

The story behind "MILTON," a play about five towns and the constellation they create, will be presented June 16-19 in Milton-Freewater.

MILTON-FREEWATER

Five towns, one name

By TAMMY MALGESINI East Oregonian

A handful of towns with the same names are featured in a project called "MILTON," which also includes Milton-Freewater.

"It's quite a far-reaching idea," said Jean Ann Mitchell, organizer of Arts Portal Gallery in Milton-Freewater. "Another real benefit is their concentration on community-building and supporting art in the community.

Known for their large-scale projects, PearlDamour, an award-winning interdisciplinary theater company, was looking to do a smaller production. The idea for "MILTON" sprouted during the last election cycle when the internet exploded with accusations of people being "un-American." Katie Pearl and Lisa D'Amour sought to define what it means to "be an American."

In April 2013, PearlDamour sent an email to Jan Sample of the Milton-Freewater Garden Club, asking if they could meet. A month later, a tableful of women greeted Pearl and D'Amour at Kelly's Bar & Grill in Milton-Freewater. Typical of small-town friendliness, the women presented their visitors with corsages and bought lunch. The hospitality continued with Sample offering accommodations on her property.

"For over a year, they would come to town and they would stay at my place,"

Sample said. "And, now we're going to have the whole crew of them."

The May 2013 visit was the first of many trips to Milton-Freewater for the two women. Pearl, who lives in New York, and D'Amour in New Orleans, traveled across the country, not only to Milton-Freewater but to four other towns named Milton — in Louisiana, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Wisconsin — as part of the project. To Pearl and D'Amour, the five Miltons stretch over the United States, forming an earth-bound constellation.

The duo, known for their performances mixing theater and installation, set out to discover the "story" of each town. The culmination of the "MILTON" project is a play presented in each of the locations. Recognizing Milton-Freewater's diverse population, the local performances, which are June 16-19, will be bilingual.

Performers of different ages and races will speak and sing. In addition, the production features video of the day and night skies of Milton-Freewater, shot by Jim Findlay, an award-winning designer and visual artist. Also contributing to the project with original music is Brendan Connelly, an award-winning composer and sound designer.

"Often it feels like being in a planetarium. Sometimes it's like being at the opera. It can even feel like being at a family birthday barbecue, under a big

sky," Pearl said.

After taking root, "MILTON" ended up being PearlDamour's biggest project to date. Structuring the concept around communities of the same name chosen from a random Google search of common city names — Pearl and D'Amour then sought to find communities that were as different as possible.

The towns range in population from 27,000 in Milton, Massachusetts, to North Carolina's Milton with only 164 people. The racial diversity of Milton-Freewater with whites and Latinos, and the Massachusetts and North Carolina towns with whites and blacks, are a stark contrast from the predominately white populations in the Louisiana and Wisconsin communities, which both exceed 95 percent.

Mitchell and Sample said having the performance presented with English and Spanish is important. Recognizing and embracing the area's cultural diversity helps in bridging the community together. Over the years, both women have seen more acceptance of cultural diversity.

'We're more accepting. I think it's going to be a celebration of our cultures and our small town," Mitchell said.

Area residents are invited to attend a community barbecue in celebration of "MILTON" Saturday, June 18 at 5 p.m. at McLoughlin High School. To ensure there's enough food, RSVP by calling 541-938-5536.

"MILTON: A Bilangual Play About 4 Towns Named Milton and 1 Named Milton-Freewater" NIGHTLY: June 16-19; 7 p.m.; MATINÉE: June 18-19; 2 p.m.; WHERE: McLoughlin High School, 120 Main St., Milton-Freewater; COST: Free for residents; suggested donation of \$5-15 for others; RSVP: 888-854-5698

BRIEFLY

New exhibit features Jenny Hegdal

MILTON-FREEWATER — The work of Central Middle School teacher Jenny Hegdal is featured in the upcoming exhibit at Arts Portal Gallery.

"Real People" opens with an artist's reception Saturday, June 11 from 2-4 p.m. at 508 N. Main St., Milton-Freewater. There is no admission charge. The event includes a theater group from

PearlDamour, who are presenting the "MILTON" project June 16-19 at McLoughlin High School. Also, refreshments will be served.

Managed by the Milton-Freewater Downtown Alliance, regular gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

For more information, contact artsportalgallery@ msn.com, 541-938-3727 or visit www.facebook. com/artsportalgallery.

Western history comes alive with two-day festival

WALLA WALLA — A family festival that celebrates the Walla Walla Valley's regional heritage features historic re-enactors, live demonstrations, music, dancing and children's pioneer games.

Fort Walla Walla Days is Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 755 Myra Road in Walla Walla. Vendor trucks will be available to purchase a variety of food and beverages.

Encampments on the museum's sprawling campus will include the Lewis and Clark Expedition, fur traders, Civil War soldiers and regional American Indians. Each tent will feature artifacts, trade goods or displays from the time period represented by the re-enactor.

Museum admission, which includes participation in Fort Walla Walla Days, is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and students, \$3 for ages 6-12 and free for children 5 and under.

For more information, contact 509-525-7703, info@fwwm.org or visit www.fwwm.org.

Exhibit highlights circuit chautauquas

DAYTON, Washington — An exhibit exploring the history of circuit chautauquas — traveling shows and assemblies popular in the late 19th and early 20th century — will open this month at the Dayton

Teddy Roosevelt called chautauquas "the most American thing in America." An extremely popular form of entertainment, they featured musicians, comedians, actors, politicians and scholars.

Circuit Chautauquas: Educating Dayton and America opens Tuesday, June 14 at 6 p.m. in the museum's ticket office at 222 E. Commercial St., Dayton, Washington. The exhibit highlights the history of circuit chautauquas and focuses on those traveling through Dayton from 1915-29. In addition, Paul Magid of the New Old Time Chautauqua will give an opening presentation. The exhibit serves as a prelude to the New Old Time Chautauqua that will be in Dayton July 18-19.

The museum is open Wednesday through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is by donation.

For more information, contact 509-382-2026, info@daytonhistoricdepot.org or visit www. daytonhistoricdepot.org.

Winery announces August concerts

PATERSON — Tickets are now on sale for The Buckinghams and Crystal Gayle at Columbia Crest Winery.

The Buckinghams, known for such songs as "Kind of a Drag," "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy" and "Don't you Care," will perform Friday, Aug. 19. Tickets are \$45

Crystal Gayle, younger sister to Loretta Lynn, is best known for her 1977 hit "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue." She will take the stage Saturday, Aug 20. Tickets cost \$50.

Both shows are at 7 p.m. at the winery, located at 178810 Highway 221, Paterson, Washington. People are invited to bring a picnic meal or purchase cuisine from local food trucks on-site. People may bring their own non-alcoholic beverages. Wine can be purchased at the venue.

Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com. For more information, visit www.columbiacrest.

Festivals

Old Iron Show

4; 8 a.m.-dusk

Free. Display features vintage

Pioneer Days

•Friday, June 3, Saturday, June

•Weston Memorial Hall, Elliott

Free admission (charge for some events). Event kicks off Friday honoring JoAnn Fox, Valerie Smith and Bob Smith. Saturday activities include a fireman's breakfast, parade, vendor booths, Pioneer Picnic, barbecue cook-off, kids' games, stage entertainment, alumni dinner and street dance with

 Saturday, June 11, Sunday, June 12; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
•Fort Walla Walla museum, 755

dents, \$3/ages 6-12, free/5-andyounger. Two-day family festival celebrates history of the region with re-enactments, demonstrations, music, dancing and children's games.

Art & Museums

Nika Blasser

Tuesday-Fridays; 10 a.m.-5

Saturdays; noon-5 p.m.Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.

www.pendletonarts.org
Free. Opening reception featuring Blasser's recent works that provide an environment of reflection. Runs through July 2.

"Central Dreams" Saturdays/Sundays; noon-5

•Arts Portal Gallery, 508 N. Main St., Milton-Freewater

www.facebook.com/artsportal-

Free. Exhibit features Central Middle School student-created artwork communicating their hopes and dreams for themselves, their families and community. Also in-

cludes adult artists. "Book Sort" •Monday-Thursdays; 10 a.m-8

•Friday-Saturdays; 10 a.m.-5

p.m. •Pendleton Public Library, 502

S.W. Dorion Ave. www.pendletonlibrary.weebly.

Free. Exhibit featuring more than two dozen documentary photographs by Teresa Rae. Runs through June 30. An artist's reception to be scheduled. **All-Campus Juried Student**

Exhibition

•Friday, June 3, Saturday, June

•Sunday, June 5; 8 a.m.-1 p.m. •Roy Raley Park, 1205 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton

www.heritagestationmuseum.

farm equipment, antique cars and other old iron machinery.

Tylor and The Train Robbers.

Fort Walla Walla Days Myra Road, Walla Walla

www.fwwm.org \$8/adults, \$7/seniors \$& stu-

Music

Music on the Lawn-Yosi

Decade X

·Saturday, June 4; 8 p.m. No cover

216. Mission. **Brass Fire**

cover

•Red Lion, 304 S.E. Nye Ave., Pendleton

Troublemaker

•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston.

\$10. Pendleton womens' choir presents spring concert of lullabies, love songs and other traditional pieces and mountain ballads.

Friday, June 10; Saturday, June 11; 8 p.m. No cover
 Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

"Young at Heart" ·Saturday, June 11; 6 p.m.

•Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

WHAT TO DO Monday-Fridays; noon-4 p.m

www.oregoneastsymphony.org \$25/general, \$45/premium, \$25/general, \$45/premium, \$75/concert, dinner and auction at www.wildhorseresort.com). Features Rossini's "Barber of Seville Overture," Beethoven's Sympho-ny No. 5, Strauss' "Blue Danube," Brahms' "Hungarian Dance No.

gale-gallery
Free. Features artwork of EOU students from all disciplines. Runs

through June 9.

•Nightingale Gallery, Loso Hall •Eastern Oregon University, La

www.eou.edu/art/nightin-

"Real People" Saturday, June 11; 2-4 p.m.
 Arts Portal Gallery, 508 N.
 Main St., Milton-Freewater

Free. Artist's reception with Central Middle School Art teacher Jenny Hegdal. Includes refreshments and entertainment. Regular gallery hours Saturday and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

"Circuit Chautauquas: **Educating Dayton and** America"

Tuesday, June 14; 6 p.m.
Dayton Historic Depot, 222 E.
Commercial St., Dayton, WA

www.daytonhistoricdepot.org Admission by donation. Opening reception for an exhibit exploring the history of circuit chautauquas — traveling shows and assemblies popular in the late-19th and early-20th century.

Temperance Creek: A

Memoir" •Thursday, June 16; 7 p.m.
•Josephy Center for Arts and Culture, 403 N. Main St., Joseph.

Free. Book release event for wallowa County author Pamela and a multi-media presentation.

Mesbah •Saturday, June 4, 6 p.m. All ages No cover
•Hamley Steakhouse lawn, 8
S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton

•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wild-horse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit

•Saturday, June 4; 7-10 p.m. No

·Saturday, June 4; 9 p.m. No

cover

Sisters in Song

•Sunday, June 5; 4 p.m. •Pendleton Center for the Arts,

ticket Benefit event for Oregon East Symphony (tickets available

Brahms' "Hungarian Dance No. 5," Anderson's "Chicken Reel" and "The Looney Tunes Theme."

Bram Brata ·Sunday, June 12; 5-7 p.m. •Heppner City Park, 444 N. Main St.

Free. The popular steel drum band form the Tri-Cities will kick off Heppner's monthly Music in the Park series. Food will be available for purchase.

•Monday, June 13; 7 p.m. •Boardman Marina Park Free. Hermiston musician kicks

off the Music in the Parks series, which alternates weekly between Boardman and Irrigon marina parks. Food available for purchase. **Big Bad Beat**

Friday, June 17; Saturday, June 18; 8 p.m. No cover •Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wild-horse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

98% Angels
•Monday, June 20; 7 p.m.
•Irrigon Marina Park Free. Music in the Parks series alternates weekly between Boardman and Irrigon marina parks.

Food available for purchase.

Night life

DJ music

•Saturdays, 8 p.m. •The Pheasant, 149 E. Main

Whiskey Wednesday Game

Night
•Wednesdays; 3-7 p.m.
•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

No cover. Drink specials, Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii, PlayStation 3 and Nintendo 64.

Thursday Night Comedy •Thursdays, 8 p.m. No cover. •Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wild-horse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission. June 9: Vince Royale

Digital Karaoke

•Thursdays and Fridays, 8 p.m. •The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Wine tasting •Fridays, 4-8 p.m. •Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main **Open Mic**

8 p.m.-midnight •The Packard Tavern, 118 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton www.facebook.com/groups/ pendletonopenmic

·First/third Friday each month,

Karaoke •Fridays 8 p.m. (9 p.m. if game •Riverside Sports Bar, 1501

Sixth St., Umatilla

DJ and dancing

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

Open Mic Night
•Friday, June 17; 8 p.m.
•Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla www.riversidesportsbarand-

lounge.com No cover. Hosted by Mondo Ray. Food and drink specials.

Theater & film "The Angry Birds Movie"

•June 4-5 & June 7; 7:30 p.m.

•June 4-5; 3 p.m.

•The Liberty Theater, 344 E. Main St., Dayton, Wash. www.libertytheater.org \$8/adults, \$7/students and seniors, \$6/12 and under; \$1 discount for matinées. When an island populated by happy, flightless birds is visited by mysterious green piggies, it's up to Red, Chuck and Bomb to figure out what the pigs want. The historic 1910 theater is

operated by the Touchet Valley Arts Council.

"The Little Mermaid" •Monday, June 6, Tuesday, June 7; 6 p.m.

•lone Community School, 445 Spring St.
Free. The Ione Choir will present the familiar Broadway musical.

"MILTON" •June 16-19; 7 p.m.

•June 18-19; 2 p.m. •McLoughlin High School, 120 Main St., Milton-Freewater

www.skyovermilton.com/town/ milton-freewater-or Free/Milton-Freewater dents, \$5-\$15 suggested donation from others. The story behind "MILTON," a play about five towns named Milton (and Milton-Freewater) and the constellation they create. Local presentation is presented bi-lingual in English and Spanish. Child care provided during the Sunday matinée.

Hot tickets ·Vanilla Ice and Morris Day & The Time. July 30 at Wildhorse Resort & Casino. Tickets (\$29-\$59)

available via www.wildhorse.com •KISS. July 10, Toyota Center, Kennewick. Tickets (\$39.50-\$125) via www.ticketmaster.com

•Umatilla County Fair Main Stage entertainment: A Thou-sand Horses (Aug. 9), The Bella-my Brothers (Aug. 10), Brothers Osborne (Aug. 11) Baile (Aug. 12), Creedence Clearwater Revisited (Aug. 13) Feetival seating from with (Aug. 13). Festival seating free with fair admission; reserved seats are

\$12. (*541-567-6121*). *Hunter Hayes. Aug. 26, Benton-Franklin Fair, Pasco. Also Salt N Pepa (Aug. 23). Tickets (\$15) available via Kennewick Ranch & Home or www.bentonfranklinfair.

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.

MOVIE REVIEW 'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' sequel is a cartoon on steroids

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows" is a Saturday morning cartoon on Michael Bay steroids. For the under 12 set, that's fine. For the rest of us? It's something to actively avoid.

Not that a live-action "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" sequel owes anything at all to an adult audience, but in an age where comic books of every stripe are tailored to be must-sees for ages 8 to 80, it's a little disarming to find one hopeful franchise that is really and

truly for kids. They're the one audience who will just let the nonsense wash over them.

This "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" sequel, produced again by Michael Bay and directed by Dave Green ("Earth to Echo"), is so inane that they essentially have to resurrect the main conflict from the firstmovie , when the four pizza-crazed reptiles took down Shredder, New York City's resident bully. "Out of the Shadows" kicks off with Shredder (played this time by Brian Tee instead of Tohoru Masamune) breaking out of a police convoy, and effectively escaping the Turtles' nunchuck-wielding, manhole cover-launching garbage truck/war machine. The objectives of the

bad guys are a little grander this time. Shredder teams up with the mad scientist Baxter Stockman (Tyler Perry, chewing the scenery somewhat gloriously) to try to open up a portal to another dimension so that Krang — a truly grotesque disembodied alien brain — can take over Earth.

You need look no further than the fluttery vocal stylings of Brad Garrett's Krang to really know that

this is just a more expensive, high-definition version of the thing you used to watch in your pajamas while eating a bowl of cereal. If that sounds like a good thing, "Out of the Shadows" might be for you. But for most of us, the joys that the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles were able to provide had a definite expiration date, and no amount of CGI-spectacle or professional athlete or supermodel cameos are going to change that. The "Turtles" are and always have been for the

kids. They can have it.

★☆☆ PG-13, 112 minutes