

'Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas'



Patrick Webb

Can you see the donkey? Robert Scherrer, left, pulls the unseen critter's tail while Karl Johnson, Rita Smith, Kevin Perry and Evelyn Benenati react during a comic scene from the Peninsula Players' production of 'Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas.'

Show offers nontraditional comic, musical divergence

BY PATRICK WEBB

As if anyone needed a reminder, Christmas is fast approaching.

Members of the Peninsula Players hope audiences will celebrate the season by attending their latest show.

"Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas," directed by Laurie Carter, offers an off-beat look at what she describes as the sea-

son's stress, chaos and "avalanche of commercialism."

The play features 15 vignettes based on comic or poignant ideas from author Robert Fulghum, a retired Unitarian Universalist minister who served in Bellingham and Edmonds.

The scenes were crafted by writer-director Ernest Zulia and composer David Caldwell, who also brought Fulghum's better known 1988 bestseller "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten" to the stage. That collection of essays has been translated into 27 languages. Its subtitle, "Uncommon Thoughts on Common Things," could apply to the Players' show.

In one segment, a somewhat nontraditional Scrooge character sings, "Since 1843, those blasted ghosts have turned up every year and I always end up singing, dancing, giddy, full of Christmas cheer!"

Family

For Robert Scherrer, a familiar figure onstage with the Players, the themes especially resonate.

"The playwright certainly touched on many different aspects of the holidays," he said. "We hope to convey that to our audience with laughter, tears and true holiday spirit."

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IF YOU GO

"Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas"

Peninsula Players

Performances: 7 p.m. Nov. 15, 16, 22, 23;
2 p.m. Nov. 17, 24.

River City Playhouse, 127 Lake St., Ilwaco, Wash.

\$10 in advance from Okie's in Ocean Park, Wash., Stormin' Norman's in Long Beach, Wash., and the Old Towne Cafe in Ilwaco, Wash., or at the door.