

Okaidja Afroso brings spirited style to arts center

East Oregonian

A spicy fusion of spirited Ghanaian music with diverse cross-cultural influences is on tap at Pendleton Center for the Arts.

Okaidja Afroso, a dynamic vocalist, a gifted multi-instrumentalist, and an exultant dancer, will take the stage Wednesday, April 22 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

Afroso’s personal story is woven through his work and allows him to connect with audiences in a powerful way. He was born into a family of singers and songwriters.

His mother was a colorful lead singer in her spiritual church. Her powerful songs of praise earned her the name “The spiritual singer.” As a young boy Afroso sang while he worked on fishing boats in Ghana. The fishermen would sing a cappella songs as they worked, and Afroso passed the long days learning the songs of the great sea.

At the age of 19, Afroso was accepted as a professional dancer for the prestigious Ghana Dance Ensemble at the University of Ghana’s Institute of African Studies. He became well known for his energetic stage presence.

In 1997, Afroso toured the Unites States with the Ensemble. Later on that year he traveled solo throughout Germany teaching Ghanaian music and dance before moving to the U.S. to join Okropong, a traditional Ghanaian

Okaidja Afroso

WHEN: Wednesday, April 22

TIME: 7 p.m.

WHERE: Pendleton Center for the Arts

COST: \$10/adults, \$5/students

INFO: 541-278-9201

music and dance group directed by the late Obo Addy.

His career shifted as he began to do extensive research into the connections between Ghanaian music and the music of the African Diaspora. Through his band Okaidja & Shokoto, Afroso creates music that draws from multiple cultural influences from the past and the present. The result is a dynamic fusion of traditional and contemporary African rhythms.

After dancing and playing percussion for so many years, he followed his soul’s calling and taught himself how to play the guitar. By learning completely on his own, he inadvertently created a guitar style that is so distinct that many accomplished guitarists tell him to stay away from taking lessons so he doesn’t lose his pure, inimitable sound.

For more information about the show, call 541-278-9201. For more about Afroso’s music, visit www.okaidja.com.



Photo contributed by Haley McHurg

Okaidja Afroso will bring a spicy fusion of spirited Ghanaian music with diverse cross-cultural influences during a Wednesday, April 22 performance at Pendleton Center for the Arts.

International guitarist to perform in symphony finale

East Oregonian

The final concert of the Oregon East Symphony season features compositions by Spanish composers.

“Canciones y Danzas” includes guest guitarist Nicaraguan-born Isaac Bustos. He and the symphony will perform Joaquin Rodrigo’s, “Concierto de Aranjuez.” Also, Emily Muller Callender will sing mezzo soprano on Manuel de Falla’s “El Amor Brujo.”

The concert is Saturday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Vert Auditorium, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors or \$45 for a family. The area available at the symphony office, 345 S.W. Fourth St., Armchair Books, 39 S.W. Dorion Ave., or at the door.

An international performer, who has recorded multiple albums both as a solo artist and member of an ensemble, Bustos holds a doctor of musical arts from the University of Texas at Austin. He is on faculty at Texas A&M University’s Department of Performance Studies as director of guitar studies. Bustos also is a member of the Texas Guitar Quintet.

He has garnered top prizes in more than a dozen major international competitions, seven of which are first place. His debut album, “Caprichos y Sonatas,” was described by Soundboard magazine as “... one of the best...it has everything one could want.”

For more about Bustos, visit www.bustosguitarist.com.



Contributed photo

Nicaraguan born classic guitarist Issac Bustos is a featured soloist during the Oregon East Symphony’s season finale concert Saturday, April 23 at the Vert Auditorium in Pendleton.

For information about the Oregon East Symphony, call 541-276-0320 or go to www.oregoneastsymphony.org.

BOOK REVIEW

A search for true love in ‘The Beekeeper’s Daughter’

By LINCÉE RAY
Associated Press

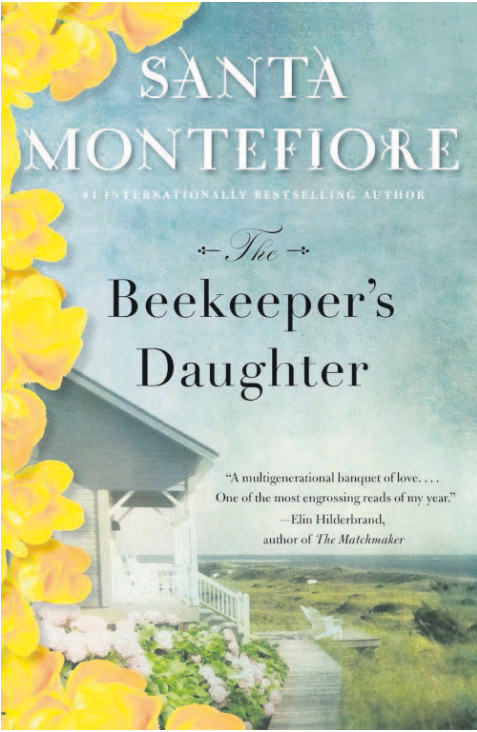
“The Beekeeper’s Daughter” (Simon & Schuster), by Santa Montefiore

International best-selling author Santa Montefiore writes an epic romance that spans two generations in her new novel, “The Beekeeper’s Daughter.” Readers are transported back and forth between Massachusetts and England unraveling a timeline that stretches over four decades. It’s the story of a daughter’s journey to find happiness and a mother’s cautionary tale of lost love.

It’s 1932, and Grace Hamblin lives her charming life. She takes care of the grand estate of the Marquess and Marchioness of Penselwood, along with her father. Her best friend, Freddie, has grown into a respectable young man, and it won’t be long before he asks for her hand in marriage. When Grace’s father dies, Freddie is the only constant in her life. It makes sense to begin a life with him, working on the estate and planning for a family. But Grace is in love with another man — a man she can never have.

Forty years later, Grace’s fiery daughter Trixie has fallen in love with the lead singer of a band. The entire community of Tekanasset Island thinks Jasper is just the type of wild child who will whisk Trixie away with the promise of a thrilling life touring the world. When his brother suddenly dies, Jasper is summoned back to England to take on the family business. He promises to send for Trixie, but Grace knows that day will never come.

Montefiore embellishes this novel with exquisite details. The descriptions that



portray the fictional island of Tekanasset and its colorful residents come to life with each turn of the page. The English setting is comparably illustrated with great attention to even the smallest elements, including the science of beekeeping. By the time you read the final page, you should be able to jar your own honey.

Montefiore has painted a heart-wrenching picture of young love in “The Beekeeper’s Daughter.” Grace and Trixie both learn that confronting the past is the key to building the future.

BRIEFLY

‘Femme Fatale’ features cinematic wizardry

WALLA WALLA — A mixture of live music and classic film clips to tell a story

is featured in “Femme Fatale: The Music of Film Noir.” Laura Ellis, a veteran of stage and broadcast performances, sings live and appears on-screen in a show that combines cinematic wizardry with live

performance at the Power House Theatre. The event is Saturday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. at 111 N. Sixth Ave., Walla Walla. Tickets are \$30-\$35 at www.phtww.com or by calling 509-529-6500.

Festivals

Pendleton Reel West Festival

- April 16-19
- Pendleton
- www.realwestfest.com
- \$10/general admission. Some events free. Celebrating classic, native and contemporary film, art and culture of the West. Venues include the Pendleton Elks Lodge, Tamastslit Cultural Institute, Pendleton Cinemas and Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co.

Pendleton Cattle Barons Weekend

- May 8-9
- In and around Pendleton Convention Center
- www.cattlebarons.net
- Features stock saddle bronc riding, Western elect Invitational Horse Sale, stock dog sale, Bit, Spur & Silver-smith Show, saddle maker and tooled fender contest, Buckaroo Barbecue Challenge and Tradin’ Post Trade Show.

Art

Cowgirls in Cahoots

- Monday-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Pendleton Art + Frame, 36 S.W. Court Ave.

Free. Exhibit features western artwork of nationally know artists Janene Grende and Connie Spurgeon. Continues through May 4.

Open Regional Exhibit

- Tuesday-Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturdays, noon-4 p.m.
- Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.
- www.pendletonarts.org
- Free. Features the artwork of local teens and adults. Continues through May 29.

Linda Phillips

- Monday-Thursdays; 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Friday-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave.

Free. Features the western artwork of Hermiston resident Linda Phillips. Continues through April 30.

Ramp It Up: Skateboard Culture in Native America

- Monday - Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Tamastslit Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino.
- www.tamastslit.org
- Regular admission is \$10/adults, \$9/senior citizens, \$6/youths, free/5 and under or \$25/family of four. Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service celebrate the vibrancy, creativity and history of the American Indian skateboarding culture. Continues through May 25.

Heritage Station Museum

- Tuesday-Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton
- www.heritagestationmuseum.org
- \$5/adults, \$2/student, \$4/seniors, \$10/family.

“Our Old Quilts: Patterns of Love & Memory”

- Wednesday-Saturdays; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Dayton Historic Depot, 222 E. Commercial St., Dayton, WA
- www.daytonhistoricdepot.org
- Admission by donation. Quilts are a glimpse into the past, providing a scrapbook of relationships and events. Continues through Oct. 1.

Skateboard and Bike Safety

- Saturday, April 25; 1 p.m.
- Tamastslit Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino.
- www.tamastslit.org
- Free. Refreshments served for Pepsi Primetime@the Museum program presented by Tamastslit and the Umatilla Tribal Police Department featuring bike and skateboard safety. Held in conjunction with current exhibit, Ramp It Up: Skateboard Culture in Native America.

Thursdays Night Comedy

- Thursdays, 8 p.m.
- Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Digital Karaoke

- Thursdays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.
- The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Mac’s Trivia Night

- Thursdays, 8 p.m. No cover
- Mac’s Bar & Grill, 1400 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton 21 and older. Teams of 2-8 compete in trivia contest with other teams. Live host and prizes.

Wine tasting

- Fridays, 4-8 p.m.
- Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo.

Open Mic

- First/third Friday each month, 8 p.m.-midnight
- The Packard Tavern, 118 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton
- www.facebook.com/

WHAT TO DO

- Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Tyler Brooks

- Saturday, April 18; 9 p.m.-midnight. No cover
- Hamley Saloon, 8 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton

Martin Gerschwitz

- Saturday, April 18; 6 p.m.
- Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo

Single/\$20, couple/\$30. Keyboards and vocals with Iron Butterfly, formerly with Eric Burdon & The Animals, Meat Loaf and others. Call 541-376-0421.

Okaidja Afroso

- Wednesday, April 22; 7 p.m.
- Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.
- www.pendletonarts.org
- \$10/adults, \$5/students. A spicy fusion of spirited Ghanaian music.

Fireball Karaoke Contest

- Friday, April 24, 8 p.m.
- Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla

No cover. Fireball giveaways during contest. Winner receives \$150 and a Fireball snowboard. Call 541-922-4112 for more information.

Queen Anne’s Revenge

- Friday, April 24; Saturday, April 25, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover

- Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

“Canciones y Danzas”

- Saturday, April 25; 7:30 p.m.
- Vert Auditorium, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton
- www.oregoneastsymphony.org
- \$20/adult, \$15/senior, student or \$45/family. Oregon East Symphony presents its season finale concert featuring compositions by Spanish composers. Guest guitarist Nicaraguan-born Isaac Bustos will perform Joaquin Rodrigo’s, “Concierto de Aranjuez.” Emily Muller Callender will sing mezzo soprano on Manuel de Falla’s “El Amor Brujo.”

Bart Budwig & J.D. Kindle

- Tuesday, April. 28, 7 p.m.

All ages. No cover.

- Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton

Phamous Phaces

- Friday, May 1; Saturday, May 2, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover
- Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

John Moreland

- Saturday, May 2, 8 p.m. All ages. No cover.
- Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton

Hours of Hymns & Gaither Songs

- Sunday, May 3, 6 p.m.
- New Hope Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston.

Free. Enjoy the accompaniment of Louise Sundvall during this gospel songfest.

The Eclectics

- Friday, May 8; Saturday, May 9, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover
- Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Night life

Thursday Night Comedy

- Thursdays, 8 p.m.
- Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Digital Karaoke

- Thursdays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.
- The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Mac’s Trivia Night

- Thursdays, 8 p.m. No cover
- Mac’s Bar & Grill, 1400 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton 21 and older. Teams of 2-8 compete in trivia contest with other teams. Live host and prizes.

Wine tasting

- Fridays, 4-8 p.m.
- Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo.

Open Mic

- First/third Friday each month, 8 p.m.-midnight
- The Packard Tavern, 118 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton
- www.facebook.com/

groups.pendletonopenmic.com

Karaoke

- Fridays 8 p.m. (9 p.m. if game on)
- Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla

DJ and dancing

- Fridays, 8 p.m.
- The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Theater, stage & film

“The Music Man”

- Saturday, April 18; 7 p.m.

Last night

- Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St.

General admission/\$6, students/\$4, senior citizens/free. The Hermiston High School drama department presents the Broadway hit musical.

“Cats”

- Saturday, April 18; 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 19; 2 p.m.
- Richland High School, 930 Long St., Richland, WA
- www.midcolumbiamusical-theatre.org
- \$10-\$20. (Tickets via www.mcmt.tix.com or 509-947-0562). A true musical theater phenomenon. Since Cats first opened on the West End stage in 1981, it has become one of the world’s best known and best loved musicals.

“Guys and Dolls”

- Wednesday, April 22; 7:30 p.m.
- Toyota Center-Windermere Theatre, Kennewick
- www.yourtoyotacenter.com
- \$47-\$67. (Tickets via www.ticketmaster.com). This oddball romantic comedy – considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy – soars with the spirit of Broadway as it introduces a cast of vivid characters.

Bechtel National Planetarium shows

- Friday, April 24, 7 p.m.
- Friday, April 24; 8 p.m.
- Columbia Basin College, 2600 N. 20th Ave., Pasco
- www.columbiabasin.edu/planet
- \$6/adults, \$3/children 6-12, \$5/seniors. The 7 p.m. show is “Black Holes: the Other Side of Infinity” and the 8 p.m. show is “Bad Astronomy: Myths and Misconceptions.”

“Beauty and the Beast”

- April 28-29; 6:30 p.m.
- Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395
- www.hermiston.or.us/parksrec_recreation
- Pre-ordered/\$2, at the door/\$3. Hermiston Parks & Recreation drama class presents the performance, with money going towards costumes and props for future productions.

Hot tickets

- Umatilla County Fair concerts: Dustin Lynch (Aug. 11), John Michael Montgomery (Aug. 12), Latino Night (Aug. 13), Hinder (Aug. 14) and Warrent (Aug. 15). Reserved seats (\$12) via 541-567-6121 or 515 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston
- www.umatillacounty.net/fair
- Sasquatch Music Festival. Memorial Day weekend, Gorge Amphitheater, George, Wash. Reserved seats (\$325 and up for 4-day pass) via www.livenation.com.
- Creation Festival. July 30-Aug. 1, Benton County Fairgrounds, Kennewick. Reserved seats (\$45-\$150, plus camping packages) via www.creationfest.com.
- Gentlemen of the Road Stopover featuring Mumford & Sons, Foo Fighters, Flaming Lips and other national, regional and local bands. Aug. 13-15, Walla Walla. Reserved seats (\$199) via www.mumfordandsons.com.
- Foo Fighters. Saturday, Sept. 12, Gorge Amphitheater, George, Wash. Reserved seats (\$45-\$75) via www.livenation.com.

Want to get your event listed in our calendar? Send information to tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com, or c/o Tammy Malgesini, 333 E. Main Street, Hermiston, OR, 97838.