

PENDLETON

Play celebrates perseverance, impact of art

Free performance is Saturday, April 29 at the arts center

East Oregonian

A bilingual performance marking the celebration of El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), will be presented by Teatro Milagro of Portland.

The Pendleton Public Library, in partnership with Pendleton Center for the Arts, is bringing the free family presentation to Pendleton. "Mijita Fridita" is Saturday, April 29 at 4 p.m. at the arts center, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Although the play is free, those planning to attend need to call 541-278-9201 to reserve tickets.

Commonly referred to as Dia, it's a celebration of children, families and

reading that culminates yearly on April 30. The celebration emphasizes the importance of literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

The play shares the story of young Fridita, who is growing up in Coyoacan during the Mexican Revolution. Bedridden due to polio, she escapes into a world of her imagination. There, Fridita meets another girl that looks just like her. They journey to the center of the world for a fiesta with amazing characters.

Back in the real world, Fridita's peers taunt her for being different. Her father, Guillermo, provides encouragement by awakening her interest in art with his love of photography. Strong and resilient, Fridita learns to overcome hardships — becoming a legendary artist that continues to inspire.

Dañel Malan and Jose Eduardo Gonzalez, Teatro Milagro co-founders, seek to provide culturally appropriate arts education and enrichment programs that build cultural appreciation and help bridge communities. The bilingual theater group addresses global issues through the use of cutting edge dramatic plays.

The free performance also is made possible due to the generous support of the Pendleton Friends of the Library and Betty Klepper. The library is planning other Dia (Children's Day/Book Day) events, including a bilingual story time and a Cinco de Mayo activity. For a schedule or more information, call 541-966-0380.

To reserve free tickets to the play, call 541-278-9201. For more about Dia, visit <http://dia.ala.org>. Also, Teatro Milagro's website is www.milagro.org.



Photo contributed by Russell J. Young

Emile Dultra and Ajai Terrazas Tripathi are among the cast members of "Mijita Fridita," a free bilingual play that will be presented by Teatro Milagro April 29 at Pendleton Center for the Arts.

BRIEFLY



EO Media Group file photo

Alan Domschot plays with the Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers during a past show in Wallowa County. The group will perform Saturday, April 29 in Irrigon.

Old time musicians fiddle around

IRRIGON — For some toe-tappin' fun, you won't want to miss a performance of the Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers.

The group will play Saturday, April 29 at 6 p.m. at Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 N.W. Opal Place, Irrigon. The cost is \$5 and free for ages 12 and under. People are invited to come early, as food will be available for purchase at 5 p.m.

For more information, contact irrigonchamber@irrigonchamber.com or 541-922-6259.

Prodigal Son hosts poetry reading

PENDLETON — In recognition of National Poetry Month, a poetry reading is planned in Pendleton.

Shaindel Beers, an English instructor at Blue Mountain Community College, will share her work. The free event is Wednesday, April 26 at 6 p.m. at The Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, 230 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton.

For more information, call 541-276-6090.

Gorge artists open studios

The public is invited to visit the studios of artists in the Mid-Columbia region from Cascade Locks to The Dalles and Parkdale.

In its 11th year, the Gorge Artists Open Studios is Friday, April 28 through Sunday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. The free tour is self-guided.

More than three dozen juried artists are allowing access to where they work on everything from painting, drawing and photography to jewelry, sculpture and textiles. Artwork is for sale at most of the studios.

Detailed maps of participating studios are available at www.gorgeartists.org, as well as at Gorge-area chambers of commerce and Columbia Center for the Arts, 215 Cascade St., Hood River.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/gaos, tour, or contact gaostudios@gmail.com or Kathy Watne at 541-490-6897.

Submit information to: community@eastoregonian.com or drop off to the attention of Tammy Malgesini at 333 E. Main St., Hermiston or Renee Struthers at 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton. Call 541-564-4539 or 541-966-0818 with questions.

Festivals

Renaissance Faire

•Saturday, April 22; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
•Whitman College, Boyer Avenue/South Park Street
www.whitman.edu/faire
Free. Features jousting, theater performances, live music and other performers. Also food and vendors available.

Spring Release Weekend

•May 5-7
•Various wineries in Milton-Freewater, Walla Walla region
www.wallawallawine.com
Some events free. Cellar doors are open and new releases are available for tasting. Celebrate the end of harvest season with special pours, winemaker dinners, live music and more.

Cinco de Mayo

•May 6-7
•Butte Park, 1245 N.W. Seventh St., Hermiston
Free. Features a carnival, food, entertainment, competitions, a speech by Portland's consul general of Mexico, a youth dance, an adult dance and fireworks. A parade is Saturday at 1 p.m.

Pendleton Cattle Barons Weekend

•May 12-13
•Blue Mountain Community College
www.cattlebarons.net
Free/many activities. Selected as Pendleton's Tourism Event of the Year, its goal is to preserve the region's ranching heritage and raise money for scholarships. It features a select gelding sale, a working dog sale, ranch rodeo events and the North American Stock Saddle Bronc Championship. Also the Bit, Spur and Engraver Show, a world-class Saddlemaker's Show, a Tradin' Post and the Buckaroo Barbecue Challenge.

Art, Museums & Authors

Terrific Tuesday

•Tuesday, April 25; 7-8:30 p.m.
•Heritage Station Museum, 108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton
www.heritagestationmuseum.org
Free. Joey Lavadour presents a basketweaving presentation and demonstration.

Chuck Close: Portraits

•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. Selection of Close's works from the collection of Jordan Schnitzer. Runs through April 29.

Shaindel Beers poetry reading

•Wednesday, April 26, 6 p.m.
•Prodigal Son Brewery & Pub, 230 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton
Free. In celebration of National Po-

etry Month, the BMCC English instructor will share from her works.

Gorge Artists Open Studios

•April 28-30; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
•Various locations between Cascade Locks to Hood River
www.gorgeartists.org
Free. More than three dozen artists open their studios to share their craft with the public. Artwork on sale at many locations. A map is available for the self-guided tour.

Open Regional Exhibit

•Saturday, April 29; noon-4 p.m., accept entries
•Thursday, May 4; 5 p.m., opening reception
•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.
www.pendletonarts.org
\$10/adults, \$5/youths entry fee per piece of art. Cash prizes awarded.

"The Path of Totality"

•Monday-Saturdays; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
•Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, 2020 Auburn St., Baker City
www.crossroads-arts.org
Free. Amateur and professional artists' work depict the theme inspired by the upcoming Aug. 21 total solar eclipse. Show and sale runs through April 29.

Music

"Go Fourth and Be Merry"

•Saturday, April 22; 7:30 p.m.
•Vert Auditorium, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton
www.oregoneastsymphony.org
\$20/adults, \$15/students, seniors, \$45/family. Oregon East Symphony and Chorale. The program includes Beethoven's "Symphony No. 4," Mozart's "Piano Concerto No. 21," featuring James Cook on piano, and Rossini's Overture to "L'Italiana in Algeri."

Cadillacs for Everyone

•Saturday, April 22; 8 p.m. No cover
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission

James Dean Kindle

•Tuesday, April 25; 7-9 p.m.
•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton
No cover, all ages.

Live Music Thursday

•Thursdays 7-9 p.m. No cover
•40 Taps, 337 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton

Open Mic at GP

•Thursday, April 27; 7-9 p.m.
•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton
No cover. All ages are welcome during the last Thursday of each month. Bring your instrument, voice, family and friends.

The Phoenix

•Friday, April 28; Saturday, April 29;

8 p.m. No cover

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

Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers

•Saturday, April 29, 6 p.m.
•Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 N.W. Opal Place, Irrigon
\$5/adults, free/12 and under. People are invited to come at 5 p.m. for dinner, which will be available for purchase.

Martin Gerschwitz

•Sunday, April 30; 3-6 p.m.
•Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo

No cover. Kid-friendly. Formerly with Iron Butterfly, Meat Loaf, Walter Trout and more.

Night life

DJ music

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

Karaoke w/DJ David

•Fridays and Saturdays; 8 p.m.
•Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla

Lock, Stock & Lipstick Ladies' Night

•Saturdays; 8 p.m.-2 a.m.
•Sub Zero Restaurant & Lounge, 100 W. Highway 730, Irrigon
No cover. Drink specials from 8-10 p.m. Live DJ with female-friendly music.

The Office Trivia Tuesday

•Tuesday, April 25; 7 p.m. No cover
•40 Taps, 337 S.W. Emigrant Ave., Pendleton

Whiskey Wednesday Game Night

•Wednesdays; 3-7 p.m.
•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston
No cover. Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii, PlayStation 3 and Nintendo 64.

Digital Karaoke

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

LOL Comedy Jam

•Thursdays; 8 p.m.
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.

Mac's Trivia Night

•First Thursday of month, 8 p.m. No cover
•Mac's Bar & Grill, 1400 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton

21 and older. East. Drink. Think. 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.

Theater, Stage & Film

"Diary of Anne Frank"

•Saturday, April 22; 7 p.m.
•Irrigon High School, 315 E. Wyoming Ave.

By donation. Students present the story based on writings by Anne Frank, a young Jewish girl.

Chippendales

•Thursday, April 29; 6:30 & 9:30 p.m.
•Rivers Event Center, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission.
www.wildhorseresort.com
\$54/premium seats, \$44/general seats (Club Wild members receive \$10 discount). The male revue features chiseled bodies, cheeky humor and charm. 21 and older.

"Live Wire!" w/Luke Burbank

•Saturday, April 29; 7:30 p.m. No cover
•Hamley Saloon, 8 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton

[\\$15/general; \\$25/VIP. Join Emmy award-winning host Luke Burbank for a live taping of the fastest growing entertainment show on public radio. An evening of Late Night stride, Oscar Wilde wit and the charisma of Ferris Bueller grand marshaling a parade. Music, comedy and conversation. Also features James Lavadour and Jim Brunberg.](http://www.livewireradio.org/live)

Hot tickets

•The Pilot Tour: (featuring hip-hop artists Gem Starks and US[+] from Portland) May 12, Flower Building in Walla Walla; and May 13, Little Vert Theater in Pendleton. Tickets available (\$10) via www.thepilottour.com

•What the Festival: June 16-19, Wolf Run Ranch, near Dufur. Three-day music, art, film and interactive festival. Features 90 electronic music DJs on eight stages and the largest splash pool in North America. Camping options available (\$300-\$2,500) via www.whatthefestival.com

•Pendleton Whisky Fest: (featuring Maroon 5) July 15, Pendleton Round-Up Grounds. Box/grand stand seats still available (\$70-\$95) via www.pendletonwhisky-musicfest.com

•Northwest World Reggae Festival: (music, camping, food, vendors) July 28-30, Pfau Family Pfarma, 13 miles west of Sandy. Early bird prices (\$120) via www.nwwrf.com

•Eclipse Wine Festival: (music, rooms, camping, wine, meals, tours, eclipse viewing) Aug. 18-21, Eola Hills Legacy Vineyard, near Salem. Single event or multiple-day packages (free-\$2,900) via www.eolahillswinery.com

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

MOVIE REVIEW

Love triangle undoes historical epic 'The Promise'

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

The Armenian Genocide is a curiously unexplored moment in our modern history, cinematically speaking. That fact alone makes director and co-writer Terry George's "The Promise" intriguing enough. Historical fiction generally has it over documentaries in inspiring mass interest, especially when actors as appealing as Oscar Isaac, Christian Bale and Charlotte Le Bon are involved.

And indeed, "The Promise" is a sprawling and handsome epic set around the extermination of 1.5 million Armenians in Ottoman Turkey. But despite the best of intentions, the film fails to properly explain and contextualize both what led to that disgraceful episode, which Turkey to this day denies, and why it escalated as it did. Instead, "The Promise" chooses to focus in on an unsympathetic love triangle that manages to trivialize the film overall.

The goal, as always, is to personalize the events that are too big and too devastating to look at as a whole — to make it about the lives interrupted, cut short and thrown into turmoil because of external forces. Thus we're given the character Michael Boghosian (Isaac), an Armenian medical student from a small village in Southern Turkey who uses his fiancée's dowry to study modern medicine in Constantinople. Michael isn't



Jose Haro/Open Road Films via AP

This image released by Open Road Films shows Oscar Isaac, left, and Charlotte Le Bon in a scene from "The Promise."

in love with his fiancée (Angela Sarafyan), but such is life in Siroun where marriages are arranged and he doesn't have any other choice. He kisses her goodbye and heads off to the big city, promising to return in just a few years.

Constantinople is an oasis of temptation for Michael, who essentially falls for the first woman he sees. The beguiling Ana (Le Bon) is a cosmopolitan beauty and intellectual. She lived in Paris for years. She exudes ethereal confidence. And she's an Armenian from around his hometown. Ana also happens to be in a long-term relationship with Chris Myers (Bale), an Associated Press reporter who we're told drinks too much.

While Michael is enjoying the city life and lusting after Ana, though, things are devolving around him. It's 1914 and vague signs of war are emerging. Things go on as normal for a little while — there are German soldiers at the parties now and battleships in the harbor and a heightened sense that some Turks are anti-Armenian. And then Constantinople's Armenian intellectuals start getting arrested and taken away. To where is unclear. To fight? To prison camps? To be executed?

The intention, likely, is to put the viewer on the blurry ground level with Michael and Ana, who see their world turned upside down so suddenly that of course there

"The Promise"

★★★★

PG-13, 134 minutes

would be confusion. Explanation and insight is hardly a priority when survival is the goal. But that's where Bale's Chris Myers should have been more useful.

To the film's credit, he does take us early on to distant villages to witness townspeople being rounded up and walked through the desert. Women and children are executed without hesitation and, when Chris is spotted in the distance, soldiers take off after him. It's clear they don't want people seeing what they're doing. He chimes in occasionally with helpful exposition as he's dictating articles.

"The Promise" is infinitely more interested in the triangle, dropping the three leads into convenient situations to heighten the will they/won't they/can they/should they drama, which, frankly, becomes increasingly unsympathetic as the situation around them becomes more dire.

It's unfair to critique such an utterly sincere film that does contain some riveting action and acting and even might inspire some to learn more about this moment in history, but unfortunately, the story just doesn't live up to its grand ambitions.