

Josie Posey and Dawson Yukon Shadd during a dress rehearsal of 'Shanghaied in Astoria.'
COLIN MURPHEY PHOTO



CAPTIVE AUDIENCE

History meets histrionics in 'Shanghaied in Astoria,' opening July 12 at Astor Street Opry Company

By HANNAH SIEVERT
COAST WEEKEND

Astoria's favorite musical, "Shanghaied in Astoria," returns to the Astor Street Opry Company on Thursday, July 12. Now in its 34th season, the play is the oldest continuously running melodrama in the U.S.

The show centers around Eric, who is "shanghaied," or kidnapped, away from Astoria and his love, Virginia, and forced to perform labor on a ship. Written by former Clatsop Community College professor Del Corbett in the mid-1980s, the script includes humorous nods to

Astoria's Scandinavian roots. The story is told in vaudeville melodrama style with cartoon-like acting that is big and broad.

This year's director, Ashley Mundel, hopes to bring new faces and new flash to the production while staying true to the original script. Mundel has been acting in "Shanghaied" for 15 years, primarily in the role of Miss Macie. This will be her first time directing the production.

"I'm blessed to do this and I'm excited," Mundel said. "I've had a lot of ideas for a long time."

Mundel steps into the role during a shift in leadership for Astor Street. Last year's director, Markus Brown, left

'SHANGHAIED IN ASTORIA'

When: Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, with three Sunday matinees, from Thursday, July 12, through Saturday, Sept. 1. Evening performances 7 p.m., Sunday matinees 2 p.m. July 22, and Aug. 5 and 19.

Where: Astor Street Opry Company, 129 W. Bond St. Box office opens one hour before performances, house opens 30 minutes before performances.

Tickets: Front-row seats \$20; all others \$15 adults; \$10 children. The company is also offering \$10 Fridays, which means all seats are \$10 on Fridays.

For more information, visit shanghaiedinastoria.com