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CROW announces 'Shrek' as spring 2016 production



COURTESY PHOTO

Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops' (CROW) theater group members celebrate the announcement of their spring production, "Shrek," which will premiere in April.

On Friday, July 31, local nonprofit youth theatre organization Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) was excited to announce that they will be producing the hit Broadway show, "Shrek the Musical Jr." in April 2016 at the Florence Events Center.

The Florence playhouse was packed with families and kids eagerly awaiting the news, following the showcase for "Games, Games, Games! Acting and Improvisation Camp."

Envelopes containing giant puzzle letters were opened by CROW kids who successfully answered musical theater trivia questions. The letters were unscrambled, a large banner unfurled, and CROW producer Mike Jacobson entered the scene wearing a silly Shrek mask and gloves.

The Florence Playhouse erupted with applause and excited voices as kids shared which roles they might be interested in auditioning for.

Auditions will be held Jan. 11 to 13 in CROW's brand new artistic facility at 3120 Highway 101.

CROW Artistic Director Melanie Heard said, "Mark your calendar, and start getting ready for auditions early because the competition will be fierce for roles in this hilarious and awesome Broadway musical!"

For more information about the CROW program, visit www.crowkids.com.

Second Star brings mirth, merriment this weekend

For the first time, the Florence Events Center (FEC) will play host to the Second Star Festival, which brings together more than 40 vendors showcasing wares meant to inspire, spark the imagination and foster creativity.

Activities will include acoustic musicians, local and regional art, kids events, inspirational talks about the creative process and more.

Festivities will begin at 10 a.m. today, Aug. 8, and last until 10 p.m. There will be a break from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for visitors to grab dinner, followed by a performance in the auditorium by Tricky Pixie, as well as a film by critically acclaimed puppeteer and filmmaker Toby Froud.

Tricky Pixie is a fusion of talents from a musical trio that blends a myriad of instruments, strings, voices and drums to perform songs about pirates, dancing satyrs, gyp-

sies and pixies to create a unique musical and visual experience.

The film "Lessons Learned," by Froud and his team of puppeteers at Stripey Pajamas Productions, is the story of a boy who is surprised by special treatment from his grandfather during his annual birthday visit — when he presents the boy with an intriguing gift offering adventure and other-worldly experiences.

The merriment continues tomorrow, Aug. 9, with more music, mirth and creative mayhem from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Obtain a weekend pass plus a concert ticket to see the entire two-day festival, with special pricing for children so that the entire family can attend.

Children ages 6 and under can attend free, with admission for kids between 7 and 12 years old admitted for \$7.

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