

## What's for Dessert Theatre? The dramedy 'The Porch'

ASTORIA — Sex, comedy and heartbreak are the elements of the American Association of University Women's production of "The Porch" by Jack Neary.

Performances are held 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, and 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4. This year's production has returned to its home: the Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, at the northeast corner of Harrison and 11th streets, with new handicapped access.

This is AAUW's annual Dessert Theatre Scholarship fundraiser.

The two-act show takes place in Eastern Massachusetts during Labor Day Weekend 2004.

It is a comedy; it is a drama. It is about people like you and people you know. All action occurs on a front porch.

Five friends discuss everything: sex, sports, scandals, shared tragedies, love, enduring friendships, long marriages, family dynamics and historical events such as



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"The Porch" cast (from left): Slab (Robert) Slabinski, Meredith Reiley, Gigi Chadwick, Sheila Shaffer, Frank Jagodnik

the Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky liaison.

Tickets are discounted Friday for \$12, which includes homemade cookies. On Saturday, tickets are \$15, which includes the reinstated famous Dessert Theatre (only on Saturday). Tickets are available from AAUW members and at the door. For more information, call 503-325-7969.

The play, directed by Susi Brown, stars Meri Reiley, Sheila Shaffer, Gigi Chadwick, Slab Slabinski and Frank Jagodnik.

Neary's plays have been produced in the U.S. and Canada. In 2006, his play "Jerry Finnegan's Sister" toured France, and his romantic comedy "First Night" was produced off-Broadway.

## ALIENS INVADE CLATSKANIE!

CLATSKANIE — The most notorious radio show in history, "The War of the Worlds," will be performed 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Birkenfeld Theatre in Clatskanie (75 S. Nehalem St.).

The show will be done in classic 1938 radio style, including live sound effects.

Written by Howard Koch ("Casablanca"), the program was originally broadcast on Orson Welles' radio show, "The Mercury Theatre on the Air." The Martian invasion was presented in such a realistic style that many listeners — who were already tense about the prospect of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

An actor performs the radio broadcast of "The War of the Worlds"

war in Europe — thought it was real. The original performance is known as "the night that panicked

America."

Sponsored by the Clatskanie Arts Commission, this performance will be Stageworks Northwest Theatre's first production in Clatskanie.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors 60 and older and students, \$10 for children. Buy tickets online at [clatskaniearts.org](http://clatskaniearts.org) or by calling 503-728-3403.

The show will also be performed at Stageworks' home theater in Longview, Washington. For more information about the Longview shows and the organization, visit [stageworksnorthwest.org](http://stageworksnorthwest.org).



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Steve The Pretty Good casts a spell in Raymond

RAYMOND, WASH. — Steve Hamilton brings his magic act to Raymond in two performances the weekend before Halloween — one for kids, another for adults — both held at the historic Raymond Theatre (323 Third St.).

Steve The Pretty Good, as he's known in magic, appears 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, in a family-friendly 'Hocus Pocus' event aimed at adults. Tickets are \$10, payable at the door. Friends of the Raymond Theatre sponsors this event. Proceeds benefit the theater.

Saturday's event will

also feature "Goodies to Go," namely, fall baked goods: cupcakes, pumpkin rolls, pumpkin breads, apple pies and more.

Then, at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29, Steve brings kid-level comedy to a Sunday Afternoon Live for Youth event. Tickets are \$5; children must bring a responsible adult.

Kids can model their favorite Halloween costumes, too, during a costume contest at the event.

Born in Canada, Hamilton's family moved to Seattle, where he attended school, joined the Marine Corps, got married and had

two kids, became a firefighter/paramedic, then fell under the spell of comedy magic. He put together a small show and hit the streets as a busker, honing his sleight of hand and entertaining anyone who would stop to watch.

Creating a larger show, he began performing at local fairs, eventually bringing his show across the country, even around the world.

Friends of the Raymond Theatre is a new organization whose goal is to preserve, maintain and improve the theater by raising awareness and funds.