

CROW OPENS 'ADDAMS FAMILY' FRIDAY

The Addams Family is as iconic as its theme music, and the history goes back thousands of years — at least in “The Addams Family Musical.” Children’s Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) premieres “The Addams Family” Friday night, April 21, when Gomez, Morticia, Uncle Fester, Wednesday, Pugsley, Lurch and Granny are joined by The Addams Family ancestors on stage at the Florence Events Center.

The show continues April 22 and 23, with 7 p.m. shows on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. shows on Saturday and Sunday. That’s right — this year there are four chances to support local youth in the arts.

“‘The Addams Family Musical’ manages to pack quite a bit into about two hours,” said 11-year-old Owen Harklerode, who plays Pugsley during two of the four performances. “The show is full of humor, some it being quite adult.”

Harklerode is joined by CROW newcomer Andre Felkins, 12, who joined the show to do more performing and singing.

The two boys share the role of Pugsley, the “annoying little sibling” of Wednesday, played by 16-year-old Kristin Owens.

“I can relate to Wednesday. Her teenage angst, her quirky and big aspirations, as well as her darkish look on things. She also has a loud and boisterous personality,” Kristin said.

Wednesday’s favorite things involve torturing Pugsley — literally — though Kristin gets along great with her little brother, William, who also stars in the show.

In “The Addams Family Musical,” Wednesday has a secret. She is in love with a normal boy, Lucas Beineke, played by Cameron Utz, 16, one of CROW’s key players. Over the years, he has appeared in “The Music Man,” “The Little Mermaid,” “Once Upon a Mattress,” “Shrek the Musical” and other shows in the Siuslaw School District.

Utz said, “This is a chance for me to play a mostly serious role with some human yet humorous quirks, who is very similar to me in real life.”

The newly developing love between Wednesday and Lucas is contrasted with the marriages of both sets of their parents.

William Owens, 13, and Alizabeth Norton, 12, play straight-laced Mal and Alice Beineke, who have a little bit to learn about love and life. Both roles allow the actors to step into new skills they haven’t gotten to explore on stage.

The love of Gomez and Morticia is the stuff of legends. They are the heart of The Addams Family in every incarnation. CROW’s show is no different.

Jacob Molano, 19, plays the dashing patriarch Gomez, who is deeply in love with his darkly beautiful wife Morticia,



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Addams Family — Morticia, Alex Saindon; Gomez, Jake Molano; Lurch, Cesar Castillo; Uncle Fester, Jacob Ternyik; Wednesday, Kristin Owens; Grandma, Hannah Rasmussen; and Pugsley (above) Owen Harklerode and (left) Andre Felkins.



played by 16-year-old Alex Saindon. This is the first leading role for both actors.

“I love getting to be kind of mysterious,” Saindon said. “I love performing Morticia because I get to go out of my box and do new things I’m not used to. It’s great to play such a different character.”

As the leaders of the family, Gomez and Morticia set the mood for the evening when Wednesday chooses to bring Lucas home, but nothing seems to go right for the young lovers.

The Addams Family would not be complete without its most luminous member, Uncle Fester, played by Jacob Ternyik, 24; the ancient and wise Grandma, played by 12-year-old Hannah Rasmussen; or the unreadable, towering Lurch, played by Cesar Castillo, 16.

“There are dark overtones in everything,” Ternyik said, “but it’s funny, too. My character breaks the fourth wall and I get to use another whacky character voice.”

Ternyik is also a longtime CROW, most recently appear-

ing as the title role in last year’s “Shrek the Musical,” and as Amos in Last Resort Player’s “Chicago the Musical.”

“I enjoy being able to be myself and a different character at the same time,” she said. “She’s kooky and has no bladder control.”

Lurch, The Addams Family’s butler, is a man of few words but “always well dressed,” according to Castillo. His presence is not often heard, but often seen alongside Gomez.

Most of the CROW cast appear as Addams Family ancestors from the ages, called up from their graves to be a Greek chorus of humor and gravity in almost every scene.

These youth from elementary to high school sing, dance and create atmosphere in the “creepy and kooky” Addams Family way.

An additional 10 students, the youngest CROWs, are telegraphers who open each act and interact with the audience in the lobby.

“This is a fantastic show and we have fantastic actors to



The Beinekes — played by William Owens and Alizabeth Norton as Mal and Alice and Cameron Utz as their son Lucas, Wednesday’s love interest.

match it!” Utz said. “Take it from me. I highly recommend coming to see it.”

CROW’s production team and cast have been working to the “witching hour” for many nights to get “The Addams Family” ready for show time. The team did everything from working with the actors to coordinating brand new sets, mixing sound, lighting the stage and creating unique props and costumes for the more than 50 cast members.

The show features wonderful songs, funny and sweet scenes between characters, and extravagant dances, including the infamous “Tango de Amor” between Gomez and Morticia Addams.

CROW always has surprises in store and this show is no exception. Funds raised from ticket sales directly benefit local youth — providing scholarships to summer camps, purchasing royalties and materials for shows, classes, camps and events, and helping to finalize the renovations on the CROW Center for the Performing Arts.

“The Addams Family Musical” is family-friendly and appropriate for all ages. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$9 for youth 12 and under. For tickets, visit www.eventcenter.org or call 541-997-1994.

For more information on the show and the CROW program, visit www.crowkids.com.

Sunshine, summertime on the way with chorus

With performances set for May 6 and 7, the Community Chorus of Florence will sing songs of “Sunshine and Summertime” at the Presbyterian Church.

Jennifer Weier will again direct the chorus, which is rehearsing fun songs, such as a medley from “Summer of ‘69” — think Woodstock.

Also included will be songs by the original boys of summer, the Beach Boys, as well as more traditional tunes

including “Summertime” from “Porgy and Bess” and “On the Sunny Side of the Street.”

The May 6 concert will be held at 7 p.m. and May 7 at 2 p.m., at the Presbyterian Church on Highway 101 in Florence.

Concerts are free to the public, although donations are always accepted.

Refreshments will be served at intermission.

For more information, call 541-997-3469.

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All seminars are free and open to the public.
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