

FLORENCE

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS

*CROW presents retelling
of classic fairy tale*

The musical comedy opens April 10
at the Florence Events Center.

COURTESY PHOTO

An off-beat retelling of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, “The Princess and the Pea,” Children’s Repertory of Oregon Workshops’ (CROW’s) latest production, “Once Upon A Mattress,” focuses on a royal family whose matriarch, Queen Aggravain, has ruled that no one in the kingdom may marry before her son, Prince Dauntless. She keeps the kingdom single by foiling every marital candidate the prince entertains.

Sir Harry offers to search far and wide for the perfect candidate for Prince Dauntless and returns with Princess Winnifred (“Fred” to her friends), an uncouth woman from the wrong side of the swamp. Hilarity ensues and if you want to know the rest, you’ll have to come see the show, Friday, April 10, through Sunday, April 12, at the Florence Events Center.

During its original Broadway run, “Once Upon A Mattress” made Carol Burnett a household name as Princess Winnifred. Years later, she brought the production full circle with a turn as the wicked Queen.

The Los Angeles Times says the play is “witty and tuneful.” Talkin’ Broadway calls it “fun and effervescent.” MSNBC hails it as “a peppy spoof.” Whatever you want to call it, audiences are going to absolutely love it, says artistic director Melanie Heard.

More than 50 children and young adults have been put through the paces by experienced CROW volunteers, such as musical director Jason Wood and assistant musical director Maree Beers. Spectacular set pieces have been created by Chris Heard, David Tidball and Crystal Shahan. Karen Mechek and Judy Murphy will once again dazzle with their artistic skill.

Margaret McDiarmid has returned to design beautiful stage lighting, and Chris Owens will provide professional soundboard operation.

Polly Fleming and Barbie Madden have been sewing costumes like mad in order to creatively clothe the large cast of lords and ladies. Debbie Waiss returned this year to stand guard at the castle doors as stage manager.

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