

# Liberty Theatre gears up for awaited performance season

Fichot to perform on Saturday as season opener

BY PETER KORCHNAK

Astoria's Liberty Theatre is gearing up for a new season of performances that will feature a diverse, inclusive lineup of artists.

"We wanted to make sure that what you see at the theater is representing the community around us," Jennifer Crockett, executive director of the Liberty Theatre, said. This year's performers will be "sharing their experiences and their heritage," she added.

## Liberty Theatre

1203 Commercial St., Astoria

[www.libertyastoria.org](http://www.libertyastoria.org)

The season's opening act, Los Angeles-based chanteuse and songwriter Jessica Fichot, draws from her French, Chinese and American upbringing to take listeners on a journey through French chanson, 1940s Shanghai jazz, swing and international folk genres.

Fichot's performance on Saturday will be her first in the region since 2009. "I just love the area and I'm excited about playing in the Liberty Theatre because it just looks really beautiful," Fichot said. The singer performs in multiple languages during her set. "There's a little bit of a throwback vibe to both the venue and my music, so hopefully people will think it fits," she added.

Other highlights of the theater's upcoming season, its first in two years at full capacity, include the ensemble act Circus Nonsense, Inuit soul music group Pamyua, and Mexican groups Mexico Lindo and Jarabe Mexicano. World music fusion performers like Caro Pierotto, Quartetto Nuevo and Finnegan Blue will round out the lineup. Pink Martini will also headline during two nights in the late summer.

Liberty's office manager, Nancy Schwickrath, got to pick one of the shows. A dog walker for Clatsop Animal Assistance with experience in Broadway productions, Schwickrath chose Stunt Dog Experience, whose master trainers perform air stunts, athletic feats and comedy routines on stage. "It is our best-selling show so far," Crockett said. "It's going to be hysterical."

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Peter Korchnak

The Liberty Theatre in Astoria is preparing for its upcoming season.



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ABOVE: Posters at the venue highlight music, dance and theater performances. LEFT: Singer-songwriter Jessica Fichot will perform at the Liberty Theatre on Saturday.