

ACE Writing Project features Joan Burbick & Alex Kuo

LA GRANDE — The ACE Writing Project is a monthly author reading series hosted by Art Center East. The Nov. 20 Writing Project will feature two writers with recent publications from La Grande-based publishers, Redbat Books: Joan Burbick and Alex Kuo.

The authors will read selections of their work followed by time for discussion.

A community open mic will conclude the evening. Open mic sign-up is at 6:45 p.m., and the readings begin at 7 p.m.



Alex Kuo

Born in Boston, Alex Kuo lived his early childhood in the French Concession of occupied Shanghai for most of World War II. As a bridge generation writer and teacher, he has lived and held academic appointments on both sides of the Pacific.

Kuo taught American literature in Beijing in its political spring of 1989 and has returned to it every other year since to lecture at various universities. He was a professor of English at Washington State University until his retirement in 2012.

The author of several books of poetry, fiction and nonfiction, Kuo won an American Book Award for his short fiction collection "Lipstick and Other Stories." His most recent novel, "Mao's Kisses," explores Beijing's 1989 Tiananmen Square incident.

For more than 30 years, Joan Burbick lived in the Palouse region of Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington writing



Joan Burbick

and teaching at Washington State University with periodic stints as a visiting professor at universities in Beijing, Hong Kong and Warsaw. She now lives on an island off the coast of Washington.

Her two nonfiction books, "Rodeo Queens and Gun Show Nation: Gun Culture" and "American Democracy," were based on years of interviewing people about how the myths of the West shape everyday life. These interviews led her to many people whose lives were dramatically altered by violence. Their stories led her to "Stripland," her first novel.

The ACE Writing Project meets every third Wednesday at Art Center East, 1006 Penn Ave., La Grande. The sessions are always free to the public and are supported in part by the Oregon Cultural Trust.

EOU theater department saves rock 'n' roll

By Sabrina Thompson

LA GRANDE — Queen is coming to La Grande in the form of a rock musical. "We Will Rock You" marks the return of EOU's theater department after summer break. Directed by theater professor Mike Heather, the show takes on the musical stylings and performance energy of the late Freddie Mercury. "It's like a concert with a story," Heather said.

In this story, live music and instruments have been long forgotten in the wake of digitally created music and virtual reality. Only a few long to return to what they can't quite remember: the bohemians in search of the rhapsody. The hero, Galileo Figaro, portrayed by senior music and theater student Jeremiah Dockweiler, has dreams of forgotten music and lyrics and artists. He is the only hope for the bohemians. While navigating his relationship with fellow rebel Scaramouche, portrayed by junior music student Destiny Abeyla, he must find the last musical instrument on the planet.

Dockweiler said one it was a

challenge bringing his performance to the level of Freddie Mercury without damaging his voice in the rehearsal process. Dockweiler's tenor vocals, matched often with Abeyla's harmonic tone, bring classic Queen songs to life.

Abeyla's character is a confident, independent and strong-willed woman. Although sometimes Scaramouche can come across as abrasive and stubborn, Abeyla's portrayal brings a softness through

(continues on page 7)

Subscriber ONLY Presale

Only \$10.00 Each (reg. price \$12.00 ea.)

If you are a subscriber to The Observer you can purchase your tickets at The Observer office

Monday 11/11/19 - Friday 11/15/19

Offer good thru 11/15/19. Advance ticket purchase is highly recommended.

In it's 72nd season as the oldest, continuously running Orchestra in Oregon, the Grande Rondé Symphony Orchestra presents

Unfinished Business

Featured Artist: Viet Block, violinist

Violin Concerto in G Minor by Max Bruch
Emperor Waltz by Johann Strauss
Symphony No. 8 (Unfinished) by Franz Schubert

Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 7:00pm
McKenzie Theater
Eastern Oregon University

Saturday, November 23, 2019, 1:00pm
Saint Francis de Sales Cathedral
Baker City

Adults: \$12
Seniors: \$8
EOU Students: \$2
Highschool Students: \$1

Tickets available online:
www.granderondesymphony.org
Direct Music Source (La Grande)
& Betty's Books (Baker City)

Open Thanksgiving Day from 12-5 PM

HAINES STEAK HOUSE

For Reservations:
541-856-3639

BEEF • SEAFOOD • CHICKEN • SALAD BAR

Annual Thanksgiving Chuckwagon Buffet

REGULAR HOURS:

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri at 4:30 pm
Sat 3:30 pm & Sun 12:30 pm • Closed Tues

10 miles north of Baker City on Hwy 30 in Haines, Oregon
541-856-3639 • www.hainessteakhouse.com

