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Adapting to change

Ringle, originally from Idaho, left his former hometown of Portland about five years ago. Following brief stints in North Carolina and Washington, he found his way to Astoria, where his longtime fiddler Nathan Crockett also resides. Ringle made the coastal town his permanent home – at least when not on tour – but in the course of his preceding journeys he picked up Louisville bassist J. Tom Hnatow and drummer Robby Cosenza. The two were instrumental in making “Appreciation” a mixture of 1970s-style country-pop and soul that is likely to appeal to a more diverse audience. The album also features the work of keyboardist Dustin Dybvig and R&B vocalist Joslyn Hampton.

“That rhythm section change definitely influenced the structure of the music a little bit,” Ringle said, “or the flavor.”

The response to the change has been mostly positive. Audiences welcomed the new material without a noticeable reaction. While there were some fans “crying ‘Judas,’” Ringle said, “I kind of felt like I had already made enough music of the other ilk that there would be enough to circulate or satisfy those who wanted that sound.”

Horse Feathers had already started transitioning to the new style with its fifth full-length album, “So It Is With Us.” The evolution has dramatically changed the group’s live show, Ringle said, giving them “just a little bit more backbone to be able to play outdoor festivals or any kind of a thing where you need to be able to draw people’s attention a little bit more.”

Lyrically, the singer doesn’t feel the material has altered drastically, aside from natural developments based on what transpired in his life at the time of creation.

“Each record, in retrospect, is like tattoos or something – they’re kind of etched in there,” he said, adding if the songwriting process is personal and sincere, “it ends up being a mirror to your life whether you like it or not.”

Featuring regional musicians

According to Liberty Theatre executive director Jennifer Crockett, wife of Horse Feathers member Nathan Crockett and the group’s former tour manager, the songs on the newest album – which will be incorporated into the concert at the Liberty – are “a lot more rock-n-roll, a lot more fun.”

She also described the band’s music as “very high-desert-folk meets rainy Oregon.” The lyrics occasionally grapple with local issues and recognizable personal



Justin Ringle, lead singer of Horse Feathers.



Guitar and vocalist Taylor Kingman will open for Horse Feathers. Country and folk musician Barna Howard will open for Horse Feathers.

experiences.

“Audiences really relate to that,” she said.

To open the Horse Feathers concert, the Liberty Theatre is hosting folk musician Taylor Kingman and Portland-based singer-songwriter Barna Howard in solo acts.

According to his website, Kingman was born in Portland and raised in Marion County. His lyrics and instrumentation encompass a raw, honest quality that transfixes the listener.

Howard spent a quintessentially small-town-America childhood in Eureka, Missouri, and his nostalgia for that phase of his life – as well as his subsequent search for self-identity that took him to various destinations across the country – are steeped into his music.

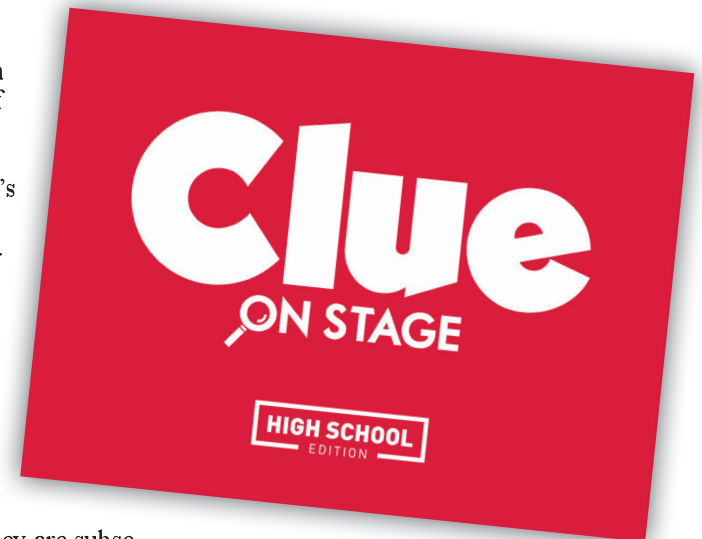
Murder mystery comes to life on stage

ASTORIA – You’ve played the game. You’ve watched the cult classic film. Now, it’s time to enjoy a cast of high school students as they bring the popular board game to life in a theatrical rendering of “Clue: On Stage,” presented by AHS Theatre.

Astoria High School’s theatre program will present “Clue” at 7 p.m. Nov. 1, 2, 8, and 9 at the school’s auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

In this comedy, six strangers with a shared secret are invited to a suspicious dinner party at the imposing Boddy Mansion. They are subsequently given colorful pseudonyms, weapons and a motive for murder. Characters race through the various rooms in a flurry of mystery and mayhem to find the murderer before the body count stacks up. Chock-full of hidden identities and witty repartee, “Clue” is a comedy for the whole

family. ‘Clue: On Stage (High School Edition)’ is based on the screenplay by Jonathan Lynn and the Hasbro board game.



Tickets can be purchased at the door. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and younger. Concessions will be available for purchase.

For more information, contact katherine.lacaze@yahoo.com or 503.741.5668.

Trail's End Art Association

Kissed by Wax - Kitty Paino

Featured Artist November 2nd - 30th

Reception November 2nd, 2p.m. - 5p.m.

Essentials of Alcohol Ink

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