

www.hcexpeditions.com

822-8288 or

1-888-461-7238

Come see us at
Belknap Hot Springs Resort

Wild & Scenic High Country Expeditions Rafting Trips

Upper McKenzie • Upper Klamath
Cal-Salmon • Rogue
& other NW Rivers



- Group & Student Discounts
- 1/2 to multi-day adventures
- Relaxing scenic floats
- Fun-filled family trips
- Class 4 & 5 adventures
- Trips run 7 days a week
- Located on the McKenzie River
- Locally owned & operated

Summer Rafting Special

Rafting Coupon

10% OFF 1/2 Day

Rafting Trips

OR

\$40.00 Sun. & Wed.

Rafting Trips

This coupon must be presented at the time of booking. Only valid for McKenzie Rafting Trips. 10% off will only be applied to adult rates. Not to be combined with other specials.

Theater BY SHARLEEN NELSON

Review



Big Mama (Nancy Boyett) comforts Maggie (Shannon Fabry as Mae (Emily Gilbert) looks on.

It's All Relative

Cat On a Hot Tin Roof explores family dynamics at VLT.

The Very Little Theatre culminates its 75th season with the emotionally charged Tennessee William's drama *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning drama that focuses on the dynamics of a dysfunctional Southern family and explores a variety of tense themes including alcoholism, human failings, family rivalry, sexuality, mendacity and avarice.

On a set adorned with ornate, yet tasteful, décor befitting an affluent plantation owner's home, the action takes place on a hot August night in 1955. Relatives have gathered to celebrate the 65th birthday of the Pollitt family's patriarch, Big Daddy, a loud, abrasive man with a penchant for vulgarity. Big Daddy's two sons, Gooper and Brick are sole heirs to their father's fortune. They've been informed that the old man is dying of cancer, although neither Big Daddy nor Big Mama have received the news.

Reviled by both parents, eldest son Gooper and his scheming wife Mae have designs on Daddy's millions and hope to win him over by proving how conscientious they are and by displaying the "entertaining" antics of their five children. The favored younger son, Brick, is a has-been football star who's descended into alcoholism following the suicide of a college friend. Brick resents his wife, Maggie, because he believes she had an affair with his friend. Brick refuses to sleep with Maggie, although she remains devoted to him. But because they have failed to pro-

duce grandchildren, Big Daddy is inclined to leave his estate to Gooper.

As the evening progresses, the children run amok, Mae and Gooper conspire, tempers flare, and Big Daddy, who must face his own mortality, attempts to reconnect with Brick.

For this final show of the season, director James Aday has done an extraordinary job, casting players who are divinely suited to their roles. In particular, Ken Hof, who plays Big Daddy, is a delightful curmudgeon of significant stature and cadence. Likewise, Shannon Fabry is spot-on in her representation of Maggie. Sultry, sassy and slinky as a cat, Fabry imparts a striking pose with her jet black hair, vivid red dress and three-inch heels. Cameron Carlisle is her bitter and conflicted spouse, Brick. Carlisle spends most of the play numbed by booze, but he conveys real tension and drama in later scenes.

Brassy and bossy, Nancy Boyett lends great flair to her role as the jovial Big Mama. Emily Gilbert is great as the conniving Mae, shuffling handily between little Miss Innocence and caustic bitch. Mike Hawkins is quite good as the insensitive Gooper. Rounding out the cast is Don Aday as Doc Baugh, Lawrence Larson as Rev. Tooker and Elizabeth Hanson, Kit Kimball, Hannah Gilbert, Ryan Stisser, and Natalie Grace White as Mae's "no-neck monster" kids.

If you think it's hot outside, VLT's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* provides a nice, slow sizzle inside. The production runs through August 28. **EW**



Wines made from certified organic grapes. Available at fine wine shops, restaurants and grocers throughout Lane County.

COOPER MOUNTAIN
VINEYARDS

Beaverton, OR. 503-649-0027 • www.coopermountainwine.com

19TH ANNUAL Henry Goes Wine

Celebrating 26 years of fine wines...

Saturday, August 21

On the Main Stage:

Lombardo & Ross

Gypsy Jazz, Latin & Swing

12:00pm - 4:00pm

JR Sims & The Texas

Special

Stevie Ray Vaughn Style, Burnin' Texas Blues

5:30pm - 9:00pm

In the Arbor:

BeBe "Big Hair" Bardot's

Wizard of Wine Fest Show

4:00pm - 5:30pm

For information:

459-5120 • 800-782-2686

Adults \$7 • Children (10 & over) \$3

Gates open at 11 a.m.

In loving memory of our
Sparkling Sylvia



687 Hubbard Creek Road • Umpqua, OR 97486



RAVIOLI • PASTA SAUCE • PESTO • RAVIOLI • PASTA SAUCE • PESTO • RAVIOLI • PASTA SAUCE
WORLD PEACE BEGINS IN THE KITCHEN