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NEW SEASONS MARKET

Oprah, Cedric in Charlette's Web

All-star cast brings timeless story to life

Cedric the Entertainer talked about the thrill of being part of the all-star talent in the new Paramount Pictures release of *Charlotte's Web*, a live-action adaptation of the classic children's book about loyalty, trust and sacrifice.

"I play Golly the Gander and my wife Gussy the Goose is the voice of none other than Oprah Winfrey," Cedric says. "Normally, the actors record their voices individually on these projects, so I was surprised that I got an opportunity to do my sessions with Oprah. Because we are playing husband and wife, there was a lot of interplay and bickering



Cedric the Entertainer and Oprah record their voices as Golly the Gander and Gussy the Goose in the animated 'Charlotte's Web,' a Paramount Pictures adaptation of the classic children's book.

that was best done together. Even though I've been a guest on her show, it was a unique chance to work with her up close and personal on this special project."

In addition to Winfrey, the barn's maternal-yet-irreverent goose, and

Cedric the Entertainer, Dakota Fanning stars on-screen as Fern, the first one to see something in Wilbur that others miss.

Julia Roberts is the voice of the spider Charlotte, who becomes the pig Wilbur's best friend and savior.

Also joining as cast voices is Steve Buscemi as the barn's sardonic rat, Templeton; John Cleese as Samuel, the sheep; Kathy Bates and Reba McEntire as the barn's sarcastic cows, Betsy and Bitsy; Robert Redford as Ike, the horse; and Thomas Haden Church and André Benjamin of the hip-hop duo OutKast as the dimwitted crows, Brooks and Elwyn.

In *Charlotte's Web*, a very small pig finds that the most powerful force in the world is the bond of friendship.

The critically acclaimed book *Charlotte's Web*, written by E.B. White and illustrated by Garth Williams, is the best selling children's paperback of all time.

Cedric sums it up, "Kids will love this film because it is a story of camaraderie."

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE



Festival of Lights
"Festival of Lights" -- at the Grotto, Northeast 85th Avenue and Sandy Boulevard, from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., featuring hourly holiday music concerts, spectacular lighting displays, live nativity scene and family entertainment. Donations requested for Snow-CAP, of canned goods or dry baby foods.

Scrooge Gets Skewered -- The Portland Artists Repertory Theatre presents "Inspecting Carol," a tale of the classic "A Christmas Carol" gone awry, through Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays through Thursdays and Sundays; and 8 p.m.

on Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets range from \$22.50 to \$42.50 by phone at 503-241-1278, online at artistsrep.org or at the box office at 1516 S.W. Alder St.



Zoo Lights
Oregon Zoo Lights -- The walk-through winter wonderland Oregon Zoo Lights comes to life throughout the month of December. The festival includes a lighted zoo train, choral and ensemble music, puppet shows, and a model train display. Festival hours are Sunday - Thursday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 5 to 8:30 p.m. Closed Dec. 24 and Christmas Day.



Lava Alapai

Playwright Presents 'Mutt' -- A local playwright is challenging racial issues with levity and bravery in her world premiere of "Mutt" at North Portland's Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave. Lava Alapai tells the story of a biracial young adult's mistaken Caucasian

self-identity. Shows extended through Dec. 30. Tickets are \$12 and can be obtained by calling 503-952-6646 or at manyhatscollaboration.com.

Hip-hop Dance Classes -- Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation is hosting family friendly hip-hop dance classes for ages 5 to 18. Various lessons teach rhythm, technique, coordination, agility, combinations and teamwork through urban dance moves. For more information, call 360-696-8236.

OMSI Presents: Black Holes -- A flight simulator transforms real scientific data about black holes into stunning visualizations in OMSI's new planetarium show "Black holes: The Other Side of Infinity." For more information, call 503-797-4000 or visit omsi.edu.

Trippin' through Town -- Take a trip through time to find the hottest poetry, hip-hop and soul influencing Portland on Wednesdays at the Ohm. \$7 cover. 31 N.W. First Ave.



Bobby Torres

Jazz for the Holidays -- Friday, Dec. 29 thru Monday, Jan. 1, the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts will host Newport's Jazz for the Holidays, a massive New Years Eve Party, spread out over 4 days and headlined by some of Portland's jazz icons, including the Bobby Torres Ensemble and singer Nancy King, at the Newport Performing Arts Center. Visit jazzatnewport.org or call 888-701-7123.

Belly Dance Classes -- Caravan Studios offers classes in belly dance, African dance and more. Visit www.gypsyscaravan.us.

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Live Music Every Night

- Kick off your week with live jazz every Sunday at 9 p.m. at The Blue Monk (3341 S.E. Belmont).
- Participate in a mixed-media open mic night each Monday at the Back-to-Back Café (614 E. Burnside).
- The Thom City Improv, featuring members of Old Dominion, Quivah, The Chosen and The Black Notes, perform at Conan's (3862 S.E. Hawthorne) every Tuesday at 10 p.m.
- Celebrate Hump Day at The Red Sea (381 S.W. 3rd Ave) after work on Wednesdays, from 5 to 9 p.m.
- Inch toward the weekend at the Candlelight Room (2032 S.W. Fifth Ave) with the Black Notes, performing each Thursday.
- Celebrate Friday with Mel Brown, who plays jazz at Salty's on the Columbia every Friday and Saturday, and Jimmy Mak's on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Round off your week with live Reggae on Fridays and Saturdays at Montego Bay, (1239 S.W. Jefferson).

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