SEATTLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE (SEATTLE)

WHAT & WHEN: *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom: The Musical*: September 18-October 12. *Fancy Dancer*: September 18-November 2. *The Pigeon Gets a Big Time Holiday Extravaganza!*: November 20-January 4. *Ada Twist, Scientist and Friends*: January 22-February 22. *Young Dragon: A Bruce Lee Story*: February 19-March 14. *Robin Hood*: March 26-May 10. Check website for times and cost.

WHERE: 155 Mercer Street Seattle.

LEARN MORE: sct.org



SEATTLE REP (SEATTLE)

WHAT & WHEN: *Fancy Dancer* (a co-production with Seattle Children's Theatre): September 18-November 2. *Come From Away*: November 28-December 28. *The Heart Sellers*: January 2-February 1. *Here There Are Blueberries*: January 21-February 15. *Mary Jane*: March 19-April 19. Check website for times and cost.

WHERE: 155 Mercer Street Seattle.

LEARN MORE: seattlerep.org



TACOMA LITTLE THEATRE

WHAT & WHEN: *The Da Vinci Code*: October 24-November 9. *Matilda*: December 5-December 28. *The Time Machine*: January 23-February 8. *Spring Awakening*: March 6-March 29. Check website for times and cost.

WHERE: 210 N I St. Tacoma

LEARN MORE: tacomalittletheatre.com



TAPROOT THEATRE

WHAT & WHEN: *The Importance of Being Earnest*: September 17-October 18. *A Sherlock Carol*: November 26-December 27. *Till We Have Faces*: January 21-February 21. *Ain't Misbehavin'*: March 18-April 18. Check website for times and cost.

WHERE: Jewel Mainstage, 204 N 85th St. Seattle

LEARN MORE: taproottheatre.org



THEATER ARTISTS OLYMPIA

WHAT & WHEN: TAO returns with a new TBA production coming November 7-23. Check website for more information.

WHERE: Olympia Family Theatre, 612 4th Ave. E, Olympia.

LEARN MORE: olytheater.com



THE FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE (SEATTLE)

WHAT & WHEN: *Chicago* - October 22-November 2. *Elf-The Musical* - November 28-December 28. Check website for times and cost.

WHERE: 1308 5th Avenue, Seattle

LEARN MORE: 5thavenue.org

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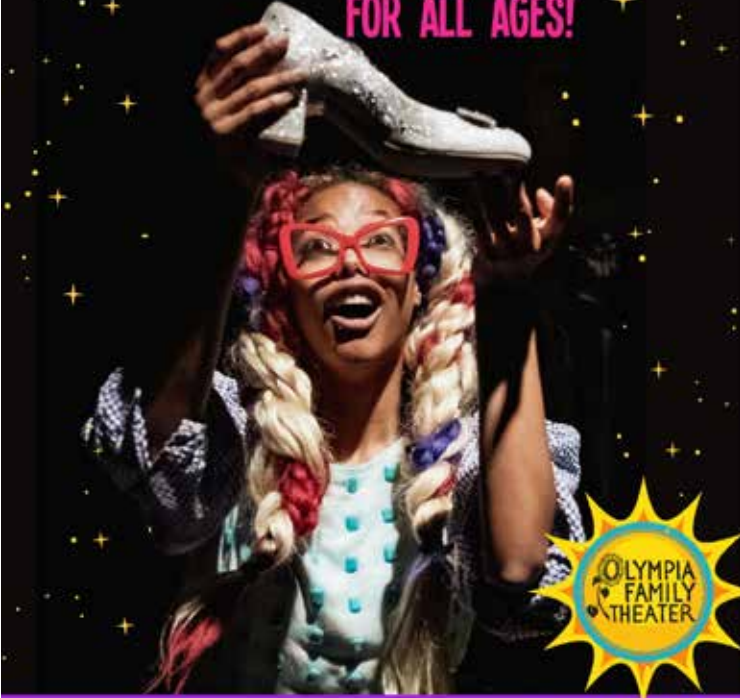
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