

YOU ARE NOT SPECIAL

ACE's Avenue Q is Sesame Street for the millennial generation

Long-running PBS series (now on HBO) *Sesame Street* teaches children the fundamentals: ABCs and 123s, but also the principles of sharing, self-confidence and acceptance of others.

Tony Award-winning musical comedy *Avenue Q* — written by Jeff Marx, Robert Lopez and Jeff Whitty (an Oregon native and University of Oregon grad) — is like *Sesame Street* for the quarter-life-crisis set. Complete with Jim Henson-style puppetry, the show, which debuted in 2003, offers advice for getting through that tough, post-college patch.

And although, ideally, college graduates have the ABCs and 123s down, the play points out that in this period of life there's still a lot to learn about sharing, self-confidence and acceptance of one's self and others

Under the direction of Anthony Krall, *Avenue Q* is running at Actor's Cabaret of Eugene, and it's an utterly charming production — a lighthearted antidote to socially conservative Trumpism. ACE hits all the marks with the show: strong singing, excellent comic timing, professional staging and impressive utilization of the puppets.

Princeton, voiced by Cody Mendonca, is a recent college graduate coming to the big city to find his purpose. "What do you do with a B.A. in English?" he sings. Princeton moves to Avenue Q, where he meets Kate Monster (Tracy Knights) as well as the rest of this quirky neighborhood populated both by puppets and humans.

The entire cast is fantastic. In particular, there's Connor Criswell's closeted homosexual puppet Rod. And Princeton's building superintendent is Gary Coleman, played by Chelyce Chambers. Yes, that Gary Coleman. Why? Because, *why not?*

And the show is absolutely stolen by Asian-American immigrant Christmas Eve (Gene Chin) and the Oscar the Grouch-style puppet Trekkie Monster (Jeremy Wilken). Both Chin and Wilken bring the house down on several occasions, particularly with Trekkie Monster's outrageous number "The Internet is for Porn."

A clumsy love affair blossoms between Princeton and Kate Monster, and lessons are learned, not only about self-actualization but also universal truths, such as: Life sucks sometimes, you don't always accomplish your dreams, and everyone's a little bit racist. (See? Left-leaning urbanites aren't all SJW lightweights who can't take a joke.)

And although *Avenue Q* is about taking the lumps of adulting, its biggest takeaway is the most important: Life and love are tough, and you don't always get what you want. But in these things, and in many more ways, *Avenue Q* says you're never truly alone. A lesson we're all going to need to remember in the political climate of the next four years.

Avenue Q runs through Feb. 18 at Actors Cabaret Of Eugene; \$16 to \$47.95, tickets at actorscabaret.org or 541-683-4368.

MRS. T @ JENNY PARKS




HEAR YE,
HEAR YE !!

LEGAL NOTICES

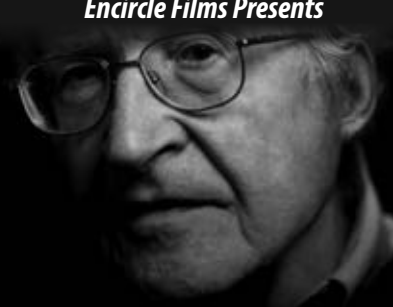
Place your legal notices
in the *Eugene Weekly!*

FAST, EFFICIENT SERVICE


call: 541.484.0519
email: legals@eugeneweekly.com
fax: 541.484.4044

Eugene Weekly qualifies for posting legal ads

Encircle Films Presents



Noam Chomsky and the Principles of Concentration of Wealth & Power



REQUIEM FOR THE AMERICAN DREAM

Thursday, Feb. 2 6pm
Bijou Arts Cinema, 492 E. 13th Avenue
Discussion following film with Eric Richardson, NAACP
Stan Taylor, LCC, Lane Peace Center




ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S
THE 39 STEPS



January 13 - February 4

Tickets: (541)465-1506 or octheatre.org


"Theatre at its finest... gleefully theatrical riff on Hitchcock's film"
- *The New York Times*



Cottage Theatre presents **February 3-19**
A fantastical high-seas adventure to Neverland **\$25 Adult, \$15 Youth (6-18)**

PETER AND THE STARREATCHER

A Play by Rick Elice • Based on the Novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson • Music by Wayne Barker Directed by Tony Rust

Sponsored by:  Magnolia Gardens

www.cottagetheatre.org • 700 Village Drive • Cottage Grove • 541-942-8001

FEBRUARY 10 + 11 2017

SPECIALTY, SEASONAL & FLAGSHIP BEERS AND CIDERS FROM ALL OVER THE WEST

LANE EVENTS CENTER

TICKETS AT KLCC.ORG

THE ESSENTIALS | DJ NATE ROBERTSON



89.7FM




ADMISSION INCLUDES TASTING GLASS + 2 DRINK TICKETS