

Have a laugh with live radio theater

KALA hosts performance of 'Fibber McGee and Molly' and 'The Goon Show'

ASTORIA — Do you yearn for the live radio programs of yesteryear? Indulge your nostalgia Friday and Saturday, Aug. 19 and 20 when "Station KBS 780" presents Live Radio Theater at KALA.

If the station doesn't ring a bell, for longtime coastal theatergoers the names Ken Chapman and Kay Bredleau will.

In 1979, the two local actors portrayed "The Odd Couple" in an Astoria theater space (now Fulio's Restaurant) and remained inspired friends, performing in many local theater pro-

ductions. Chapman was the longtime theater instructor at Astoria High School, and soon his wife, Ardi Urell, a dancer and choreographer, as well as one-time Knappa High School drama teacher and professional actor Arnie Hummasti joined the thespian group.

Now, Chapman and Urell want to bring old-time radio from the 1930s, '40s and '50s back to life. They foresee an on-stage radio theater company that will take audiences back to the days of radio waves, live recordings and sound effects.

Produced by Urell, the project is an homage to Kay and his wife Evelyn Bredleau, who have both passed, and may serve as a fundraising tool for local charities and nonprofits.

To kickoff the project Aug. 19 and 20, Hummasti

will direct the iconic "Fibber McGee and Molly" in "The Piano Lesson." From 1935 to 1959, millions tuned their radios every Tuesday night to NBC's "Fibber McGee and Molly" radio comedy series to chuckle over the adventures of radio's most beloved couple. It became the country's top-rated show, beating out the likes of Bob Hope and Jack Benny.

The cast for this KALA performance of the episode "The Piano Lesson" includes Walt Trumbull, Dinah Urell, Sofie Kline, Slab Slabinski, Jane Hill and Dexter Gregory — replete with sound effects.

Then, in another blast from the past, longtime coastal director Sheila Schaffer will direct "The Affair of the Loan Banana" episode from the early '50s British radio comedy "The

Goon Show." Considered a radio precursor of "Monty Python's Flying Circus," the show produced scripts that mixed ludicrous plots with surreal humor, puns, catchphrases and an array of bizarre sound effects that were used to satirize contemporary life in Britain.

The cast for this performance at KALA includes actors Bill Ham, Bill Honl and Slab Slabinski. KALA sound tech Les Kanekuni will supply additional sound effects.

Doors open for the performances at 8 p.m., and the shows start at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 at the door. A full bar will be available; all ages are welcome to attend.

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left, Slab Slabinski, Jane Hill, Dinah Urell, Walt Trumbull, Arnie Hummasti and Sofie Kline will bring to life "The Piano Lesson," an episode from the 1935-1959 radio comedy series "Fibber McGee and Molly." Not pictured is Dex Gregory. The live stage performance will take place at KALA on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 19 and 20.

Sign up for September writing workshops

Nick Jaina to lead workshops at Sou'Wester Lodge

SEAVIEW, Wash. — Portland musician and author Nick Jaina will lead a set of writing workshops at the Sou'Wester Lodge this September.

Set for Monday through Thursday, Sept. 12 to 15, the workshops focus on all the good things that writing can do for your mental and emotional state, how it can bring you closer to people, and how it can help you understand the world. Rather than just trying to make something marketable, workshop attendees will work on discovering the interesting, funny and wonderful ideas that are sitting inside of them.

Workshops will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or from 2 to 5 p.m. Students can sign



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nick Jaina will lead creative writing workshops this September in Seaview.

up for the workshop and then pick the time slot they prefer. You can sign up for one day or all four.

Cost is \$100 for all four days or \$30 per day.

A musician and writer, Jaina has toured the world during the last decade, releasing several albums on HUSH Records and Fluff & Gravy Records. His first book, "Get It While You Can," is a memoir about a love of music and the world. The book was a

finalist for the 2016 Oregon Book Award for creative nonfiction.

He has also taught writing workshops for 10 years at Pendleton Rock Camp.

Students should bring a laptop or pen and paper and a sack lunch or snack. Hot tea and coffee will be provided. The workshops are for students ages 15 and older. All skill levels are welcome. Each workshop session will cap at five students.

Students do not have to stay at the Sou'Wester Lodge to take the workshops, though the lodge will offer winter retreat prices: \$150 for any suite for the week or \$50 per night.

Sign up for the workshops by emailing souwest-erfrontdesk@gmail.com or calling 360-642-2542.

The lodge is located at 3728 J Place.

Find fine art, crafts at Westport Art Festival

WESTPORT, Wash. — The 19th annual Westport Art Festival is this weekend: Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 21.

Over 70 local and regional artists from the Pacific Northwest will offer their best works in glass, wood, metal and ceramics at this outdoor art festival. Find items for the home and garden, paintings, jewelry, handcrafted children's toys and gifts.

The festival features a relaxed atmosphere, set against a backdrop of the marina and Westport Maritime Museum, located at 2201 Westhaven Drive.

There will be street food vendors as well as a beer garden serving local micro-



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The festival takes place outside the Westport Maritime Museum, which occupies a historic U.S. Coast Guard building.

brews. Live music will add to the festivities from two stages all weekend, including All In, Greg Parke and the bluegrass band The Old Sidekicks.

For more information, visit westportartfestival.org or find Westport Art Festival on Facebook.

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