

# Cavetown shows the Valley through the eyes of a child

Illinois Valley: don't miss the theatrical production written by you, for you and all about you. Cavetown is a "theatre of place" production that sheds light on the nooks and crannies of our community. The cast-penned piece is a series of short vignettes featuring larger than life characters that will make you laugh, cry, think and laugh again.

RiverStars Performing Arts is composed of four local ensembles. Funded by the Oregon Community Foundation's visionary Studio to School program, (with support from community partners dancefarm, Illinois River Valley Arts Council and Illinois Valley Community Development Organization,) the EverStars from Evergreen Elementary and ArtNovas from Lorna Byrne Middle School are currently in their second year of existence.

The ArtStars from Illinois Valley High and the intergenerational dancefarm players also support the show.

Cast members agree that working with different age groups is inspiring. Second year EverStar Zoey Tucker (fourth grade) explained, "My little sister is also an EverStar and she looks up to me. Next year, I'm going to be an ArtNova, then an ArtStar and then, I will be at dancefarm." Tucker added, "I've made new friends...two girls from homeschool that I wouldn't have met outside of EverStars." On performing, Tucker said, "The first time or two it was really, really scary but then I got used to it and as I performed more, I got less nervous."

First year ArtNova Ashton Basham (seventh grade) wants to become an actor. He explained, "Every time you walk in the door

to rehearse there is a new surprise-a dance-off or everyone is being wacky and silly." When asked what makes it acceptable to be silly, Basham said, "If it's your personality, then--just be it. The environment here is amazing. There is no judgment...I can tell the ArtNovas anything. I completely trust them."

Third year ArtStar Latyca Hearn (twelfth grade) has performed in several productions. "In my first performance, I made people cry. I had a line about missing the smell of my mother's hair and later a complete stranger brought me a lavender pillow." She also said that performing is transformational for both the performer and the audience. Hearn joined the group with a friend. "The environment is safe. I can talk about emotional stuff and I can be creative and let myself go. After I graduate, I

want to join the dancefarm players."

Cavetown is written by the cast with guidance from the Studio to School arts educators. This is the second version of the annually produced show. Arts educator Lindsey Gillette explained, "While most of the material is new, there will be some returning characters and pieces from last year. We are in a unique situation this year to work alongside the Illinois Valley Strategic Plan." The cast contributed to the plan and turned some of the questions and responses into performance pieces.

Cavetown runs April 16 at 7 p.m. and April 17 at 5 p.m. at the Lorna Byrne Middle School Cafeteria Theatre. Shows are paying what you can at the door 30 minutes before the show.

# Cannabis growers hit the garden

**Cilicia Philemon**  
IVN Contributing Writer

It is the start of another growing season in the Illinois Valley and the medical and recreational cannabis growers are busy. These growers start with either clones or seeds, depending on personal preference. Clones have been more popular in recent years; however problems with russet mites and other new diseases might lead to more seedlings being used. If clones are being used, it is best to grow

your own from trusted sources and genetics to avoid problems with insects or fungal disease. "This year, growers are expecting a continuation of the russet mite issue. There is also a new virus that has been affecting clones in Humboldt County. Using seeds makes it easier to avoid the problems associated with clones," said Chris Boatman of the Good Earth Organics. He added, "Be careful of over watering to avoid root rot."

New rules and regulations regarding both medical and recreational cannabis have

everyone in the industry confused and concerned about their effects. These regulations are still fairly ambiguous, but not many changes are expected at the grower level. "Our gut feeling is that these are temporary rules based on outcomes experienced before the currently established rules. In the future we think there will be more restrictions and oversight," said Boatman. "At this time regulation is still fairly open and ambiguous. We do not expect to see many changes at the grower level," Boatman continued.

Local cannabis growers

are concerned that the cost of the permits, and the general cost of doing business will increase substantially, however the costs associated seem minimal at this point. Several meetings have been held locally to discuss the possible ramifications of these new laws. Many growers have been attending these meetings and are finding them helpful. They help to bring awareness to the community, as well as providing a sounding board for these anticipated changes.

Cannabis usage has been very popular in the Illinois Valley since

the 1960s, when to the chagrin of the locals, the first hippies started showing up. One such medical patient said, "I have used cannabis for 50 years. I began when I was 21. Back then it was a prison sentence to be caught with it, so there was the element of fear and secrecy. Why, if anyone knew, there was a possibility of losing job, family, friends and freedom. Cannabis usage has not been detrimental to my physical or mental health, and has not caused me to use drugs. I am happy that it is now legal and I plan to make use of it whenever I choose."

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RiverStars Performing Arts Program presents  
**CAVETOWN**  
Written and Performed by the Illinois Valley EverStars, ArtNovas, ArtStars and dancefarm players



**Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**  
**Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM**

**Lorna Byrne Middle School Cafeteria Theatre**  
Tickets are **Pay What You Can** at the door available 30 minutes before shows

Presented by the RiverStars Performing Arts Program in partnership with Lorna Byrne Middle School, Evergreen Elementary School, Illinois River Valley Arts Council, Illinois Valley Community Development Organization, dancefarm, and funded by the visionary Oregon Community Foundation Studio to School program.