

# Poison Pen Players bring holiday murder and laughs to FEC

Join the Poison Pen Players, a Florence based comedy murder mystery troupe, for the return of its popular holiday production, "Dead in the Sled: Ho, Ho, Ho...Oh No!"

The play is set in the town of Christmas Valley, where, each Christmas, the Chamber of Commerce hosts a Community Caroling Concert, and awards the coveted yard signs to those displaying the best "Holiday Cheer" at this event. This "friendly" competition each year has just about driven the locals mad with jealousy, conspiracy theories and alliances "to the death" sworn over back fences all over town.

Nicholas Kringleman, owner of Christmas Valley's only restaurant, "Kringleman's Deli," has closed his business, and will be out of town, as usual. Nicholas never competes for prizes and always leaves home, only returning on the

Dec. 26.

The Dimmer twins, Shimmer and Glimmer, are up to their typical nasty tricks as the highly anticipated event approaches. When they aren't busy tearing up the town, they are fighting tooth and nail with each other. Glimmer has the most cunning and criminal intelligence, but she is insanely jealous of Shimmer, "the pretty one."

Walter Winterberry (played by same actor as Nicholas Kringleman) hates Christmas. He is the postmaster of Christmas Valley, and, as such, is responsible for hand canceling all the cards sent to the town for remailing by obsessed Christmas nuts living in non-festive places with names like Death Valley. Ebenezer Scrooge would be proud to call him a friend.

Wanda Winterberry, Walter's sister, a driving force behind all of the Christmas

mania, is in full steamroller mode as usual. What she lacks in money and taste, she makes up in boundless enthusiasm. Wanda loves everything about Christmas, and spends the entire year scrounging around for junk she can use to create her "holiday masterpieces."

Holly Garland, police Chief of Christmas Valley, has a few problems of her own. She has reluctantly agreed to head up the judging committee this year, against her better judgment. Her own home isn't decorated yet because she's been too busy, and she has been spending most of her time riding herd on the Dimmer twins.



Poison Pen Players' shows are fully scripted with high-energy physical comedy and audience interaction.

Performance is Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$43.95 and includes a three-course meal and at least one murder. Purchase tickets by phone at 541-888-968-4086, online at [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org).

# Eugene Ballet to present Holiday classic 'The Nutcracker'



It wouldn't be the Christmas season without that classic holiday tradition — "The Nutcracker." This popular seasonal show comes alive on the Florence Events Center stage Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. The Eugene Ballet's holiday extravaganza once again fills the stage with smiling faces of all ages as hundreds of young dancers join the company to tell this beloved story with its grand adventures taken by Clara and Hans.

"The Nutcracker" brings the holiday spirit into focus, transporting the audience through Clara's dreams and the wondrous characters she encounters along the way. With the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier as guides, you'll fly away to the Snow Kingdom and the Land of the Sweets, but not before battling the Mouse King and his pirate hench-mice.

Toni Pimble's exquisite choreography and Don Carson's colorful and magical sets are masterfully orchestrated to create the perfect tradition to put everyone into the holiday spirit.

For tickets and more information, stop by the FEC, 715 Quince St., call 541-997-1994 or go online to [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org).



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