

## The Focus Life is a Dream

CONTRIBUTED STORY  
FOR THE PORTLAND  
OBSERVER

The Miracle Theatre Group opens its 16<sup>th</sup> season of Magic & Dreams with the Miracle Mainstage production of *Life is a Dream*, Spanish playwright Pedro Calderón de la Barca's classic masterpiece. *Life is a Dream* is a powerful exploration of the meaning and vanity of earthly existence, questioning man's perception of reality, his will, and the role that honor, duty and morality play in a world that is "just a dream."

A dynamic cast bring their robust talents to the production, including Actor's Equity Artist Bobby Bermea as Segismundo, Deanna Wells as Rosaura, Sam Mowry as Basilio, Sean Parker as Clotaldo, Leif Norby as Astolfo, and Kevin Michael Moore as Clarin.

Under the direction of Antonio Sonera, Miracle Mainstage's production of *Life is a Dream* traverses time and space, a surrealistic world in which reality and dream are indistinct, and black and whites merge into the gray of incertitude. The play, written in circa 1635, is set in a foreign land where King Basilio, in an effort to thwart destiny, has had his son, Prince Segismundo, imprisoned in a tower in the wilderness because of the child's ominous horoscope. Years later, the king decides to test the character of his son who is given a sleeping potion, brought into the palace, and installed on the throne. Raised like a caged beast, the prince acts as cruelly as the stars predicted and he is drugged again and returned to the tower, where, upon awakening, he is made to believe that his experience has only been a dream. Rebellious soldiers liberate Segismundo and reinstate him to the throne. Will he rule as the stars predicted and bring catastrophe to the kingdom or, cured by disillusion from his lust for revenge, reign with generosity and nobility of spirit? Intrigues and deceptions abound in a surrealistic landscape sculpted by Tim Stapleton (set designer), Danielle Malan (costume designer), and Rose Etta Menger (lighting designer) who combine their magical talents to create the dream world of the play.

Opening night of *Life is a Dream* will be on Friday, September 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$16. The play will continue through October 14. Tickets for the Friday, October 13 event is already sold out. All performances will be held at El Centro Milagro, 525 SE Stark. For reservations and information, please call 503/236-7253.



Bobby Bermea as Prince Segismundo and Deanna Wells as Rosaura in *Life is a Dream* which will be playing at the Miracle Theatre on Friday, September 15

## The Ultimate Romantic Escape: The Rainforest at Lake Quinault Lodge

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Keep your fingers crossed. The rain could keep you in all day. More than 140 inches of rainfall pours on Lake Quinault Lodge each year. If you're lucky, there will be a downpour or two while you're there.

Lake Quinault Lodge, nestled in the heart of the Olympic National Forest, offers the ultimate romantic getaway: a charming lodge, rooms with gas fireplaces, lakeside walks and spectacular hikes, find dining, saunas and massages.

The historic lodge is an easy three and a half hours from Portland on Highway 101. Slip in your favorite CD or perhaps a romantic book on tape as you head toward one of the very few temperate rainforests in the world.

Step in the lodge and you step back in time. The lodge is straight from an era of grand lodges and pampered travel. Like the Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone, the lodge is rustic. Built with cedar shake siding, it is centered around a charming lobby and massive

brick fireplace that invites social gathering, a lazy game of checkers and curling up with a good book.

Lake Quinault Lodge offers 92 guest rooms, some with lakeside views and some with fireplaces. The lodge purposely does not offer in-room telephones, televisions or radios but guests are certainly not sensory deprived.

Stroll down to the lake to relax in a lakeside gazebo and take along a box lunch from the lodge dining room. Or take a hike under the deep emerald canopy of vegetation along the Quinault Loop Trail. The trail meanders through an old-growth forest of Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, hemlock and red cedar trees and is lush with hundreds of species of ferns, vines, mosses and lichens which grow in a multistoried canopy. Feeling frisky? Hike the entire 10-mile trail.

Searching for a leisurely experience? Rent a boat, canoe or sea cycle to explore the lake - at your own pace. When you return, take a plunge in the indoor swimming pool and relax in the

(Please see 'Escape' page 8)



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