

Pop-up gallery bounces to new location

Tolovana Arts Colony features local artists at Cannon Beach American Legion

Story by ANDREW TONRY

Seven years ago, the Tolovana Arts Colony produced its first gallery show. Among the small group of Cannon Beach artists exhibiting was Debra Carnes, who had just moved to the area.

“We did it at Tolovana Hall, and we were just kind of hanging out,” Carnes remembers. “Only a few people came, but we ended up making some money.”

Despite brisk traffic, the event offered Carnes, an accomplished basket weaver, her first opportunity to show on the North Coast. Today she’s fighting to keep up with demand.

So when logistical hurdles threatened this year’s show, Carnes, a member of the Tolovana Arts Colony board, refused to take “no” for an answer. The issue was about space — or, rather, a lack thereof.

In the last few years, the arts colony was able to find and rent various vacant buildings in which organizers would erect temporary “pop-up” galleries. Last year the colony used the former Mike’s Bike location in downtown Cannon Beach. The show kicked off in conjunction with the Stormy Weather Arts Festival and remained open for the next month.

This year, however, no such properties were available.

The news came as a surprise to the arts colony board, who had assumed they’d be able to return to the Mike’s Bikes location as the space remains for rent. (It is, however, currently being used as a staging area by the owners for a mural that will be erected on the property.) Suddenly, with the date approaching, the show was in jeopardy.

“We weren’t going to do it,” says Tolovana Arts Colony Board Member and Secretary Evie Alburas. Staging the



Submitted photo

Debra Carnes, an accomplished basket weaver and member of the Tolovana Arts Colony board, was adamant that the arts colony find a venue for its annual pop-up gallery. She successfully led an agreement with the Cannon Beach American Legion to host the two-day Show Nov. 14 and 15.



Submitted photo

Debra Carnes, left, made this woven red dress for the Cannon Beach Gallery’s “Red Show” in February 2014.

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show at the group’s physical home, the Tolovana Hall, was rejected. “We were scared of that because nobody knows where it is, and it’s on the other end of town,” Alburas says.

But Carnes was adamant: The show must go on.

“There are so many people in this town that make art and don’t have a chance to show their work,” says Carnes. “So

that was my mission.”

Led by Carnes, the arts colony reached an agreement with the Cannon Beach American Legion to host the two-day show. “They were really excited,” she says of the American Legion. “They really want to support us, which is great.”

The Legion, however, was already booked the weekend

of Stormy Weather. As such, the Tolovana Arts Colony decided to push the show back a week. But Alburas is confident that operating independently of the festival and the tourists it brings will not greatly affect the bottom line.

“The majority of our sales have been to local residents,” Alburas says.

The show, which features predominantly artists from Cannon Beach, opens at noon Saturday, Nov. 14, with a reception that evening from 6 to 8 p.m. Snacks will be provided, and a handful of the contributing artists will be on hand. The works will remain on display until 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15.

On offer will be a little bit of everything, from Scott Johnson’s compact watercolors to Libby Cure’s whimsical acrylics, to jewelry from Libby Pattison and Sarah Mcallister, Carnes’ baskets and more.

“It’s good for the people buying because they’re buying one-of-a-kind, unique, hand-crafted items,” Alburas says. “And it’s good for local artists because it gives them a venue to show their work, and hopefully they can make some money. It’s win-win.”

The show can be particularly lucrative for artists, since the nonprofit Tolovana Arts Colony only takes a 15 percent commission. (Traditional galleries take around 40 percent.) But for Carnes, the event is about more than money.

“There are people in the show that show in galleries, but a lot of them don’t,” she says. “So for them this is a huge opportunity.” It’s just like the opportunity Carnes herself had when she moved to the North Coast.

“I wanted to continue this because they gave me a chance,” Carnes says of the arts colony. “We can’t not do this. This is really important. So we’re doing it.”



Submitted photo

“The Birds” will perform Nov. 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22 at the River City Playhouse.

For thrills, here’s a chiller Peninsula Players present ‘The Birds’

ILWACO, Wash. — “The Birds!” are coming: crows, gulls, starlings, cormorants, raptors and ravens. All flocked, diving and screeching — crazed by mysterious, swirling tidal forces. They’re wild, red-eyed, yellow-taloned, sword-beaked hellions, wreaking feathered havoc on a cursed and waning society, avengers from the sky.

These birds are wound-up and ticked-off, and they’re swarming down into Ilwaco by the hundreds of thousands, creeping along the rooftop at the River City Playhouse.

Such is the scene in “The Birds,” written by Irish playwright Conor McPherson in 2009, inspired by Daphne du Maurier’s short story. Alfred Hitchcock’s 1963 film “The Birds” was also inspired by du Maurier’s story, and, like Hitchcock’s film, McPherson’s play spins-off the original story as a newly thrilling, well-hewn modern chiller. You can see it yourself, brought to the stage by the Peninsula Players.

Laurie Carter both directs and plays the part of Julie, a woman thrust into an inextricable triangle with Diane and Nat. Tracy Roach plays a calm and calculating Diane, who may or may not deceive audiences with her feinting of innocence, but who has the heart of a shrike along with semblances of a lovely looking feathered flame. Barry Sears plays Nat, the point of the triangle, who tries to help the others survive, all the while teetering on the edge of crazy.

‘The Birds’

7 p.m. Friday and Saturday,
Nov. 13, 14, 20 and 21

2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15 and 22

River City Playhouse

127 S.E. Lake St., Ilwaco, Wash.

360-244-0318

Bob Goldberg plays Tierney, a lonely nearby farmer, one of the few people left on earth (he muses) after the bird attacks, lonely and desperate — he needs a mate.

“The Birds” will take the stage for two weekends at the River City Playhouse, located at 127 S.E. Lake St. The show runs at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13 and 14, with a 2 p.m. matinée Sunday, Nov. 15. It continues at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 20 and 21, with a closing matinée at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22.

Call producer Joe Paliani at 360-244-0318 for tickets and more information. Tickets are \$10 each, available at Stormin’ Normin’s in Long Beach, Oakies’ Thriftway Market in Ocean Park, Old Towne Coffee Shop in Ilwaco, and at the River City Playhouse box office on the days and evenings of performances.

This play has adult language and themes that may not be appropriate for youth under 18. Also, the faint of heart are warned: This is a scary play guaranteed to ramp up your heart beat.