

'DEAD IN THE SLED' TO 'SLEIGH' AUDIENCES THIS HOLIDAY

FLORENCE — Florence's own warped and wicked Poison Pen Players are back with another hilarious murder mystery comedy for two performances in Florence. The first show will be at the Florence Events Center (FEC) on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m., and the second show will be at Three Rivers Casino Resort on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m.

This professional comedy murder mystery troupe has nearly 20 years of experience in the genre, and they claim that they really know how to relieve your holiday stress — with a whole lot of laughter.

The show's title is "Dead in the Sled: Ho, Ho, Ho....Oh No!" and was written by Poison Pen matriarch Rose Ellen Jacobson.

The storyline is just as twisted and unusual as the characters, and centers around a cut-throat award ceremony for the coveted Yard Décor signs in an idyllic little town called "Christmas Valley."

Characters include Nicholas Kringleman, owner of Christmas Valley's only restaurant, "Kringleman's Deli", played by Marty Adams in his first PPP role.

The 11 year old Dimmer twins, Shimmer and Glimmer (played by Desiree Gaoiran and Tim Jones), 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.

Walter Winterberry (also played by Adams) hates Christmas. He is the



COURTESY PHOTO

Marty Adams, Paula Burnette, Mike Jacobson, Tamara Szalewski, Tim Jones and Desiree Gaoiran will interact with audiences during Poison Pen Players' "Dead in the Sled" Murder Mystery Comedy, playing Dec. 12 and 18.

Postmaster of Christmas Valley, and, as such, is responsible for hand-canceling all the cards sent to the town.

Ebenezer Scrooge would be proud to call him a friend.

Kooky pants Wanda Winterberry (played by Paula Burnette), Walter's sister

and the 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.

Holly Garland (played by Tamara Szalewski) is the police chief of

Christmas Valley, and has reluctantly agreed to head up the judging committee this year, against her better judgment.

Finally, Mike Jacobson reprises his hilarious role as Amarillo Snowden, former ballroom dance champion, and aging gigolo reduced to earning money working for the cruise lines as an escort for the lonely, unaccompanied lady passengers.

Wait till you see Amarillo's outfit, which is worth the price of the ticket all by itself.

Poison Pen Players' shows are always audience interactive, and this particular show is one of their highest energy, most over-the-top and just plain zaniest.

There are also funny songs and dances to help you ring in the holidays with a big grin on your face. Included with your ticket is a delicious 3-course holiday meal, including coffee/tea and dessert, as well as at least one murder. Audience members get to help solve the murder, and there are prizes for the winning team.

Tickets are \$43.95 at the FEC per person (catered by Mon Ami) and \$40 per person at Three Rivers Casino.

Tickets must be purchased in advance.

For tickets for Dec. 12, call: 541-997-1994 or visit www.eventcenter.org.

For tickets for Dec. 18, call: 877-374-8377 or visit www.threeriverscasino.com/events.

For more information visit www.poisonpenplayers.com Poison Pen Players hopes you have a "killer" holiday season, and spend just a little bit of it with them.

Last Resort Players to host auditions for play 'Anne Frank' this month

FLORENCE — The story of Anne Frank captured with heartbreaking eloquency in the pages of her diary have been shared on stage, film and countless art forms over the decades.

However, newly discovered writings from her diary, along with survivor accounts, have been interwoven into a contemporary and impassioned re-telling of the lives of people persecuted under Nazi rule.

Written by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, and adapted for the stage by Wendy Kesselman, the play has been described by The Associated Press as "A powerful new version that moves the audience to gasps, then tears."

The play captures the claustrophobic realities of the families in hiding as they move through a daily existence mixed with fear, hope, laughter and grief during the two dark years Anne Frank and her family managed to stay alive within the confines of a space that was both safe haven and prison.

Presented by The Last Resort Players and directed by Jennifer Connor and Cathy Dupont, auditions for "Diary of Anne Frank" will take place at the Florence Events Center on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 1 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m.

Auditions are open to the public.

For more information, visit the website www.lastresortplayers.org.

Nativity scenes to be on display at annual festival Dec. 4-6

FLORENCE — The 10th annual Florence Community Creche (Nativity) Festival will be held Dec. 4 through 6, from 1 to 6 p.m. each day.

The festival will be at the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints church building on the corner of North Fork Siuslaw and Munsel Lake roads.

The festival is open to people of all faiths.

Admission is free.

Special musical numbers will be provided each day by individuals and

groups from the central Oregon coast.

Anyone in the area who would like to display a nativity scene is invited to participate in the festival. Displayers from past years are welcome to join in again.

All nativity sets, large or small, are welcome.

Security is provided for the nativity scenes once they are set up at the church.

For more information, contact Vickie Kennedy at 541-997-7404 or by e-mail at vdkenney54@gmail.com.