

# Comedic musical revue asks 'Ain't Retirement Grand?'

## Peninsula Players to present light-hearted show set in a senior center

ILWACO, Wash. — For those who are retired or are looking forward to the those “care free days” in the next 40 years, the Peninsula Players are presenting a comedic musical revue entitled “Ain't Retirement Grand?” The light-hearted musical examines some of the joys and pitfalls of retirement. It may cause some to wonder whether retirement is as grand as they once thought.

The audience will be entertained with such songs such as “Older Lovers,” “Early Bird Special” and “Wrinkles.” There will be “old people dancing” in some of the more upbeat numbers with choreography by Rita Smith.

The cast consists of eight of the Peninsula Players' more accomplished singers and actors. Many have appeared in past musicals for the theater group.

Smith is directing the

production. Smith has directed several musicals for the players, including “Camelot,” “Give My Regards to Broadway” and last year's “Little Shop Of Horrors.” She is also an accomplished actress and has appeared in several plays on the Long Beach Peninsula.

The musical director is Barbara Bate, who is well known for her talent as a pianist and all around musician. Not only does she accompany the singers, but she teaches the music to the singers as well. Many hours are spent not only memorizing the lyrics, but learning the notes. Bate has worked with Smith in all of her musicals; it is a partnership that has brought results.

The “goings on” take place in a senior center. The usual problems of those “Golden Years” come to the surface at the center. Solutions are as hard to come by as trying



Submitted photo

The Peninsula Players will present “Ain't Retirement Grand?” March 4 to 20 at the River City Playhouse in Ilwaco, Washington.

to decide whether to turn up a hearing aid or ignore the world. It is a fun-packed musical with humor that only an adult will understand.

“Ain't Retirement Grand?” opens Friday, March 4 for a three-weekend run to March 20. Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, with matinees at 2 p.m. Sundays. The musical will be performed at the River City Playhouse, located

at 127 S.E. Lake St.

A special champagne reception is planned for opening night. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. for the reception.

Tickets are \$15 and are available at the usual outlets: Okies' Thriftway in Ocean Park, Stormin' Normans in Long Beach, and Olde Towne Café in Ilwaco. Tickets will also be sold at the door, if available. For additional information, call 360-244-3517.



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Bradford Loomis and Beth Whitney will perform March 5 in Long Beach, Washington.

## Beth Whitney, Bradford Loomis play in Long Beach

LONG BEACH, Wash. — When artists Beth Whitney and Bradford Loomis began writing together they had no idea their casual co-writing experiment would blossom into the award winning, critically acclaimed album “The Banner Days.” That first night, they wrote “My Beloved” in two hours.

The Peninsula Arts Center welcomes singer-songwriters Beth Whitney and Bradford Loomis together on stage at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 5. Tickets are \$12, and doors open at 6:30 p.m.

From the first time Whitney and Bradford played together, along with Whitney's husband and collaborator Aaron Fishburn, the chemistry has been powerful. The combination of Whitney's delicate, pure and melodious voice and Loomis' soulful, growling tone makes for a beautifully heart

wrenching harmonious blend.

Their dramatic crescendos and minimalist intensity through intricate harmonies have elicited comparisons to The Civil Wars, the Swell Season, Robert Plant and Alison Krauss' “Raising Sand.”

With equal parts sweetly anthemic pop-tinged folk provided by Whitney's and Loomis' gritty, passionate Americana roots sound, “The Banner Days” is an intrepid step for both artists that has garnered them awards.

The Peninsula Arts Center is located at 504 N. Pacific Ave. Admission is \$12 at the door, online through Brown Paper Tickets, or call Bill at 360-901-0962. Wine, beer, and other refreshments are available for purchase.

Concerts benefit the Long Beach Peninsula Acoustic Music Foundation, a nonprofit organization.

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