

Movie: 'Seaside' received support from community



Ariana DeBose and Matt Shingledecker filming at Hug Point.

Submitted Photos



Ariana DeBose and Matt Shingledecker at Yelda's Boutique in Seaside.

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Convention Center, which offered up a side room for an interrogation scene. Zalutsky, a Portland native and master of fine arts graduate from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, was short-listed for the Independent Spirit Award's "Someone to Watch Award" for his first feature, "You Belong To Me."

His 17-minute film "How to Make it to the Promised Land" was funded through Kickstarter and a Jerome Foundation grant. Zalutsky wrote "Seaside" during a residency at the MacDowell Colony, an artist colony in New Hampshire.

This month, a social media fundraising campaign is helping filmmakers cross the finish line.

'Hamilton' star

Ariana DeBose, who appeared in the original Broadway cast of "Hamilton," stars with Oregon native Steffanie Leigh in this female-driven revenge thriller.

"The film is a thriller with lots of twists," Zalutsky said.

His script tells the story of a young woman who moves to the Oregon Coast with her boyfriend to start a new life in the beach house he's inherited from his parents. When the two bump into another young woman who has previous knowledge of the boyfriend, it becomes apparent the boyfriend hasn't been

entirely forthcoming about his past. Bad things — very bad things — soon start happening.

To produce the film, Zalutsky recruited fellow Portlanders Alyssa Roehrenbeck ("The Drunk Series," "Gage," "DOT") and Kevin Corstange, who has appeared in productions at Portland Center Stage and now is a New York-based producer.

Local casting was provided by Simon Max Hill, who also helped cast IFC's "Portlandia."

"Seaside" received encouragement and support from the local Seaside community, including in-kind donations from local businesses, including Sleepy Monk Coffee, Cannon Beach's American Legion Post 168, Seaside Gelato, the Spindrift Inn and the City of Seaside Union Bank.

Basic Rights Oregon, a progressive group for social equality, also hosted a fundraiser to benefit both "Seaside" and the organization.

As the film draws closer to completion, Zalutsky said he's starting to submit it to film festivals, some of them in Oregon. He hopes to have screenings in Portland and on the coast.

The local landscape plays a key role, with its "beautiful, but dangerous" cliffs, rocks, wind and rain.

"As befits the landscape, we learn it's not an easy place to live," Zalutsky said. "The environment is beautiful but dangerous."



Matt Shingledecker and Ariana DeBose at Funland in the movie, "Seaside."

Miller: 'I love it even more now that I live here. That's the truth'

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"It's really cool when people say to you, whether you're on the radio or on the trolley, 'I did not know that,'" he said. "I love that, when I can tell you something you didn't know."

'Heavy lifting'

Miller got into radio broadcasting back when many people considered radio work not a "real job." In fact, the father of a girl he was interested in wouldn't let his daughter date Miller because the man considered radio a disreputable profession.

But radio involves a lot of heavy lifting, Miller said: "You're just using your mind and not your arms."

"It's a lot of work," he said, "and the hardest thing to do in this business is go in, and do what you do, when somebody just died, you had a big fight with your wife, your dog died, you got a bill that came that you didn't expect, you're afraid you're going to lose your job."

"But you have to go in there and perform the same way every day," he said. "And if you don't think that's difficult, try it. That's what separates the

pros from the amateurs."

Miller's career began back when disc jockeys actually jockeyed discs — or, in Miller's case, 45s.

Decades ago, his show prep involved buying the early morning print editions of prominent newspapers and going into the studio with clippings and notes. The arrival of the Internet broadened the information he talked about on the air.

Miller's shows were non-partisan — and, for the most part, apolitical — but they occasionally had a satiric edge. When Oregon's U.S. Rep. Wes Cooley was caught lying about his military service, for example, Miller wrote a scathing parody song about the scandal.

"If you listened to my show and you figured out my politics, good for you. But I didn't rant and rave about it," he said. "People figured me out pretty quick, but I didn't go on and on. And I don't think if you disagree with me you're stupid; I think you disagree with me. And I get that; that's how the world works. And I don't like these liberal and conservative labels. I never did — it's too easy."

'Blessed'

Miller pulled some memorable on-air stunts, such as phoning Idi Amin, the mass-murdering former president of Uganda whose number Miller somehow got a hold of. "He talked to me long enough to tell me he wasn't going to talk to me," Miller said.

One time, Miller called the Eiffel Tower and asked for the recipe for French dressing.

He flew with the Blue Angels, and rode with Australian racing driver Geoff Brabham. He's hosted his show from Disneyland and Walt Disney World, and called in reports from around the globe.

"God has just blessed me and my family through this goofy business to the point where I don't know what I've done to deserve it," he said.

And a person who feels blessed needs to give something back, according to Miller, who said he likes to use his "big mouth" to do good in the world.

When he learned that low-income parents in Oregon and southwest Washington couldn't afford eyeglasses or hearing aids for their children, Miller and KEX crew founded a nonprofit charity — now called the KEX Kids Fund

— to raise money for the cause.

"You haven't seen anything until you've seen a kid that never heard before put on a set of hearing aids and hear their mom for the first time," he said.

For the effort, Miller received an award in 1988 from President Ronald Reagan in the White House Rose Garden. "That was a huge moment for me," he said. "It was like the icing on the cake."

'That's the truth'

Miller, 65, finds it funny that he ended up in Astoria, because his life began in Ironton, Ohio — a little town with enormous historical significance that lies on a major river.

He and his wife, Shirley, bought a house in town about 15 years ago, and visited on weekends and holidays. Moving to Astoria from Beaverton, he said, was the best decision they ever made, "other than getting married."

"We love it over here," he said, "and I love it even more now that I live here, and that's the truth."

— Erick Bengel



Submitted Photo

Bob Miller, of Astoria, is wearing the full trolley conductor uniform next to Old 300, the Astoria Riverfront Trolley.

Sick leave: Employers with 10 or more workers would have to comply

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"We are still considering our options," said Kristina Edmunson, a department spokeswoman.

Gov. Kate Brown is named as a defendant in the lawsuit, but the Department of Justice will ultimately decide whether to appeal the ruling, said Chris Pair, a spokesman for the governor.

"Gov. Brown carefully reviewed the paid sick leave bill before signing it and disagrees with the court's decision," Pair said in an emailed statement.

The law, passed in the 2015 legislative session, requires employers with at least 10 employees to offer 40 hours of

sick leave each year. Employers with fewer staff members are required to provide the same amount of unpaid sick time.

Linn, Douglas, Jefferson, Malheur, Morrow, Polk, Sherman, Wallowa and Yamhill counties challenged the requirement in May. Linn County already provides paid sick time to more than 95 percent of its employees, Nyquist said. County commissioners, however, objected to providing the benefit to temporary and seasonal park and fair employees. Doing so would have cost the county on order of \$40,000 per year, Nyquist said.

Nyquist said he hopes the ruling will give lawmakers pause when they consider pass-

ing future measures that would cost counties more money.

"This is a comprehensive effort on our part to proactively manage our budget going forward," Nyquist said. "You get to that place where you have that gap, and you are cutting positions or asking taxpayers for more money. We think the taxpayers are not in the mood to be receptive to those requests, and we have had for a number of years, the Legislature introducing and sometimes passing measures that had financial consequences and didn't track with the constitutional amendment."

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.



Public Meeting Columbia River System Operations

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration invite the public to help identify issues that the agencies will analyze in the Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement. The agencies will use this EIS to assess the effects and update their approach to operations of 14 federal dams and related facilities in the interior Columbia River basin.

The agencies welcome your comments, suggestions and information to help inform the scope of issues, potential effects and range of alternatives evaluated in the EIS.

Thursday, December 15, 2016
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
The Loft at the Red Building
20 Basin Street
Astoria, Oregon

For more information about the Columbia River System Operations EIS, please visit this website: <http://www.crso.info>

Information is also available by calling 800-290-5033.