

Astoria School of Ballet celebrates a dancing decade

ASTORIA — The Liberty Theatre is abuzz getting ready to welcome more than 2,000 students between the ages of 4 and 11 over four school field trips next week! This year marks the 10th anniversary of the collaboration between the Liberty Theatre and the Astoria School of Ballet.

The Astoria School of Ballet was founded by Margaret Wall in June 2004 and has since become recognized as one of the premier ballet schools on the Oregon Coast. The Astoria School of Ballet has proudly been located within The Liberty Theatre, 1203 Commercial St., since 2012.

'The Princess and the Pea'

The story of "The Princess and the Pea" follows a prince who is searching for a princess to marry. However, the prince's mother (the queen) doesn't want him to just marry any old princess. She wants to find a real princess for him. So, when the princesses come to visit, the queen has them sleep on a bed of 22 mattresses with one pea hidden waaaaaaaay at the bottom!

Which princess will feel the pea under the mattresses? Will she marry the prince? Perfect for all ages, this ballet is colorful and whimsical and is sure to delight Liberty



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audiences. Original adaptation is by Wall.

Tickets to the public performance at 7 p.m. Friday, May 10, are \$15 and are

available in the Liberty Box Office from 2 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday or at libertyastoria.org

Snow White is all new again with Pier Pressure Productions

ASTORIA — On Wednesday, May 15, Pier Pressure Productions continues its TEN-FIFTEEN series with "Snow White," a modern adaptation of the 19th-century German fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm.

The performances are 10:15 a. m., 12:15 p. m., and 7:15 p.m. at 1015 Commercial St. It is free to the public. Children will be seated first.

This version is neither the original Brothers Grimm tale nor the 1937 animated version by Walt Disney Studios. The audience meets tall dwarfs who work in the woods rather than the mines.

The princess is called Snowy by her friends, a trio of talking animals. Her father is going to marry a not-so-nice queen, who engages her sidekick, Dame Ditzzy-Doodle, to do her bidding.

The queen leaves her trickery behind and embraces her new life until her magic mirror tells her she is no longer "the fairest in the land."

Fortunately, the story has a handsome prince, who "saves the day." In traditional fairy tale parlance, our narrator begins with "Once upon a time" and yes, ends with



Submitted photo

Front row: Brandy Hussa, Nancy Montgomery and Carol Newman Second row: Toby Hussa, Gigi Chadwick and Stephen Wood Back row: Sally Musemeche, Jason Hussa, Ben Van Osdol, Slab Slabinski, Bill Ham, Gigi Chadwick, Katrina Godderz, Jacob Storm Deatherage, Richard Bracke, Daric Moore and Mick Alderman

"They all lived happily ever after."

The cast and crew are Rhonda Alderman, Mick Alderman, Richard Bracke, Susi Brown, Gigi Chadwick, DanPa, Jacob Storm Deatherage, Katrina Godderz, Bill Ham, Brandy Hussa, Jason Hussa, Toby Hussa, Daric Moore, Nancy Montgomery, Sally

Musemeche, Carol Newman, Milo Schimelpfenig, Ruary Schimelpfenig, Slab Slabinski, Ben Van Osdol and Stephen Wood.

This play is written for an audience of preschool and kindergarten age.

If you have any questions, contact Susi at 503-791-8914 or qtocue@yahoo.com.

Astoria High School to present musical "Willy Wonka"

ASTORIA — Astoria High School's theater program has prepared a deliciously song-and-dance-filled treat for the public — and no golden ticket is required to partake.

More than 25 high school and middle schools students will take the stage in a musical retelling of "Willy Wonka," based on Roald Dahl's timeless classic "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," with music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley. Shows take place at 7 p.m. May 17, 18, 24, and 25 at the high school's auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

"Willy Wonka" follows the story of young Charlie Bucket, played by senior Cody Lachica, who fortuitously wins a golden ticket for the chance of a lifetime: touring the illustrious candy factory of the renowned, yet mysterious and eccentric Willy Wonka, played by senior Zachary Larsen. Together with his Grandpa Joe, played by senior Isabelle Williams, Charlie finds himself exploring the factory with four other children and their indulgent parents, portrayed by juniors Kevin Kumar, Erin Grauff, Isabel Talley, Sean Cooney, Marin Donohue and Christina Campbell and sophomores Azaria Damghani and Eli Harold. Charlie and Grandpa Joe also meet Wonka's intriguing and mischievous staff members, who ensure the factory is run smoothly — and morally.

Filled with unexpected twists and music both familiar and new, "Willy Wonka" is sure to satisfy and entertain audiences of all ages.

In addition, for the Friday, May 17, performance, attendees get an extra bonus, as Astoria High School's visual arts program will host its spring art show in the adjacent cafeteria. Visitors can peruse the art show starting at 5 p.m. before taking a seat for the musical.

General admission for the production is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and younger and students with an ID. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Concessions will also be available for purchase before and during each show. All proceeds go to support the high school's theater program.

Roald Dahl's "Willy Wonka" is adapted for stage by Leslie Bricusse and Tim McDonald and presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

For more information, contact director Katherine Lacaze at 503-741-5668.