

Coaster Theatre opens 2015 season with "Night Mother"

CANNON BEACH — Written by Marsha Norman and directed by Sheila Shaffer, "Night, Mother" opens Friday, Jan. 30 at the Coaster Theatre.

Jessie's father is dead, her marriage ended in divorce, her absent son is a petty thief, her last job didn't work out and, in general, her life is stale. As the evening unfolds, she sets about tidying the house and making a list for her mother of things to be looked after as we discover what has brought her to this desperate place in her life.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this eloquent and ultimately shattering play ex-

plores the final moments in the life a woman who has decided that it's no longer worth living.

This is a brutal, hard, thought-provoking play with multiple facets. When first produced over 30 years ago, the issue of suicide was not a subject frequently discussed and is not a topic easily broached to this day. It can always be asked, "What would I do in a similar situation?" There is no one answer; no one really knows until they are there.

In interviews with the playwright she says, "I felt with 'Night, Mother' that Jesse's decision to commit suicide was quite brave. She finally

decided that she could decide what to do with her life ... The point was not to kill herself; the point was to take charge."

When approached about the irony that it looks like self-annihilation but it actually is self-activation, Norman responded, "For people who understand that, great; the ones who don't will have another experience with it ... paintings don't come with instructions. You can't say here's how to perceive this."

The show runs Jan. 30, 31, Feb. 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 19, 20 and 21. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday shows start at 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 to \$20; call 503-436-1242 or visit coastertheatre.com

Cast and Crew

Margaret Page plays Thelma Cates. Page is a real estate



Submitted photo by George Vetter/Cannon-Beach.net
Margaret Page, left, plays Thelma Cates in the Coaster Theatre's first play of the 2015 season, "Night Mother," opposite Ann Bronson, who plays Jessie Cates.

broker/owner of Coast Real Estate Professionals in Manzanita. She studies voice at the Music Lasts A Lifetime Studio in Cannon Beach, dances tap and ballet at the Oregon Coast Dance Center in Tillamook, studied theater at Tillamook Bay Community College and with George Dzungza.

Ann Bronson plays Jessie Cates. 2000 marked Bronson's

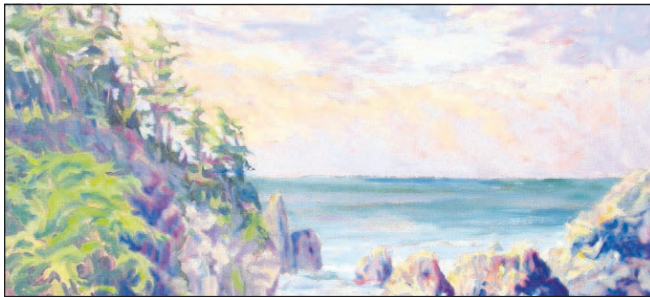
debut on the Coaster stage, and since then she has appeared in everything from "Hello, Dolly!" and "Nunsense" to Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" and "Into the Woods." She is a classically trained soprano, and has sung in operas.

Sheila Shaffer has been a Coaster Theatre veteran for the last 13 years and holds a degree in theater arts from the University of Wisconsin. She has worked with community and nonprofit theaters for over 30 years. "Night, Mother" is the 10th production she has directed at the Coaster. This summer she appeared as the Baker's Wife in the Coaster's "Into the Woods."

This is Josh Loring's third time as stage manager at the Coaster Theatre. He began in "Boys Next Door," moving

directly into "The 39 Steps." This small cast experience has been rewarding in its intimate exploration of character and story.

Sign up for 10-week art class Shirley Dahlsten to teach at Trail's End



Submitted photo

Shirley Dahlsten will teach a 10-week art class, Classical and Futuristic III, at the Trail's End Art Center starting Thursday, Feb. 12.

GEARHART — A new 10-week sculpture and painting class, entitled Classical and Futuristic III, will be offered by Shirley Dahlsten at the Trail's End Art Center, located at 656 A St.

The class will start beginning from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12.

The focus of the class will

be directed toward originality and purpose with most assignments completed outside the classroom.

Fee for the class is \$65 with one-third of this fee being donated to the Trail's End Art Center reconstruction fund.

Call 503-325-1514 for more information.

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