

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Petrouchka

Petrouchka, the clown immortalized by Stravinsky, comes in Tears of Joy Theatre's production of the same name.

A clown riding a unicycle with brightly colored balloons, a giant bear and a comical juggling act add to the color and festivities of a carnival set in St. Petersburg, Russia.

When the real-life circus acts exit, the puppets, cast under a spell by the magician, come alive. This tale of a clown who yearns for the love of a beautiful ballerina is a standout in Tears of Joy Theatre's repertoire. UNIMA-USA awarded this production a Citation of Excellence in the Art of Puppetry, American puppetry's highest award.

Petrouchka will be accompanied by a piece called Pure Imagination. Imagine a cross between a tufted bath mat and an ostrich and you'll have a rough approximation of the main character in this performance. In the show, this silly-looking bird is willing to go to any length—walk a tight rope, hang by a claw—for an opportunity to get its greedy beak into its tormentor's bag of goodies. Pure Imagination made its debut in July at the International Arts Carnival in Hong Kong and garnered rave reviews. "It is the sharpest, funniest piece presented by the acclaimed American troupe," said Zelda Cawthorne, a reporter for the South China Morning Post. "There were no tears, but what a joy to see the art of



Petrouchka from "Petrouchka" By Tears Of Joy Theatre

puppetry presented with such finesse."

Following the performance, audience members will have the opportunity to meet the performers and see the puppets up close. In addition, bird puppets like those used in Pure Imagination, will be available in the lobby for junior puppeteers to practice their skills with.

Petrouchka and Pure Imagination incorporate puppets, mask and mime, and are appropriate for hear-

ing impaired audiences.

Petrouchka and Pure Imagination will be presented at the Winningstad Theatre of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts December 26 - 31 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for children and \$8 for adults (subject to additional service and handling fees). For reservations please call (503) 248-0557 or (206) 695-0477 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Off-Beat Caroling Contest Returns

Registrations are now being accepted for the Great Figgy Pudding Street Corner Caroling Competition—a carolling contest for people who can't necessarily sing, but who love performing anyway. The event, organized by Pioneer Courthouse Square, takes place in downtown Portland on Friday, December 17th.

Between 5 and 6 PM, carolling teams stationed along S.W. Morrison Avenue will regale passersby with unique versions of favorite holiday carols. They may (as some did last year) wear reindeer antlers, impersonate "Saturday Night Live" characters, perform comic rap routines or play kazoos. Others—those with actual musical talent—may even sing traditional lyrics in beautiful four-part harmony.

A People's Choice Award will be determined by the votes of spectators, and roving judges will select finalists for the Best Choral Performance, Most Original Presentation, Best Lyrics and Figgy Flop Awards. Finalists will perform onstage at the Square during a 7 PM "carol-off."

Last year's contest drew 20 teams from organizations as varied as Nordstrom, Beaverton High School, Jake's Famous Crawfish restaurant, a French-language study group, the Portland/Oregon Visitors' Association, and Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt law firm.

Prizes include an original Will Vinton Productions carolling fig trophy, an engraved (fig-filled) silver bowl from Margulis Jewelers, real figgy pudding and hot buttered rum for ten persons at L'Auberge restaurant, and "designer" fig-leaf costumes from Helen's Pacific Costumers.

The contest, sponsored by The Downtowner and KXL Newsradio 750, is open to any group of four or more carolers; a "single singers" group is being formed for those who can't assemble the required three co-workers or friends. For more information about either the contest or the singles team, call the Square at 223-1613.



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Tears of Joy Theatre PETROUCHKA

December 26 at 4 p.m.

December 27 - 31 at 2 p.m.

Winningstad Theatre at the
Portland Center for the Performing Arts
1111 SW Broadway

For tickets call:
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