

Two artists selected for AVA a-i-r program

Blaine Verley, Annie Eskelin granted three-month residency

ASTORIA — Astoria Visual Arts' Artist-in-Residence Program has selected Blaine Verley of Astoria and Annie Eskelin of Warrenton for the upcoming three-month residencies, which run Jan. 1 through March 30.

The two artists will work unencumbered in studios provided rent-free by Astoria Visual Arts, with support from Astoria Coffee House & Bistro, Albatross & Co., Astoria Co-op Grocery, City Lumber, Dots 'N Doodles Art Supplies and Fort George Brewery.

In his 40-plus years of pursuing painting, Verley has never worked out of a studio of his own, set aside and furnished just for creating art. He looks forward to working with larger canvases that he hasn't been able to execute in his current work/living space. Verley aims to continue to chronicle "Astoria Nocturne," a visual idea he has pursued since 1983. "I truly feel as though I am reaching my stride when it comes to painting cityscapes, landscapes, figures, faces, still life and purely inventive scenes from dreamscapes and my imagination," he says.

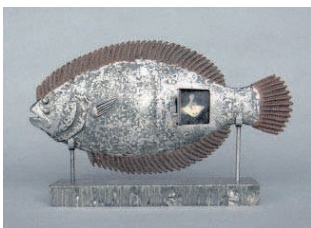
In moving to Astoria, Eskelin resigned as the executive director for the arts center in La Grande, a position that fed her artistic spirit but also kept her busy from creating her own work.

"I am now a stay-at-home mom and feel incredibly inspired



Submitted photo

A painting by Blaine Verley.



Submitted photo

"Flounder and the Soul" by Annie Eskelin.

by this area," she says. "I am eager for the opportunity to have my own studio, experiment with different mixed-media elements and see what happens."

Although she likes the intimacy of working small, Eskelin will use her residency to work on a larger scale and hopes to develop a body of work to exhibit locally.

The AVA a-i-r program is designed to encourage the creative, intellectual and professional growth of emerging artists. While no exhibition, publication or performance is required, community responsibility includes a weekend open studio event before the end of each AVA a-i-r session. Finalists (currently limited to locally based artists) are chosen in a blind selection process on the basis of artistic merit by an independent panel of established working artists and arts patrons.

AVA was founded in 1989 as a nonprofit membership organization to enhance, strengthen and promote the arts in the Astoria area. For more information, visit www.astoriavisualarts.org

'Rumors' abound on stage in Tillamook

TAPA presents Neil Simon comedy play Jan. 22 to Feb. 6

TILLAMOOK — The Tillamook Association for the Performing Arts presents the Neil Simon comedy "Rumors," directed by Kelli McMellon.

The play opens Friday, Jan. 22 with an opening gala celebration that includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a beverage of choice with the purchase of each ticket. The show runs through Feb. 6. Friday and Saturday performances begin at 7 p.m., and Sunday matinees begin at 2 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes prior to curtain.

"Rumors" is set in a New York townhouse, where the Deputy Mayor of New York City has just shot himself. Though only a flesh wound, four couples are about to experience a severe attack of farce. Gathering for their 10th wedding anniversary, the host lies bleeding in the other room, and his wife is nowhere in sight. His lawyer and lawyer's wife must get "the story" straight before the other guests arrive. As confusion and miscommunications mount, the evening spins off into classic farcical hilarity.

The cast for this comedy include both theater veterans as well as several actors making their stage debut. Playing Ken Gorman and his wife, Chris, the well-to-do lawyers who are first on the scene, are



Submitted photo

TAPA will present the Neil Simon play "Rumors" Jan. 22 through Feb. 6 in Tillamook.

stage couple Glenn (a state senator) and Cassie Cooper, who is convinced Glenn is cheating on her. Rounding out the cast is Gerry Cortimilia playing Officer Welch and Suzannah Floyd playing Office Pudney.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children are 12 and under. Reserved seating is available through Diamond Art Jewelers located at 307 Main St.; call 503-842-7940. For more information, email info@tillamooktheater.com

Celebrating 35 years in Tillamook, TAPA is a nonprofit community theater dedicated to providing high quality performing arts experiences through entertainment, education and community participation. TAPA's Barn Community Playhouse is located at 1204 Ivy St.

'Rumors'

7 p.m. Friday and Saturday,
Jan. 22, 23, 29, 30, Feb. 5 and 6

2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24 and 31

Barn Community Playhouse

1204 Ivy St., Tillamook

\$15 adults, \$10 children

Christian Chiola and Anita O'Hagan. Lenny and Claire Ganz, who arrive after a car accident, are played by newcomer Joey Hake and TAPA veteran Margaret Page. Dave Mattison is in the role of Ernie Cusack, a psychiatrist, and is partnered by newcomer Sandra Neumiller playing Ernie's wife, Cookie. Real-life couple Micah and Briar Smith play

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