

# 'The Drunkard' melodrama is on tap

ILWACO, Wash. — The audience will have a chance to prove that “love overcomes liquor” as they cheer the hero and boo the villain in “The Drunkard,” starting at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 19, and running through the weekend at the River City Playhouse, 127 S.E. Lake St. in Ilwaco.

Cribbs, the villain, is out to get the opposite result and proclaim that “liquor overcomes love,” in this Peninsula Players production.

This old-fashioned melodrama is an adaptation of the original produced in 1844 at the P. T. Barnum Lecture Room in New York City. The production broke all records for a New York “run” up to that time. The play went on to become one of the weapons used by the American Temperance League in their fight to bring about Prohibition to America.

The plot centers on Cribbs, who has only two goals. The first is to scam the rightful owner of a large inheritance by causing death by the “demon rum.” His second goal is to marry the sweet and tender Mary. Alcohol



Cast of “The Drunkard”

becomes the major tool in his onslaught.

Cribbs is helped along by his sidekick, Stickler. The plot thickens when poor Mary has to choose between the evil Cribbs and the drunkard. Mary’s mother tries to convince Mary that to marry for money is more important

than love. ‘

“The Drunkard” is further enhanced by original music by Rita Smith on piano to accentuate the good and evil of the characters. Smith has appeared as the pianist in several Peninsula Players’ performances.

Shows are 7 p.m. Thurs-

day through Saturday, May 21. There is a matinee at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 22.

Presale tickets are available at the Olde Towne Trading Post in Ilwaco, Stormin’ Normans in Long Beach and Okies Thriftway in Ocean Park. Tickets will also be available at the door.

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## Go underwater for next History & Hops

SEASIDE — The next History & Hops free local history lecture is 6 p.m. Thursday, May 26, at Seaside Brewing Co., located at 851 Broadway.

Jerry Ostermiller, executive director of the Columbia River Maritime Museum, will share “A Tale of Two Shipwrecks: Underwater Archaeology on the Most Dangerous Bar,” which introduces a 1989 discovery of a mysterious shipwreck near Sand Island at the mouth of the Columbia River.

Underwater archaeology in extreme environments is inherently difficult. The Columbia River Maritime Museum and the National Park Service’s Cultural Resource Dive Team initially identified this ship as the Hudson’s Bay Co. supply vessel Isabella.

Over the next 18 years, Ostermiller conducted annual monitoring dives for the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office which produced new information requiring further study, leading to a different shipwreck identity. This shipwreck has become a national case study and



Jerry Ostermiller

was featured in a National Geographic Society TV production illustrating the value of new “CSI-type” technologies.

Ostermiller is an award-winning historian specializing in underwater archaeology. He is a master diver and a founding member of the Maritime Archaeology Society and the Pacific Northwest Maritime Heritage Council. He served as the executive director of the Maritime Museum for 20 years.

History & Hops is a monthly series of local history discussions hosted by the Seaside Museum at Seaside Brewing Co.

## Manzanita Writers’ Series features Nicole Hardy

MANZANITA — Nicole Hardy will read from her memoir, “Confessions of a Latter-Day Virgin,” at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 21, at the Hoffman Center for the Arts in Manzanita, 594 Laneda Ave, with a writing workshop during the day.

“Her struggle between trying to be the woman her community expects her to become and her growing conviction that she must be herself, is one I won’t soon forget,” said Suzanne Morrison, author of “Yoga Bitch.”

Hardy’s memoir was a finalist for the 2014 Washington State Book Award.



Nicole Hardy

Her other books include the poetry collections “This Blonde” and “Mud Flap

Girl’s XX Guide to Facial Profiling,” a chapbook of pop-culture inspired sonnets. Her work has appeared in many literary journals and newspapers including The New York Times, and has been adapted for radio and stage. Her essay “Single, Female, Mormon, Alone” was noted in 2012’s “Best American Essays.”

From 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, she will lead a workshop: Writing Our Personal Stories. Students will divide their time among lecture, discussion, and writing exercises to delve into the art of creating memoir from mem-

ory. Hardy will share lessons learned the hard way, show samples from other authors, and explain how novelists’ techniques can be useful in writing memoir.

Registration fee for the workshop is \$30. Register online at hoffmanblog.org

Following Hardy’s reading and Q&A in the evening is an Open Mic where up to nine local or visiting writers will read 5 minutes of their original work. The suggested (not required) theme for the evening’s Open Mic is “Confessions.” Admission for the evening reading is \$7.

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