

OLY ARTS

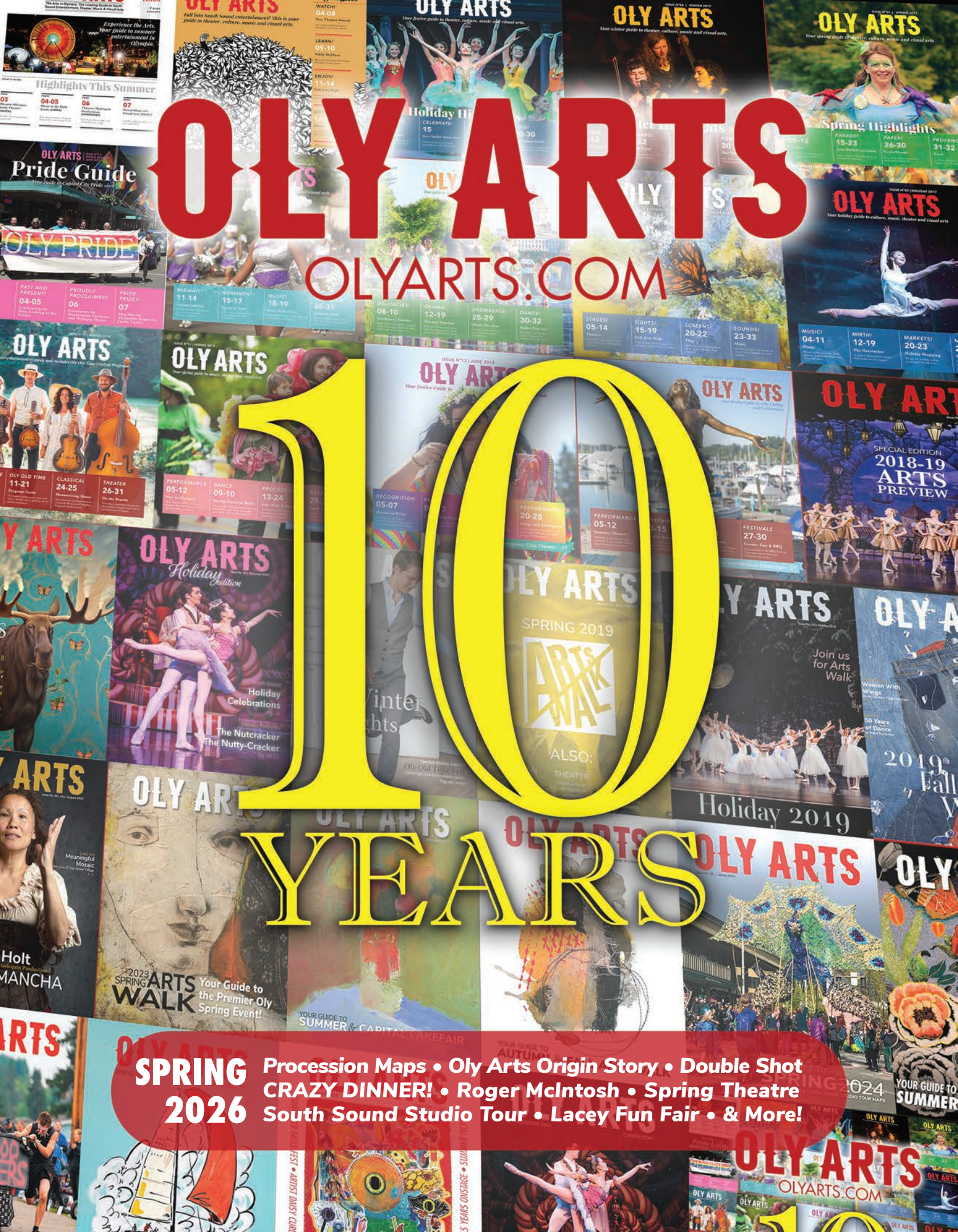
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10

YEARS

SPRING 2026

Procession Maps • Oly Arts Origin Story • Double Shot CRAZY DINNER! • Roger McIntosh • Spring Theatre South Sound Studio Tour • Lacey Fun Fair • & More!





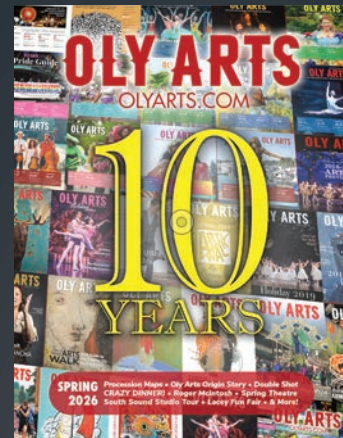
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OLY ARTS

OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY



The Oly Arts Origin Story

EVENT



Procession & Luminary Maps

HONOREE



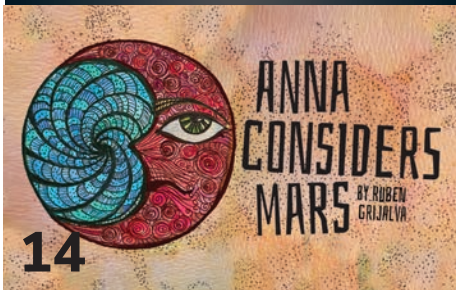
Roger McIntosh

ART/EVENT



A Peek Into The South Sound Studio Tour

THEATER



Four Shows to Watch In Olympia

THEATER/MUSIC



CRAZY DINNER! and other Spring Offerings

THEATER/EVENT



Double Shot Theater Festival in Tacoma

EVENT



Celebrate Mother's Day at the WCPA Center Salon

EVENT



Lacey Spring Fun Fair

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olympiaartsnews

The Oly Arts Origin Story

By Christian Carvajal with Ned Hayes

In May 2016, in the best possible way, Olympia writer Ned Hayes was struck by lightning. His third novel, *The Eagle Tree*, was scaling bestseller lists as speedily as its neurodivergent narrator climbed trees. We'd met when I interviewed him for a *Weekly Volcano* article about the Capitol Playhouse board, of which he was a member. He demonstrated his Oly boosterism further when he decided to spend some of that authorial windfall on a new publication to highlight the manifold arts presentations and opportunities in the South Sound. Although he'd previously worked as a journalist and magazine editor, Hayes was busy with his day job at Intel, so he offered to recruit me as the founding, managing editor. This new publication would put a spotlight on the arts in our region. Appropriately, we named it *Oly Arts*. I was nervous but thrilled to accept.

Oly Arts was given a bold mandate from the jump: Instead of just being an online blog or digital publication, Hayes had research from his past work at Adobe that demonstrated there was still a great deal of life in print publications – and early advertising partners like the Ballet Northwest, Capital Heating, Twin Star Credit Union and the Washington Center for the Performing Arts felt the same. In summer 2016, we debuted the first new print publication that covered the arts in the South Sound. We were simultaneously launching a complete website, a podcast, two mobile apps and a new print magazine, so we were nothing if not ambitious.

And time was not on our side. We planned to distribute the first full-length print version of the publication at Lakefair, only two weeks away from our initial meeting. I'd been writing professionally for years, but editing and creating a complete, bimonthly magazine was a new challenge. I hastily commissioned articles from friends and fellow *Volcano* writers while educating myself on brand creation, print publication, online advertising, AP Stylebook, and everything else I'd need to know to meet our delivery deadline. Hayes and I drafted an eight-page demo issue to help attract advertisers, then set to work on the longer, official debut we'd hand out to fairgoers and offer free in local shops.

Hayes contracted with former Starbucks corporate designer Dorothy Wong to create a layout style that would leverage the best of the web, plus enhancements to make our coverage readable, actionable and quickly consumed by an audience used to smartphones. This initial design was modified by layout maestro Adam Blodgett during our first five years. Today, many news organizations have adopted a similar style of content and layout: Axios calls it “smart brevity.” Back then, we were making it up as we went along – and it worked. I see traces of Wong's careful work in Oly Arts' print and online incarnations even now, a decade later.

In 2016, Hayes and I made crucial editorial decisions that continue to resonate in current issues. For example, *Oly Arts'* articles, even critical essays, still lean toward the positive. We consider this publication a megaphone to promote local arts organizations that need all the marketing assistance they can get. So, while we may critique local arts venues or particular exhibitions, we do so with great affection and support.

It's still surprising to me that we made our first deadlines and delivered a print publication for Lakefair. That first edition was followed by an even longer one two months later, which previewed Olympia's fall arts attractions. Our early print editions distinguished themselves with fantastic layout from Blodgett and quality writing from Jonah Barrett, Guy Bergstrom, Alec Clayton, Jennifer Crain, Molly Gilmore, Kelli Samson, Kristopher Stewart and, beginning in its second issue, Adam McKinney. Meanwhile, Hayes and I continued to work on the digital version at OlyArts.org, a labor of love that included a thriving South Sound arts calendar.

Soon we expanded distribution and coverage beyond Olympia. We assigned writers to cover arts events in regions from Centralia to Tacoma and, occasionally, Seattle. We heard from readers around the world who were visiting the South Sound and appreciated our coverage of the local arts scene. We partnered with such local arts festivals as Lacey Arts, Music in the Park, Olympia ArtsWalk, Oly Old Time Festival, Procession of the Species and others to foreground their creativity and vitality.



Founders Ned Hayes and Christian Carvajal

Over those first five years, *Oly Arts* became the publication of record for arts in the South Sound. The Washington Post contacted us in 2018 to find out more about Olympia, and the resulting article featured many of our favorite arts destinations and quoted Hayes by name. In 2019, the Seattle Times contacted *Oly Arts* to find out more about changes at Harlequin. We transitioned from a newsprint version into a full-glossy magazine, which attracted even more interest from advertisers and readers.

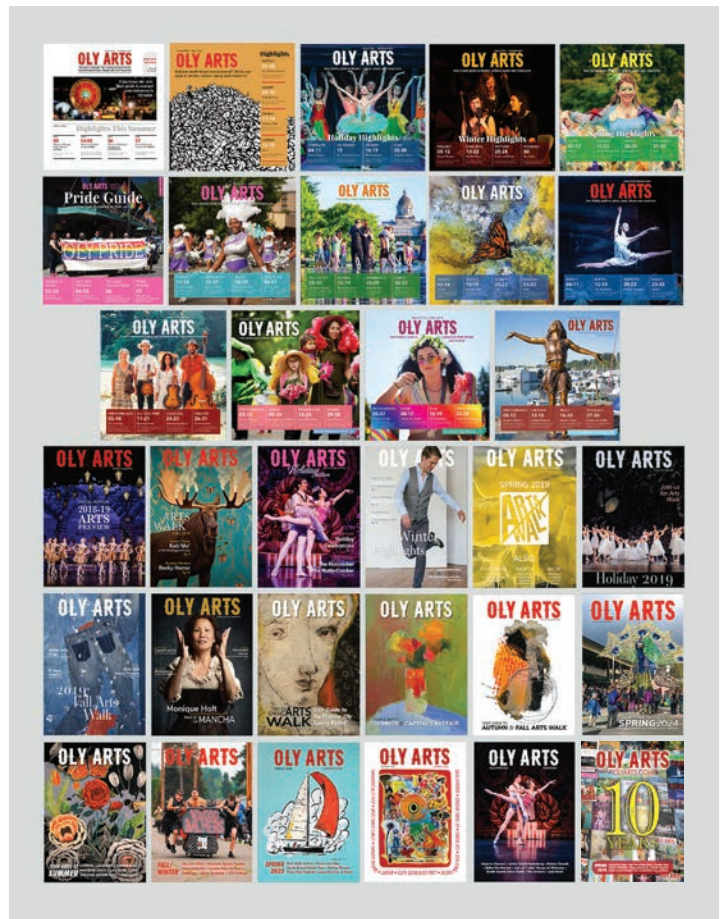
Oly Arts also helped produce various shows as a way of further elevating the arts in our region. We sponsored productions at Harlequin and other local theaters and sometimes created our own shows. In 2019, for example, Hayes produced Shakespeare's *The Tempest* on stage at the Port, sponsored by *Oly Arts*, which was to be his "swan song" in the South Sound as he moved to Portland a few months later. That production featured me and other *Oly Arts* folks alongside Equity actors who'd worked at Oregon Shakespeare Festival. It showcased how arts coverage could intertwine with active participation. Hayes remains on *Oly Arts*' Board of Directors and supports the publication actively from afar.

Over the years, *Oly Arts* has tried many ways of elevating the arts; some worked, some did not. For example, in the early years, *Oly Arts* added a podcast lineup that expanded to five episodes per week. I hosted one of those, a theatrical interview series called Sound Stages, and recorded and/or edited the other four. We were happy to showcase our writers as hosts of series that covered Olympia's book and culinary scenes along with theater and the visual arts. Unfortunately, none of those podcast series survived the 2020 pandemic.

Oly Arts did, however. Arts marketing manager Billy Thomas assumed the role of associate publisher, and soon took on full publication duties. After the pandemic, Thomas worked with Hayes to shift the publication to a nonprofit model. Hayes and I took reduced positions as new faces and voices stepped up to manage a thriving publication with active readership and a solid advertising and nonprofit fundraising base of support.

Today, longtime Olympia writer Alec Clayton serves as editor in chief, theater maestro John Serembe is *Oly Arts*' publisher, the capable Gabi Clayton is its online editor, and Lynette Charters Serembe serves on its board of directors. As a registered, federal nonprofit, *Oly Arts* continues to fulfill its extraordinary and much-needed mission.

Despite managerial changes, the publication's mission has never faltered. It continues to fill the role Hayes and I imagined as "your leading guide to Thurston County entertainment." It promotes everything from Capital Lakefair to Pride Month, from Oly Old Time Festival to Emerald City Music, from book signings to Olympia Zine Fest. We tell the truth and elevate every arts event – Scrappy little puppet and storytelling performances get the same affectionate treatment as larger companies like Harlequin.

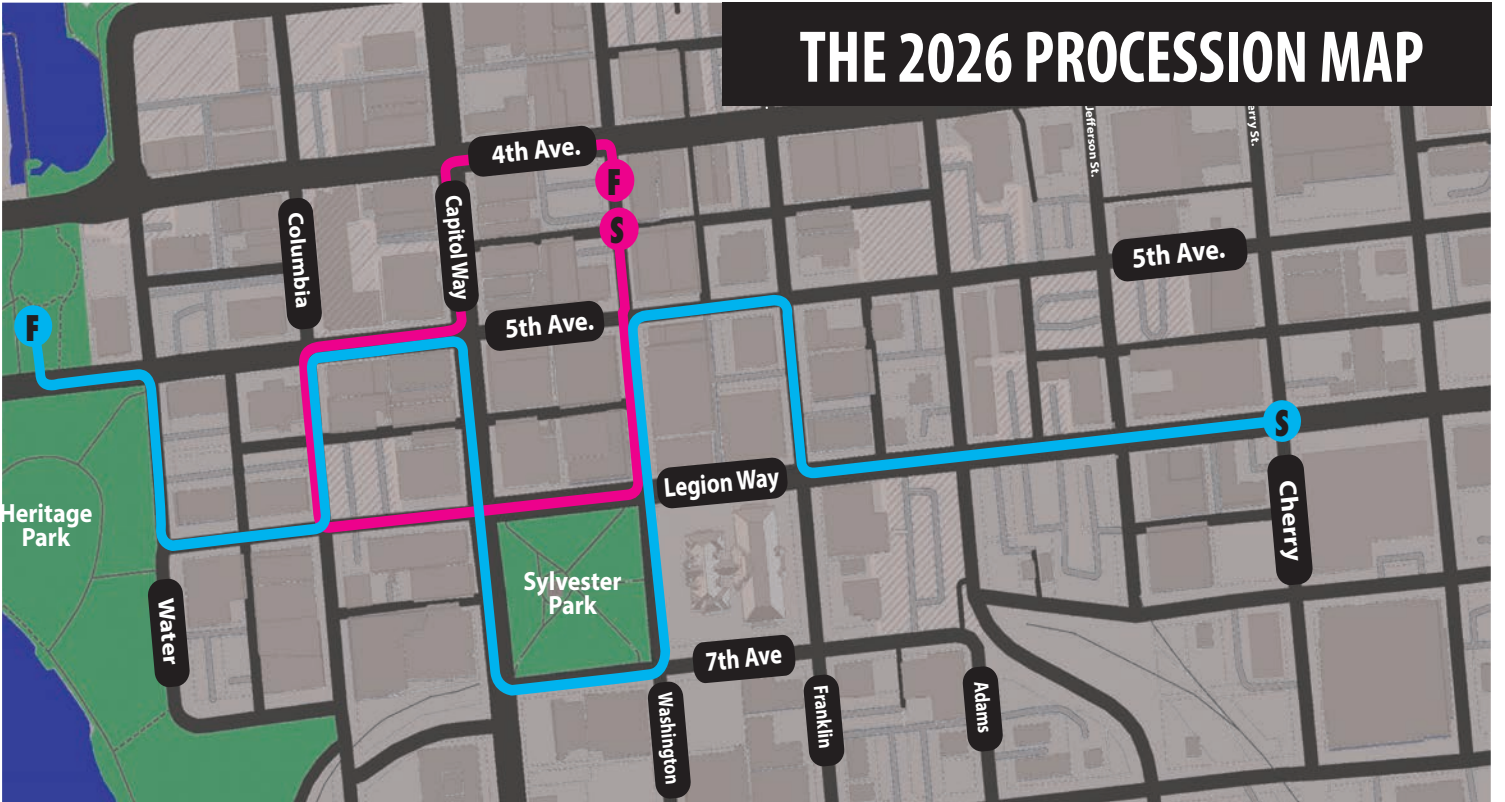


And now we're a decade old. I can scarcely believe it myself. In the imperiled, impoverished environment of arts coverage, 10 years is a virtual eternity. I'm incredibly proud of what *Oly Arts* became and continues to be: a lighthouse in an age of seemingly unending awful news. It proves Thurston County is still rich with the same creative energy that put it on rock music's map of upstart capitals in the 1990s. I believe as long as Olympians feel driven to tell stories that comment on the world they inhabit and invent fantastic worlds that could come to be, we'll need *Oly Arts* to amplify their efforts region-wide. So happy birthday, old friend, and here's to what you'll show us in decades to come.

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The Luminary Procession · April 24

Starts at 8:30pm between 4th & 5th on Washington and **Finishes in the same location.**

The Procession of the Species · April 25

Starts at 4:30pm at Cherry Street and Legion Way and **Finishes at Heritage Fountain.**



Olympia

Spring Arts Exhibition



March 13th—April 25th
Artswalk:
April 24th & 25th



Fridays 2—7pm
Saturdays + Sundays
12pm—4pm

- Anton Seder
- Asenath Lizárraga
- Camille Trautman
- Chad Yenney
- Devin River
- Fennel Overstreet
- James Kidd
- Jerzy Repsch
- Kelly Watson
- KEMC
- M Freeman
- Marissa Magic
- Molly Wheat Baker
- Ollis Bedspread
- Rachel Konsella
- Suzanne Wenner
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- Tiffany Ahearn-Wood
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20/26

Roger McIntosh Recognized for 40 Years of Service to the Washington Center

by Alec Clayton

In recognition of 40 years of dedicated service to the performing arts in Thurston County and the South Sound, Washington Center Production Manager Roger McIntosh has been selected as the 2026 Excellence in the Arts Commitment to the Arts Awardee. The Center's Star Dressing Room has been officially named in his honor in recognition of the organization's "deep appreciation for four decades of service, care, commitment, and the philosophy that guided his work," according to a Center Marketing and Sales Director Tineke Raak. McIntosh was honored for the award at the Washington Center's annual gala on March 7.

The annual Award for Commitment to the Arts recognizes outstanding commitment to the arts through volunteerism, financial support, leadership, or advocacy by individuals or organizations based in the greater South Sound region, encompassing Pierce, Thurston, Mason and Lewis Counties.

McIntosh was first hired by the Washington Center just before the Center opened in September 1985, and he has been instrumental in shaping the technical excellence, professionalism, and welcoming spirit that define the venue today, according to Raak.

"Roger has truly been the heart and soul of the Washington Center since its very beginning," said longtime board member, Dr. Alison Vega. "His leadership and steadfast integrity have shaped every interaction and made those of us lucky enough to train or work with him better for it."

Center Executive Director Jill Barnes said, "Roger has been the foundational and kind spirit behind the Washington Center for the Performing Arts since our opening in 1985. He has shaped not only the technical excellence of our productions, but also the culture of respect, mentorship, and professionalism that so many of us have experienced firsthand. Over the years, he has welcomed thousands of artists to our stages, mentored countless technicians, and ensured that every performance — local or national — was delivered with care and integrity."

After graduating from The Evergreen State College with a degree in technical theater, McIntosh worked in photography, marketing, and lighting design for bands in both Seattle and his hometown of Walla Walla.

Beyond his work at the Center, McIntosh served as adjunct faculty at TESC, teaching lighting design and mentoring emerging technical theater professionals. Also since 1985, he has been the lighting designer for Ballet Northwest, including *The Nutcracker* and all major productions, a role he plans to continue.



Roger McIntosh

McIntosh is widely recognized as a generous mentor who helped build a strong and inclusive technical theater community in the South Sound. He fostered an environment where emerging professionals were supported, collaboration was valued, and hard work was rewarded. Many artists and technicians credit him with giving them both opportunity and confidence at critical moments in their careers.

The naming of the Star Dressing Room stands as a tribute to the steady leadership, care, and commitment that have been the foundation and heartbeat of the Washington Center.

"The Center was a home away from home, with a routine that created a disciplined structure that allowed for an environment of survival from the outside world when life got real," McIntosh said.

He went on to say, "From the beginning it seemed like the shows were the reason why and the motivation for the work I did, though that changed quickly towards the people I worked with, those that I cared for and those that I trusted to help bring about the change in me, that I was looking for.

"When I think back at what people ask about my experiences at the Center and or what were my favorite shows, what were my favorite memories, I have an immediate realization

that what I was most effected by, were the day in and day out and what made a difference to more then just myself and the genuine relationships that were built by focusing on a common cause.

“The Center was a unique opportunity for me, with every-day being a bit different and challenging more than just enough, and to remind me that to pay attention to change was most Important.

“The entertainment business appears to be a social and exciting rollercoaster. The illusion of what happens on stage and what the audience experiences are not anymore important than the other. What we love, we live and we learn.

“I am grateful for all of those that I have worked with and what we have been able to experience together.”

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FRIDAY **MAR 20 7:30PM**

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‘Part science fiction, part hilarious comedy with a dark streak,’ – Theatre Eddy

ANNA CONSIDERS MARS
BY RUBEN GRIJALVA

Theater Artists Olympia **TAO**

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olytheater.com



Susan Aurand



Jimmy Ulvenes

Debra Van Tuinen

Maia Erickson at Artubus Folk School

Mo Golden





Peek Into Artists' Process on The South Sound Studio Tour

By Molly Gilmore

The South Sound Studio Tour, a free tour that invites the public into 46 working art studios, is more about process than product.

"At Arts Walk, you get to see a wonderful range of not just visual art but performance and so on, but it's mostly finished stuff," said Susan Aurand, acting president of the tour's board of directors. "The point of the studio tour is to allow people to go behind the scenes and see how the work is made."

Many artists are sharing their studio space with colleagues for the tour, happening the last weekend of May in Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater, so there'll be about 80 artists involved, showing their work and offering insights into their methods. That's twice the number who participated just two years ago, Aurand said.

"People love the more in-depth connection with artists," she said. One 2025 tourgoer described the tour as their favorite Olympia arts event of the year,

New for 2026: Some of the artists on the tour are creating installations for the Olympia Artspace Alliance's spring exhibition, *Please Mind the Mess: Makers Making*. The installations, on view mid-April through August in the Goldberg Building at Fourth Avenue and Capitol Way, will invite viewers into the artists' workspaces and imaginations — just as the tour invites people into the studios themselves.

Aurand, whose nature-inspired oil paintings often incorporate three-dimensional elements, paints in a studio off the dining room of her westside home. "Some people are better than I am at being able to talk and paint at the same time," she said. "If seven people show up, it's hard to keep painting, but I'll have works in progress and images of how work started."

She's invited photographer Bob Haft and printmaker Barbara Blacker to "bring their studios with them" to her home for the weekend. Haft will show his process on his computer, and Blacker will be demonstrating gel printing, an easily accessible technique that doesn't require a press.

Eunsil Kim will be firing Raku pottery at John Campbell's studio on Olympia's west side. (Experienced potters are invited to participate in the firing; email Kim at sunflower-clay@gmail.com.)

In Raku firing, glowing-hot pieces are pulled from the kiln and placed in metal containers with paper or other combustible material, which ignites, creating a reaction that gives the pottery its characteristic colors and textures.

On last year's tour, Kim's demonstration was fiery indeed. At one point, flame jumped out toward her legs. Though it appeared as though she was in danger, "the flames didn't touch me," she said.

Eunsil Kim will be firing Raku pottery at John Campbell's studio. Photo courtesy of Eunsil Kim



Peek Into Artists' Process Contd.



Susan Aurand is among the artists inviting visitors to make art during the tour. Photo by Marc Sterling

Mariella Luz, also a ceramic artist, will be throwing and trimming pots at her studio on Olympia's east side. Luz, well known in Olympia's music scene, has been making mugs, dishes and other useful ware for more than a decade.

"I love making things from clay — the transformation it goes through, the meditation of making things over and over again," she said in an interview for Artist Trust (artisttrust.org/board_member_profile_series_mariella_luz/).

"I've done the tour three times," Luz, who's on the board of the Olympia Artspace Alliance, told *Oly Arts*. "The biggest motivation for me to do it is that it forces me to clean my studio. I know that may sound ridiculous, but it is true

Cindy Petersen, a lifelong woodworker who makes both practical and decorative objects, will demonstrate finishing techniques she and partner Patty Mitchell use in their pieces, often made from repurposed or scrap wood. It will be the first time on the tour for Petersen and Mitchell, who have not one but four studio buildings on their property in South Bay.

WHAT: South Sound Studio Tour.

WHERE: Various locations in Olympia, Lacey and Tumwater

HOW MUCH: Free

LEARN MORE: southsoundstudiotour.org



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Four Shows for the Spring

By Rachel Benton

Similar to a vibrant garden, our arts scene in Thurston County is filled with a variety of artistic companies and artists who are consistently adding color, beauty, joy, and their own lovely fragrance to our lives. Let *Oly Arts* be your “florist” this spring and give ideas of what you can add to the bouquet of your lives. Shows to consider this season are Theater Artists Olympia’s *Anna Considers Mars*, Harlequin Productions *Where the Summit Meets the Stars*, Olympia Family Theater’s *The Hobbit*, and South Puget Sound Community College’s *Anastasia the Musical*.



Theater Artist Olympia’s *Anna Considers Mars*

Many people in the community have been keeping an eye on TAO and crossing their fingers (and toes) that they would find a new space to call home so that they can bring us more incredible shows like *The Head!!! That Wouldn’t Die!* TAO and the Oly Theater will now be in the former location of the Johanson Dance Center, which has recently moved to a new location. TAO’s first show in this space will be *Anna Considers Mars* by Ruben Grijalva.

As described in the plot synopsis, “things aren’t going great for Anna, or the rest of the planet for that matter. As executive director of the flailing Center for the Preservation of Uncharismatic Species, she has a front row seat to a global mass extinction event. As her mother’s caretaker, she’s reminded daily of our inevitable decline. In this context, the worldwide search for the first Mars colonists becomes a source of great hope. Anna is hopeful that there, with a human species attempting to start over, she can start over too. Now she just has to get her hands on a golden ticket.”

WHAT: TAO’s *Anna Considers Mars*

WHERE: The new Oly Theater, 412 Jefferson St SE Olympia

WHEN: April 24 to May 9, Thurs. 16 (PWYC), Fri. & Sat. at 7:30p.m. (and 2 p.m. on May 9), Sundays at 2 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Tickets \$20 at Olytheater.com

LEARN MORE: Olytheater.com



Harlequin’s *Where the Summit Meets the Stars*

As described on the Harlequin website, “When a near-death experience derails Rose’s flight through Southeast Alaska, she awakens to find herself in the care of the kind man who pulled her to safety.” Harlequin will take you alongside their journey as the two travel by boat through the darkness and fog.

Speaking with Harlequin Marketing and Communications Director Helen Harvester, we learned that Harlequin Artistic Director Aaron Lamb learned about the show from Josephine Keefe, a Nez Perce actor and theater artist, who starred in *Sovereignty* at Harlequin in 2021, and “with whom Aaron has maintained a close artistic relationship since.” Harlequin is honored that Keefe will direct this production. This is also the only time this show has been produced since the world premiere in Juneau, Alaska.

This play honors Indigenous voices, their eternal impact, and why we must continue to listen to them. Stories like these contain intriguing layers and opportunities for compilation and to untangle the mysteries that lie deep in our souls.

WHAT: *Where The Summit Meets The Stars*

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

WHEN: June 14, 7:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Visit harlequinproduction.org for times, tickets and prices

LEARN MORE: harlequinproduction.org



OFT's The Hobbit

Producing this show is a big honor for Olympia Family Theater, as it is the first community theater in the world granted permission to produce *The Hobbit*, which until now has only been licensed to professional theaters. OFT is not just bringing a classic story to the stage, they are making history. This show will take us all on an adventure through freezing mountains, frightening forests, and to places where we might ultimately find courage and friendship.

OFT begins their show description with a charming statement: "Our unlikely hero, Bilbo Baggins, would much rather be sitting in his cozy Hobbit Hole with a cup of tea and a plate of bacon and eggs." If that's not relatable, I don't know what is!

Deep down, the nature of this story requires Baggins to be brave and step out of his comfort zone to do something that will make the world a better place. Much like Baggins, none of us have to do it alone!

Join OFT for this adventure and get your tickets at their box office before they sell out.

WHAT: *The Hobbit*

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

WHEN: May 14 through June 7.

HOW MUCH: Visit olyft.org for tickets times and prices

LEARN MORE: olyft.org



SPSCC's Anastasia the Musical

From the ever iconic *Once Upon a December* to the deeply meaningful *Journey to the Past*, *Anastasia* is a classic musical that began as an animated film in the '90s and has blossomed into a Broadway show and beyond. It is truly a treat that our beloved SPSCC Theater Collective is bringing this show to our community.

Anastasia is about hope, the promise of a brighter future, following your dreams, and creating your own destiny (even in a complicated society).

Director and theater professor, Dr. Lauren Love shared, "Our superlative costume designer, Charlotte Darling, is already at work creating the grandeur and richness of the Russian monarchy and Parisian fashion in the early twentieth century."

WHAT: *Anastasia the Musical*

WHERE: Kenneth J. Minnaert Center for the Arts, 2011 Mottman Rd SW

WHEN: May 22 -31, Friday and Saturday performances start at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Donation at the door

LEARN MORE: spsc.edu/entertainment/theatre-collective

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CRAZY DINNER!

by nightmayor



(From *The Oculist*) Percy James, Joey Schmitt, Razz Matazz, Stella R.S, Glim Siofra.

By Lynette Charters Serembe

You may have seen the hugely popular Lord Franzianian's annual *Royal Olympian Spectacular Vaudeville Show*, featuring offbeat artists from in and around the Olympia area, and hosted by Lord Franzianian, a character developed by polymath writer, actor, and storyteller Elizabeth Lord. In true vaudeville style, Franzianian's showcases various local creative and quirky oddball acts, no two are the same, and they're none like anything you've seen before. It was from this pool of peculiar unconventionality that Lord Elizabeth discovered the band nightmayor (lowercase 'n' intentional). She says she first met the group in 2021 at the vaudeville show and was hugely impressed by them. She loved their creative output and original ideas; they "blew (her) away". Two years ago, she became involved in their original musical *The Total Package* and enjoyed working with them so much that this time around she is directing their production *CRAZY DINNER!* With this wild and zany pool of talent, it proves to be sharply scrumptious and salty, infused with intelligent humor,

"A heaping helping of romantic comedy with a side of thrilling intrigue! Marty and Lynn, a couple madly out of love, must enjoy the meal of a lifetime in a pressure cooker of deception. Each one has everything to hide- and everything to lose! Don't let that spoil your appetite- it takes a stomach of steel to share this meal. A feast of visual and auditory delicacies awaits all who partake in the CRAZY DINNER!"

Featuring performances by Dean Crabapple, Velva Kelly, Rick Ridgeway, Eugene Ryser, Glim Siofra, Marlo Winter, Carolanne Riat, Kaz Hoey, Riley June, Robert Bruce, and Jordan Richards.

ABOUT NIGHTMAYOR

nightmayor has been creating original musicals, touring shows, albums, dance performances, and video projects since Halloween 2018. From its first incarnation as a two-person punk band to the sprawling casts of recent full-length productions, nightmayor has dared to laugh in the face of pure evil. Collaborating with a wide

range of local artists, performers, and musicians, nightmayor has created the musicals *The Oculist* and *The Total Package*, the touring shows *Bring Life 2 U* and *Adopted Brothers: Not Related By Blood*, mini-musicals *The Frog Show* and *The Angels Show*, a multimedia feature film version of *The Total Package*, and the album *Does It Ring?? It Does...* This brand new musical, *CRAZY DINNER!*, promises to showcase new heights and depths from the group that refuses to do the same thing twice.



Joey Schmitt, Stella R.S, Percy James.
Photo credit: James William Clark, Trevor Williams.

WHAT: *CRAZY DINNER!* New, original musical, Directed by Elizabeth Lord, original score and lyrics by nightmayor.

WHEN: May 21 - 31, and June 6, 7. Doors at 6:30p.m., Show at 7 p.m.

WHERE: In May: Wild Child performance space 414 E. 4th Ave. In June: Theater 4 in Center House at Seattle Center.

HOW MUCH: Tickets \$20., available at the door. Online presale tickets available beginning in April at www.eventbrite.com

LEARN MORE: Percy James - (206) 602-7510, Website: nightmayor.online, Instagram: @plaguedbynightmayors, Email: plaguedbynightmayors@gmail.com



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Other Spring 2026 Offerings



BALLET NORTHWEST

WHAT & WHEN:

Swan Lake. Based on the fairy tale of Princess Aurora, who is cursed to sleep until she is kissed by a prince. It is considered one of the most famous classical ballets in the world. May 9-11.

WHERE & HOW MUCH: The Washington Center. Check website for ticket prices.

LEARN MORE: balletnorthwest.org



THE BROTHERHOOD LOUNGE

WHAT, WHEN, HOW MUCH & LEARN MORE:

The BroHo Takes Flight! First Sunday of the month at 5pm for a show like no other! Trapeze, Fabric, and more with local and guest performers \$20 sugg. donation at the door (no one turned away for lack of funds) Cash only. 21+, Doors open at 4pm!

Story Oly Olympia's Story Slam. 4/21, 5/19, 6/16. 6:30 sign-up, 7 p.m. start. \$10-20 PWYC, 50% of proceeds go to Rotating local non-profits Cash only. 21+, Info at Storyoly.com

DJ 'Wildman' James plays the last Sunday of the month. Soul, funk, and more! 10 p.m. 'til late, FREE! 21+, Room to Dance!

WHERE: The Botherhood Lounge, 119 Capitol Way N.

LEARN MORE: Story Oly: facebook.com/storyoly/



BROWSERS BOOKSHOP

WHAT & WHEN:

Margo Davis: Uncoupling Poet Margo Davis, artist resident at Hypatia-in-the-Woods in Shelton. will read from her latest collection of poetry. Saturday April 4th, 5 p.m.

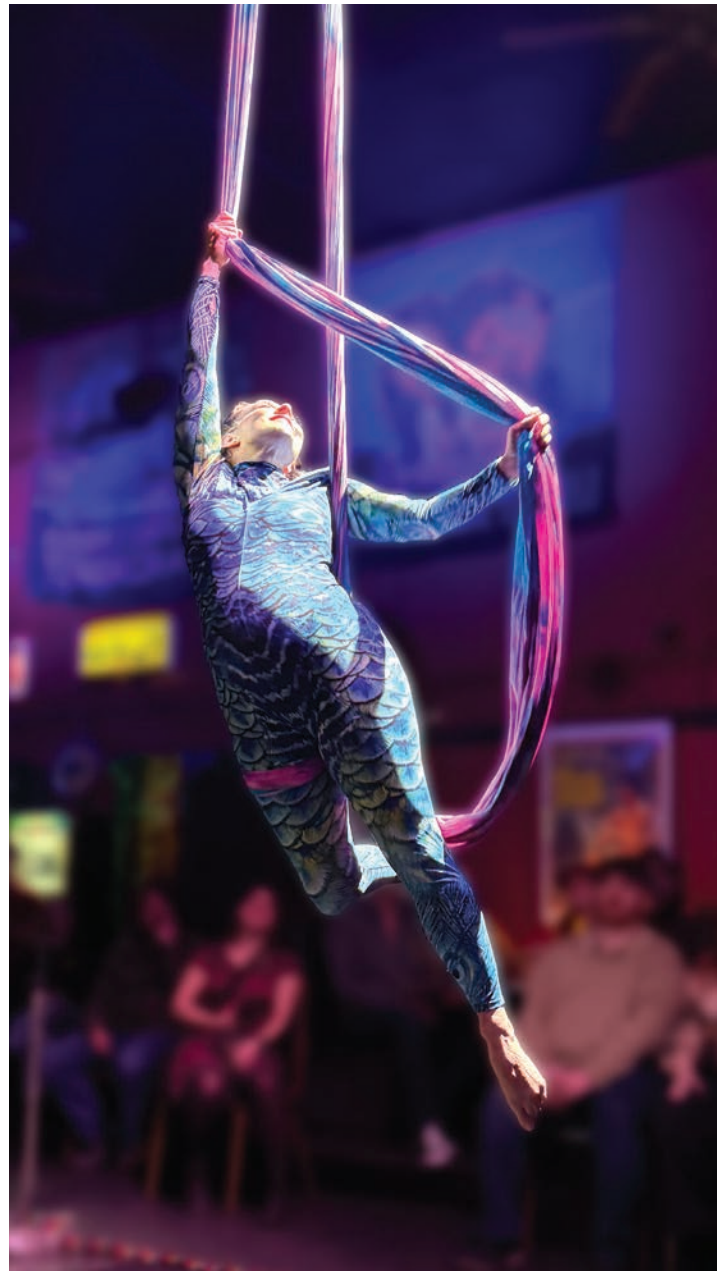
Browsers Storytime Skye will be reading two children's titles. Saturday May 2nd, 11 a.m.

Maya Jewell Zeller in Conversation with Dawn Pichón Barron A special conversation to discuss Zeller's latest book *Raised by Ferns*. Wednesday May 6, 6 p.m.

Annie Leonard and André Carothers: Protest: Respect It, Defend It, Use It The authors discuss their book. May 9 at 4 p.m.

WHERE & HOW MUCH: Browsers, 107 Capitol Way N. Free.

LEARN MORE: browsersolympia.com/events/45549



Amy Elizabeth Shephard's final Botherhood Takes Flight show on March 1st - before her due date - Congrats Amy!



Valerie Veeta of JurA\$\$ic Drag Bingo with AwlKnight Entertainment



OLYMPIA LITTLE THEATRE

WHAT & WHEN:

Love/Sick. A darker cousin to *Almost, Maine*, John Cariani's *LOVE/SICK* is a collection of nine slightly twisted and completely hilarious short plays. Runs April 24-May 10, Check website for times.

All In The Timing. A series of short plays about the complexities of the English language is its confusion and complications. Comedic in nature Runs June 5-21. Check website for times.

WHERE & HOW MUCH: Olympia Little Theatre, 1925 Miller Ave NE, Olympia. Check website for ticket prices.

LEARN MORE: olympialittletheater.org



LAKESWOOD PLAYHOUSE (LAKESWOOD)

WHAT & WHEN:

Pipeline

Nya, committed to her students is desperate to give her son opportunities. An incident at school threatens to get him expelled, Nya confronts his rage and her choices as a parent. Runs April 24

Carrie The Musical

A teenager is bullied for being different. But Carrie's got a special power she's not afraid to use. Runs June 12-28. Both shows Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, Sundays at 2 p.m.

WHERE & HOW MUCH: 5729 Lakewood Towne Center Blvd SW, Lakewood. Check website for ticket prices.

LEARN MORE: Lakewoodplayhouse.org



SOUTH SOUND STORY GUILD

WHAT & WHEN:

Story of Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition Storyteller, Ingrid Nixon, a current day Antarctic explorer, tells the story of Sir Ernest Shackleton's ill-fated Antarctic Expedition of 1914-1916. April 8, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

WHERE & HOW MUCH: Harbor House, 217 Thurston Ave NW, Free

LEARN MORE: southsoundstory.org, mlott1256@gmail.com



TACOMA LITTLE THEATRE

WHAT & WHEN:

The Mountaintop. After his famous Mountaintop speech, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. returns to his motel room. There, he encounters a mysterious hotel maid whose sharp wit and insights challenge his beliefs and legacy. . April 24 - May 10. Check website for times.

WHERE & HOW MUCH: Tacoma Little Theatre, 210 N I Street, Tacoma. Check website for ticket prices.

LEARN MORE: tacomalittletheatre.com



TACOMA MUSICAL PLAYHOUSE

WHAT & WHEN:

Sweet Charity Charity is a dance hall hostess with big dreams. She stumbles through a whirlwind of misadventures in pursuit of true love, facing heartbreak, hilarity, and surprises along the way.. April 10-May 3. Check website for times.

WHERE & HOW MUCH: 7116 6th Ave. Tacoma. Check website for ticket prices.



AWLKNIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT & WHEN:

JurA\$\$ic Drag Bingo Alpha Q Awlknigh and Valerie Veeta are taking their best-selling and highly entertaining Drag Bingo show on the road and are coming home to set up shop at the incredible Altitude 15 Downtown!

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WHERE & HOW MUCH:

Altitude 15, 225 State Ave NE
\$20, which includes cards for 5 games! This event is 18+!

LEARN MORE: Instagram at @QueenAlphaQ and @MissValerieVeeta or email us at: AwlknighEntertainment@gmail.com



Double Shot Theater Festival

A mad dash to create a play in just one day

By Adam McKinney

“There is no time to be scared, or anything,” says Blaire Smith. “It is always a whirlwind, one hundred percent. It is a beautiful combination of urgency and collaboration with different artists, and creativity. There is such an energy in the room.”

Smith is talking about the Double Shot Theater Festival, a kind of theatrical 100-meter dash. For roughly 20 years (festival creator Bryan Willis isn’t quite sure when it all got started), Double Shot has been assembling directors, actors, and playwrights to complete the Herculean task of writing, memorizing, rehearsing, lighting, costuming, and eventually performing 10-minute plays, all in about 24 hours.



Elise Moore and Blaire Smith, Photo credit: Double Shot Theater Festival

On Friday, actors are paired with a director and a playwright; that night, at 7 p.m., the playwright is given a prompt (last year, it was to include music), and has until 9 a.m. Saturday morning, to turn in a finished play. That evening, all of the finished plays are performed for a crowd, whether or not they’ve had the time to catch their breath.

Having spent her whole life in theatre, both as an actor and director, among other things, Smith has naturally taken part in a few Double Shots. When Double Shot once again takes over the Roosevelt Room in the Tacoma Armory, this April, Smith will be participating again. For many actors, just performing your standard play, with plenty of rehearsal time, is enough of an adrenaline rush. What would compel an actor to walk a tightrope like Double Shot?

“It’s a quick way to be creative, if you will, because it doesn’t have the months-long process that drags on, where maybe you’re ready for an audience, but you still have to wait a while,” Smith says. “This doesn’t give you time to get in your head about things. If you’re a busy artist, or you have other things happening, or you’re part of other processes, or have a full-time job in different industries — it’s a great, quick way to be creative, and to meet and network with other local artists.”

“We just signed Tony & Pulitzer-winning David Auburn to write one of our five Double Shot plays at Tacoma Arts Live! Charlotte Tiencken (Vashon Repertory Theatre) will be directing the premiere of Auburn’s new play” Willis said. Tiencken is a Double Shot veteran and founding board member of Northwest Playwright Alliance.

AND WHAT’S THE HARDEST PART?

“Telling a story that is being born right in front of you, creating these characters that didn’t exist five hours ago, and bringing them to life in a way that does them justice, and that the audience will understand,” says Smith. “With that comes the memorization of it all. Most times, the writers are kind and don’t give giant monologues, but sometimes there are some moments where you’re like, ‘Oh, this is a lot of text, and it’s rich and beautiful, and how do I do it justice in a way that gets the story across?’

“So, there’s an element of bravery that goes into being an actor in this kind of creation, and under this kind of pressure,” Smith continues. “These plays that these artists are writing, they’re not just being written and performed — they’re being born right in front of the audience. ... It’s a beautiful snapshot of this moment in time that the audience gets to share, and that will never happen again.”

Most overnight festivals, like Double Shot, are framed as competitions of some sort, where the naturally stressful situation is made even more acute with the addition of prizes and bragging rights. Double Shot is not a competition, as Willis is quick to point out: a priority is placed on creating the best possible plays, with participants getting paid a small, but symbolically important, honorarium of \$50 for their efforts.

OLY ARTS

Other festivals in this vein will also add a second all-nighter, chasing that loopy, sleep-deprived delirium, which Willis believes is antithetical to the creative process. With Double Shot, there will be a second performance as a Sunday matinee, but this will just be a chance for the creative teams to hone their plays and hopefully deliver a tighter and more satisfying production.

Some of these plays find a second life after the festival is over, so what you see at Double Shot could be the beginnings of the next Great American Play. Or, as Smith says, this could be the kind of ephemeral artistic experience that theatre so uniquely provides — what you see will never be seen again.

WHAT: Double Shot Theater Festival

WHEN: Saturday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.
& Sunday, April 19, 3 p.m.

WHERE: Tacoma Armory, 1001 Yakima Ave, Tacoma

HOW MUCH: Tickets \$22

LEARN MORE: tacomaartslive.org, (253) 346-1721



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 Dmitri SHOSTAKOVICH: Symphony No. 5

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Celebrate Mother’s Day Weekend at the Center Salon, a Creative Showcase for South Sound Audiences

By Molly Walsh

A celebration of the creative process, the Center Salon is a visual and sonic feast featuring a curated lineup of authors, visual and performing artists, many with ties to the Pacific Northwest.

The Center Salon began as a collaboration between members of the local creative community, including playwright Bryan Willis, author Jim Lynch and executive director of the Washington Center for the Performing Arts, Jill Barnes. To help showcase the South Sound’s thriving and diverse arts scene, the Center Salon is not only a concert, play, or poetry reading, but instead a unique experience that unites contrasting mediums into a singular show.

Willis has previous experience organizing salon-style performances through his work with the Northwest Playwrights Alliance, and views these variety performances as carrying on an important creative tradition.

A longtime Olympia resident, Willis’s connections to the local creative community have been helpful when curating the Center Salon’s lineup each year. Crafting a lineup takes



In commemoration of Mother’s Day weekend, many pieces included in this year’s Center Salon will tie back to the themes of mothers and motherhood. This includes a slideshow that will be projected ahead of the salon, featuring family photos of performers and audience members.

Jill Barnes will serve as the Center Salon’s master of ceremonies, and is also slated for a vocal performance with accompaniment from musician Jennifer Hermann.



From left: Jill Barnes, Alec Clayton, Jennifer Hermann, Bethany Hermann, Jim Lynch, Katya Miltimore, Rene Westbrook.

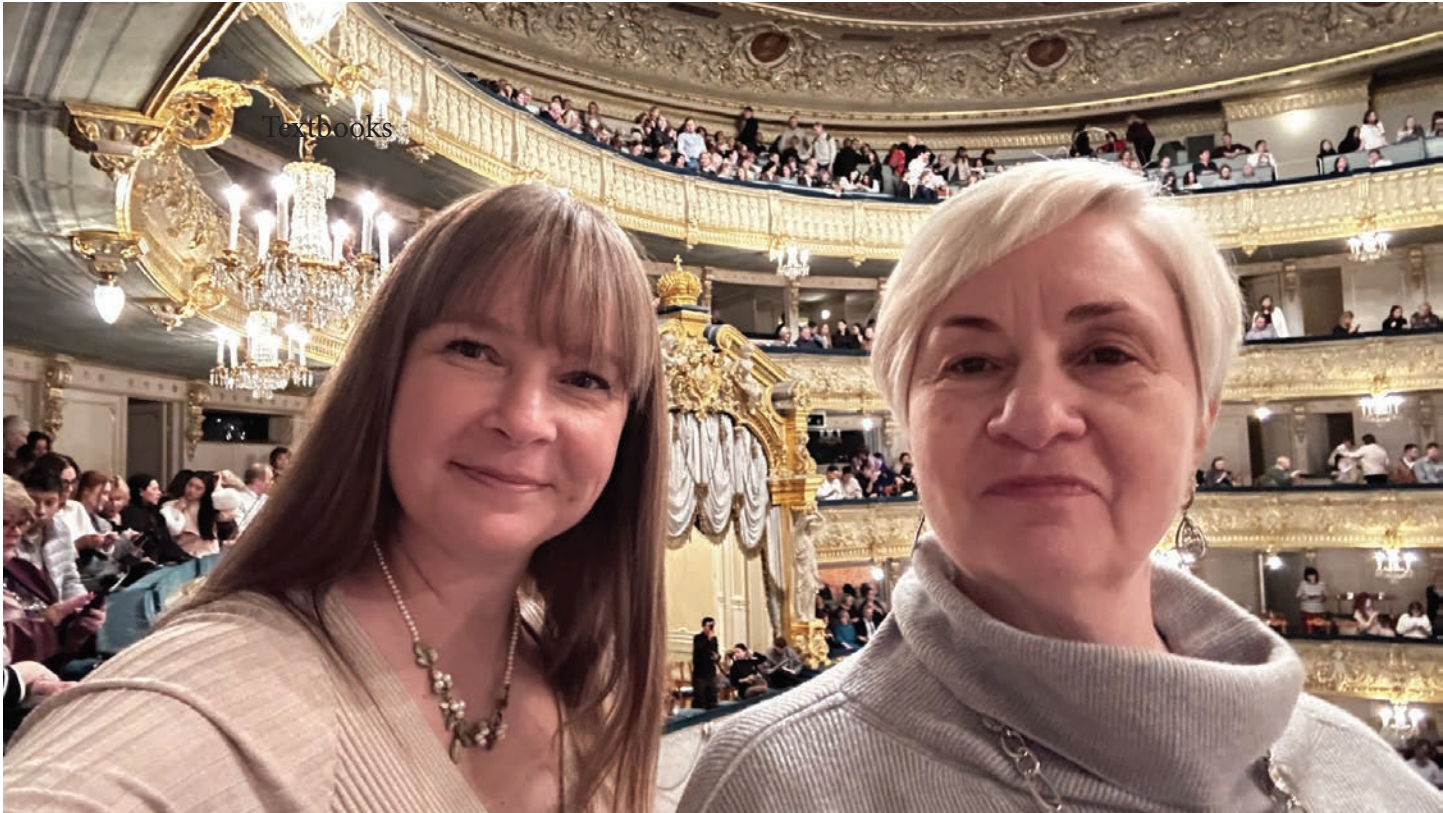
considerable lead time and care, with Center Salon acts generally secured nine months to two years ahead of time. Willis looks to the wide array of artists who call Olympia and Thurston County home and is interested in featuring fresh talent in the Center Salon each year alongside returning Center Salon performers.

Beyond entertainment, salon-style performances are an opportunity to weave common threads between creative mediums, and for artists to craft additional dimensions within their work.

The 2026 Center Salon will take place May 9, in the Washington Center Black Box Theater with cabaret-style seating to provide an immersive ambiance.

In addition, Hermann and her daughter Bethany Hermann will perform their own musical duet together.

“I look forward to the Center Salon every year,” said Jennifer Hermann. “This year is extra special because not only do I get to perform for the fifth year with my good friend Jill Barnes, this year I will also perform with my daughter Beth. She and I have played violin and piano together since she was four years old, and making music with her now as an adult is very meaningful. I’m grateful for the opportunity to celebrate our mother-daughter relationship in this way.”



Katya Miltimore, a poet and upcoming artist for the 2026 Center Salon poses with her mother.



Washington Center Executive Director, Jill Barnes, performing at the Center Salon, with piano accompaniment from musician Jennifer Hermann.

Alec Clayton, a local author, will share a piece of fiction, and Katya Miltimore, a local poet, will share some of her poetry. Rene Westbrook is a visual artist whose work has been displayed locally, and across the United States. At the Center Salon, Westbrook will unveil portions of her creative process, in addition to presenting visual work. This year's headlining performer will be novelist Jim Lynch, whose book titles include *The Highest Tide* and *Truth Like the Sun*. Lynch is a returning performer to the Center Salon, and has plans to read a new short story that he has penned especially for the salon event, which focuses on his mother.

China Star, gallery coordinator for the Washington Center, will also lead a brief discussion about the gallery and its Mother's Day exhibition. During intermission, audience members will be invited to the gallery to view the exhibit.

The 2026 Center Salon is a prime venue to celebrate Mother's Day through art, song and prose that is inspired by motherhood. And with so many performances in one place, the Center Salon leaves room for experimentation, novelty and an element of surprise. Through the Center Salon, Willis is interested in presenting art that challenges perceptions, and finds common ground during a divisive time.

Those who plan to attend the 2026 Center Salon and the greater community are encouraged to participate in the Center Salon Mother's Day themed slideshow that will run ahead of the performance. Family photos with mothers can be sent to education@washingtoncenter.org to be included in the slideshow.

WHAT: The 2026 Center Salon

WHEN: Saturday May 9, 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Washington Center for the Performing Arts Black Box Theater, 512 Washington St. SE

HOW MUCH: Premium Table: \$49-\$51,
High Table: \$44-\$46
Chair: \$34-\$36

All seating is first-come, first-served within the purchased section.

LEARN MORE: washingtoncenter.org/event/the-center-salon-5-9-2026, (360) 753-8586

All photos Courtesy of Bryan Willis

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Saturday is the S.T.E.A.M. Fair: Exploring Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math with fun booths and activities for all ages!

Sunday is the Car Show. Bring your ride and participate or just enjoy strolling through the show admiring all the cool vehicles! Kids and adults are encouraged to vote for their favorite vehicle.

And of course Fun Fair will feature live entertainment and lots of food vendors!

WHAT: Lacey Spring Fun Fair

WHEN: Saturday, May 16, 10a.m. - 6p.m., and Sunday, May 17, 11a.m. - 5p.m.

WHERE: Saint Martin University, 5300 Pacific Ave. SE, Lacey

HOW MUCH: Free

LEARN MORE: laceyparks.org/funfair





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