

# 'A REAL MAGICAL PLACE'

## Actors, musicians from across U.S. help stage 'The Gearhart Hotel'

By **LUCY KLEINER**  
FOR COAST WEEKEND

**W**hen Mike Herron was 9 years old, he started taking piano lessons in Seaside. At 13, his lessons moved to an in-home studio directly above the Flavel House. Every Saturday for years, his parents drove him from their apartment above the Gearhart Golf Course to Astoria, where Herron first learned to play.

He has been playing ever since.

### If You Go

**What:** "The Gearhart Hotel" Musical

**When:** Friday, July 26, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 27, at 2 and 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Liberty Theatre, 1203 Commercial St., Astoria

**Cost:** \$25. Tickets are available in advance at [bit.ly/2Yb0w4h](http://bit.ly/2Yb0w4h)

Herron's musical talent and playwriting skills have taken him across the country. This summer, he returns to the place where it all began with directors Jefferey and Gloria Emmerich.

The nationwide crew of professional musicians and actors — as well as debut high-school actors from Clatsop County — will present Herron's original musical, "The Gearhart Hotel," Friday-Saturday, July 26 and 27, at the Liberty Theatre in Astoria.

*See Stage, Page C9*



Lucy Kleiner/The Astorian

From left: Lorenzo Taylor as Preston Devereaux, Crystal Rouse as Sally Shea and Don Warren as Chef Mark rehearse the opening number in 'The Gearhart Hotel!'