



Phyllis (Sharon Rosalyn Sless) and the boys in *Follies*

Swan Song of Youth

Follies is a sad, lovely lament for time lost

Having just turned 40, Stephen Sondheim was working at the peak of his genius when he composed the songs for *Follies*, a time-tripping pastiche of musical theater that centers on a 1970s reunion of fan-tan girls (and their boys) who danced and sang for a New York revue in the years before the Second World War. It is a testament to Sondheim's brilliance that, at a relatively young age, he was able to capture and give voice to the remorse and yearning and scuttled dreams suffered by time's passage,

and to do so in a manner at once stinging, elegiac and hilariously sad. *Follies* is about the fool's gold of one's golden years. With a book by James Goldman, the musical is a teeming, tumultuous reverie haunted, quite literally, by the sweet ghost of youth and the regrets of choices turned down or shut out. It is a difficult but lovely work, rarely staged because it's so tough to pull off — especially for a small community theater living by its wits and hard work.

The Very Little Theater, now in its 83rd year, is the oldest continuously

running community theater west of the Mississippi. I'm sure in that span of time Eugene's little theater that could has staged more than its share of off-kilter or mediocre plays, maybe even a few bonified fiascos. It happens. Which is all the more reason to celebrate and salute the enormously gutsy and ultimately successful bite director Michael Watkins and crew have taken out of Sondheim's epic, kaleidoscopic musical. According to Watkins, the VLT production is "scaled down," but even so the show is massive: Thirty-four actors swirling, singing, dancing, flirting, fighting and otherwise in constant flow on a small stage with a single set (that also accommodates a small orchestra). That *Follies* works at all under these restraints is impressive; that it works so well, achieving such grandeur and fluidity, is downright amazing.

Throughout the production, past and present occur simultaneously; everyone at the reunion is shadowed on stage by his or her younger self, a doppelganger that sometimes simply observes in wonder or, once in a while, takes over the scene in a sort of emotional flashback. Despite multiple sub-plots and tangents, *Follies* at its core is the story of two couples who, out of touch for years, come together to bid farewell to the soon-to-be-demolished theater where they first met: There is dreamy Sally (played by Sue Schroeder-White in the present, and Samantha Rose White in youth) and her aggrieved husband Buddy (Larry Kenton,

and Colin Gray in youth); and sassy Phyllis (Sharon Rosalyn Sless, in youth Cate Wolfenbarger) and her dead-inside husband, Ben (Gene Chin, in youth Cody Mendonca). Among these four characters there were youthful indiscretions, betrayals, star-crossed affairs and jilted tangles. How these past foibles play out in the foursome's near-twilight years — as greater or lesser follies of age — provides the drama, humor and sadness of this excellent production.

Under Watkins's wise, elegant direction — and thanks to a uniformly strong cast and great band — *Follies* moves with a singular grace, and it's a joy to see generations of actors inhabiting the stage together with such a winking, knowing confidence and ease. The music, of course, is sublime, with Sondheim reaching back into the age of burlesque, Big Band jazz and Tin Pan Alley (there is a stunning tap-dancing number). Sondheim's lyrics, so well delivered here, speak to the wreckage of time's wake with what can only be called a delicate cynicism, or a defeated triumph — or, really, it's just life, in all its rich, bittersweet pageantry. When Carlotta Campion (the completely amazing Peg Major, returned to the stage after years of directing) brings down the house with "I'm Still Here," you feel it in your bones, and whatever it is you feel, it's the opposite of folly. It's freedom. **EW**

Follies plays 8pm Thursdays through Saturdays, through April 2, with a matinee 2pm Sunday, March 20 & 27, at the Very Little Theatre, 2350 Hilyard; \$13-\$18; tickets at www.thevlt.com or 344-7751.

Jenya Lemeshow LMT
Lic. #8121

Synergy Massage

Gift Certificates

Deep Tissue CranioSacral Therapy Chronic Pain Relief

Medical & Auto Accident Insurance Accepted

541-684-0066 synergy massage eugene.com

1ST TIME SPECIAL: \$10 OFF!

EVENTS CALENDAR

MEDITATION IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Mixing Presence, Basic Goodness, and Letting Go, With Everyday Life!

Starts March 22nd, 5 Tuesdays, 6:15-8:30 pm
Register at www.eugene.shambhala.org

100 West Q St., Springfield, OR 97477
OPEN SKY SHAMBHALA CENTER

ew Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT Page 32 **CROSSWORD** Page 32 **HOUSING** Page 33 **ASTROLOGY** Page 34

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD: CALL 541.484.0519 EMAIL classy@eugeneweekly.com WEB classifieds.eugeneweekly.com
FAX 541.484.4044 WRITE 1251 Lincoln St., Eugene, OR 97401 VISIT Our Office 8a-5p M-F LINE ADS \$11/3 Lines, additional lines \$4.00.

Have You Tried ACUPUNCTURE?

It Could Be The Answer.

JADE SCREEN CLINIC

Marilyn Sjaastad L.Ac., M.S., M.A.

541-344-8088

www.jadescreenclinic.com

Semler Optical Services

Eye Health Exams, Glasses, Contact Lenses

John D. Wellwood, O.D.

1350 Chambers St., Eugene • 541-345-8734
eugsem@netzero.net

Serving Lane County Since 1939

WAKE UP YOGA!
Tues/Thurs 6:45-7:45 AM

PRE-NATAL YOGA
Fri 5:15-6:30 PM

WOMEN'S SACRED ANATOMY WITH ELLEN HEED
Tues April 5 6-9 pm
\$50 Pre-register by March 29th

EUGENE YOGA
A SANCTUARY FOR BODY, MIND, SPIRIT
MORE than 30 weekly classes including Zumba, Nia & Pilates
541-520-8771 • www.eugeneyoga.us

St. Vincent de Paul First Place Kids Center

- Open Mon- Fri 7:30am-6:00pm
- Children 30 mo - 5 years of age
- Great Location near LCC + UO
- Full time childcare starting at \$450

Contact Jake 541-953-4817

EVENTS

CONTACT IMPROVISATION Dance Classes 6 Fridays 3-4:15p, 4/1-5/6. \$71/\$14 drop-in 541-753-2255 Tina@heartandsoulwellness.com

FUNDRAISER FOR MARCH OF DIMES at B Squared Wine Bar 2794 Shadow View Drive Eugene (Crescent Village) B2 donating 15% of the proceeds. March 22nd 5-8pm. Stephanie Coats & Bryon Crosby 541-554-9435

LANE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND THE RAINY DAY BLUES SOCIETY are looking for Blues artifacts representing the historic blues scene in Eugene and Lane County, such as concert posters, ticket stubs, signed artifacts, stories and anecdotes from those who went to see, hang out with, or play with such visiting or local musicians as Muddy Waters, BB King, Albert King, Robert Cray, Curtis Salgado, Canned Heat, Henry Vestine, Henry Cooper, Big Monte, or any other blues notable. More info, please contact Bill Shreve at Eugene Weekly. bills@eugeneweekly.com 541-484-0519 ext.19

SUNDAYS AT EUGENE YOGA Awaken Your Spirit/Intermediate at 9:30 am, Rest & Rejuvenate/Gentle at 10 am, AcroYoga practice 5:30, beginners welcome-\$5 drop-in. See our website www.eugeneyoga.us for over 30 weekly classes

YOGA FOR JAPAN River Road Park Community Center 1400 Lake Drive **9AM-4 PM SATURDAY, MARCH 19.** New session every hour, lasts 45 mins, 15 mins of break. www.taichiyogacenter.com

ZUMBA WITH DEBRA AT IRVING GRANGE Zumba on tuesday and thursdays. At 4:30p there will be a FREE Zumba warm up class for Seniors or Grangers until 5:15p. The hip shaking, sweating to your core zumba class starts at 5:30pm. \$5.00 at the door - come check it out / Deb 541-556-3850

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR Lane COUNTY Juvenile Department In the Matter of JADEN NATHANIEL CARTER TOLLEY and ZACHARY ANDREW CARTER-TOLLEY. Children. Case No. 09-662J-02. Case No. 09-663J-02. **PUBLISHED SUMMONS TO: Andrew David Curtis Tolley.** A petition has been filed asking the court to terminate your parental rights to the above-named children for the purpose of placing the children for adoption. **YOU ARE DIRECTED TO FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER** to the petition NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF LAST PUBLICATION OF THIS SUMMONS, specified herein, admitting or denying the allegations in the petition and informing the court of your current residence address, mailing address and telephone number. **YOUR ANSWER SHOULD**

BE MAILED TO the Lane County Juvenile Department, 2727 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Eugene, Oregon 97401. You are further directed to appear at any subsequent court-ordered hearing. **AN ATTORNEY MAY NOT ATTEND ANY COURT-ORDERED HEARING IN YOUR PLACE. THEREFORE, YOU MUST APPEAR EVEN IF YOUR ATTORNEY ALSO APPEARS.** This summons is published pursuant to the order of the circuit court judge of the above-entitled court, dated February 23, 2011. The order directs that this summons be published once each week for three consecutive weeks, making three publications in all, in a published newspaper of general circulation in Lane County. Date of first publication: March 3, 2011. Date of last publication: March 17, 2011. **NOTICE READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY** IF YOU DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER AS DIRECTED ABOVE, OR DO NOT APPEAR AT ANY SUBSEQUENT COURT-ORDERED HEARING, the court may proceed in your absence without further notice and TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS to the above-named children either ON THE DATE AN ANSWER IS REQUIRED BY THIS SUMMONS OR ON A FUTURE DATE, and may make such orders and take such action as authorized by law. **RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS** (1) YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY IN THIS MATTER. If you are currently represented by an attorney, CONTACT YOUR ATTORNEY IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING THIS NOTICE. Your previous attorney may not be representing you in this matter. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY, and you meet the state's financial guidelines, you are entitled to have an

Physical Therapy and Personal Training Services
rehab from injury and specializing in chronic pain

Wade Anderson, PT **Cindy O'Brien Personal Trainer** **Rich Marlatt, PT**

Alliance Physical Therapy **Call 541-683-3375** **www.AlliancePT.us** **www.StrongBonesStrongBody.com**