

Funding

Regional arts groups obtain aid

Two Oregon Arts groups seem to have conquered their funding problems, at least temporarily. The Oregon Shakespearean Festival have received an award of \$200,000 from the National Endowment of the Arts.

Bend's Oregon High Desert Museum raised \$5000 to match a grant from a local firm, bringing their fund drive total to over \$100,000.

In order to qualify for the grant, The Shakespearean Festival must raise an additional \$600,000 from alternate sources during the next three years. The Festival applied for the grant to help build their endowment fund, which supports the company scholarship program.

The Festival will be establishing a development office, which will be responsible for the group's fund-raising efforts.

In Bend, Dick Gervais, president of Chiloquin Forest Products, challenged the High Desert Museum to match his donation of \$5000, with the stipulation that the money be raised by the end of September.

Museum Director Donald Kerr said the \$100,000 funding base will allow the museum to begin development of a 110-acre site next year.

The museum, which will be located four miles south of Bend, will display living plants and animals native to the eastern two-thirds of Oregon. High desert country life will be re-created in exhibit areas several acres in size and situated along a dry riverbed that runs through the museum grounds.



Photo courtesy Eugene Opera

(Left to right) Robyn Boling, Diane Eberts and Shirley St. Claire are cast in Eugene Opera's production of "Pirates of Penzance" playing at Sheldon High School.

Pirate play launches season

Cut-throats and buccaneers sneak ashore this weekend as the Eugene Opera opens its third season with a Gilbert & Sullivan favorite, *The Pirates of Penzance*.

The whimsical comedy deals with "the Victorian notion of being a slave to duty," says Philip Bayles, founder and artistic director of the company.

Frederick, a passionate and zany hero, becomes a slave to two duties — his loyalty to the Pirate King, to whom Frederick is accidentally indentured, and to romance with a young maiden captured by the pirates.

The plot complicates when Frederick, on the verge of marriage, learns that because his 21st birthday falls on leap day, he must

serve the pirates for many more years.

Principals will be played by Rick Lowden as Frederick; Ingrid Drew as Frederick's nursemaid; Kevin Boling as the Pirate King; Elwy Jones as Major-General Stanley; Diane Eberts as Stanley's daughter; John Bonney as the Sergeant of Police; and Patrick Romey as Samuel.

Joe Zingo, theatrical director for Sheldon High School, will direct the theatrical and choreographic aspects of the production and Bayles will direct the music.

"The cast has really thrown themselves into this production and have worked incredibly hard in rehearsal," says Bayles.

Over 100 university and community members labored for the

past 8 weeks in preparation for this season's first production.

Eugene Opera presents Beethoven's Sixth Symphony and opera selections in February, Rossini's Barber of Seville in May, and Verdi's well-known classic, Rigoletto, in June.

The opera runs Thursday through Sunday, 8 p.m. and continues the following weekend Oct. 21-22, 8 p.m. and at 2 p.m. Oct. 22. All performances are at Sheldon High School Theatre, 2455 Willakenzie Rd.

Tickets are \$7 for reserved and \$5 for general admission. Students and senior citizens receive a reduced price of \$3. Tickets may be purchased 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at EO's box office, 1192 High St. By Michael Brand.

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