

ArtStars brings innovative approach to Kerby

By
Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

An innovative approach to dance and theater will be presented at the Kerby Belt Building (KBB) at 7 p.m. on May 17. The teen performance troupe "ArtStars" will offer songs, dance, monologues and journal entries developed during an after-school program at Illinois Valley High School this year.

ArtStars is an Illinois River Valley Arts Council (IRVAC) program funded by a federal 21st Century Learning Center (21 CLC) grant and administered by Three Rivers School District.

The troupe is led by Gina Angelique. She and her husband, Chris Hall, founded and directed Eveoke Dance Theatre in San Diego between 1994 and 2007. Angelique provided creative inspiration for the group while Hall was

the company's producer and technical director. Eveoke also partnered with 45 San Diego schools to offer kinesthetic learning experiences for thousands of students each week. The dance-theatre also continued to produce shows with an evolving group of performers; routinely receiving rave reviews from the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Among other accomplishments, Angelique served as artistic director of "Celebrate Dance Festival" for 10 years, and as a master teacher for the annual California Dance Teachers Association convention at UC Irvine.

The couple moved to Cave Junction almost two years ago to establish "dancefarm." Hall has been managing the Cave Junction Farmers Market since it opened last year. Angelique teaches in the Illinois Valley and at Southern Oregon University.

In describing the performance this Saturday, Angelique states, "Cut-Out is a sharing of

the introductory theatre and dance the students have engaged in throughout the year. The term 'cut-out' has to do with all the pressures upon teens to be a certain way, and to comply with corporate standards for teenage hood, but then the term shifts and we explore the 'cut' and the 'out' to find surprising identities in the making."

Angelique goes on to state, "They've learned 3 full dances over the year and 2 of these reflect the group's growing dance competency. They'll also perform songs, monologues and spoken journal entries, all self-written, about their lives and thoughts...and what makes them who they are. There are some fun comedy sketches reflecting the work we did in improvisation."

"I believe over the course of the hour long show you get a much more complex impression about what our teens face in life, what their struggles are, and how beautiful and shin-

ing each of their distinct personalities are. The show is a fund-raiser so that we can purchase real practice and performance clothes. Thanks to the terms of the 21 CLC grant, this group has four more years to develop their talents. While they stand at the beginning of their journey in learning how to be performance artists, they have substantial talents, and huge hearts and minds where wonderful seeds can be sown and nurtured," she concludes.

The benefit performance will take place at the KBB, 24311 Redwood Highway. Tickets are available at a "donate what you can" sliding scale of \$5 to \$25 at the door. All proceeds will go toward the Art Stars troupe expenses not covered by the grant. For further information about the show or ongoing dance classes at the KBB, e-mail gina@dancefarm.org or call 541-592-3569. IRVAC, a 501c3 non-profit, is dedicated to providing arts education and arts experiences in the Illinois Valley.

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