

KALA hosts poetry night

Hear Max Blue, Ric Vrana, John Cimenello

ASTORIA — KALA welcomes northern California-based poet Max Blue, on a Northwest tour with his project, Boy Blue, for a performance Friday, March 20. Opening the evening is Astoria's Last Tuesday poetry host Ric Vrana and Naselle, Washington-based poet John Cimenello. Doors open at 7 p.m.; the show follows at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5, and all ages welcome.

Blue began writing, and subsequently started his spoken word project, Boy Blue, in 2010. The work in this project focuses on hardship and hope, and features the musical accompaniment of several artists. As a spoken-word artist, Blue is influenced by traditional slam and beat-style poetry as well as free-style hip-hop, having grown up in the Bay Area open mic circuit. Blue is also a visual artists who works in analogue photography and paint, but he says he writes to stay alive, choosing to primarily paint with words upon the mind's eye.

Blue was the resident poet at Cafe Gratitude Santa Cruz's monthly Grateful Gatherings event and is a featured artist and member of the San Francisco-based grass-roots production group BlueBack Collective. Boy Blue will play a few northern California shows to support his recent debut EP as well as headline the event at KALA, which will also feature fellow Bay Area singer-songwriter act Andrew Boylan.

Titled "Demo," Boy Blue's

debut was self-recorded in San Francisco in early February and features the multi-instrumentation of Aaron Stevens. "Demo" is a collection of poems written within the last two years that emphasize the tribulation and passion of youth, love and personal experience through a subtle, overarching narrative.

Blue is currently working on a separate, self-titled project in co-operation with BlueBack Collective.

Ric Vrana moved to Astoria from Portland, where he wrote and performed poetry. Before that, he came from New York and northeast Ohio, landing in Seattle in his 20s where he and others began a regular poetry series at the Pike Place Market called the Red Sky Poetry Theater. His work has appeared in Ghost Town, Broken Word — the Alberta Street Anthology, Blown Out: Portland's Indy Poets, Venetian Blind Drunk, several on-line zines such as Work, and Elohi Gadugi and other print and online zines and blogs and radio broad-

Poetry night

7:30 p.m. Friday, March 20

KALA

1017 Marine Drive, Astoria

503-338-4878

All ages

\$5



Submitted photo

Max Blue will perform poetry at KALA on Friday, March 20.

casts. These days he maps for the city of Warrenton and runs a monthly Poetry Open Mic at the Port of Call Bistro and Bar in downtown Astoria.

Originally from New Bedford, Massachusetts, John Ciminello has appeared in various publications including

The Sun, Portland Mens Mentor Magazine, North Coast Squid, Columbia River Reader and RAIN magazine. He is the author of "Shrine Above High Tide" (2009).

KALA is located at 1017 Marine Drive. For more information, call 503-338-4878.

Artists invited to submit work to 'Amazing Grace'

ASTORIA — Area artists are invited to participate in the fifth annual judged Jean Barney Memorial Art Exhibit "Amazing Grace."

The exhibit will be held from June 5 to July 7 with a reception for the artists and awards presentation June 21 in the Parish Hall of Grace Episcopal Church.

Artists may submit two pieces of original work, unless one piece exceeds 24-inches by 30-inches, in which case only one piece will be accepted. Artwork is expected in wet media (acrylic, oil, watercolor, ink, mono prints, lithographs, serigraphs); dry media (pastel, charcoal, colored pencil, graphite); mixed media (collage, multi-media, Citrisolv, sculpture, fine jewelry, fiber arts); and photography (35mm; significantly enhanced 3-D).

Two-dimensional artwork must be professionally mounted, framed or presented appropriately. No glass edges or saw-tooth



Submitted photo

Artists are invited to submit to the Jean Barney Memorial Art Exhibit — "Amazing Grace" at Grace Episcopal Church. Pictured artwork is by Christi Payne.

hangars are allowed. All wires should be at least 1-inch below the top of the frame.

Entry fees are \$10 per piece, and there is a 15 percent commission on any sale.

Artists should enter their work between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, June 2 in the Parish Hall at Grace Episcopal Church, which is located at 1545 Franklin Ave.

Contact Jo Pomeroy-Crockett at 503-791-8444 or visit graceastoria.org for more information.

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