

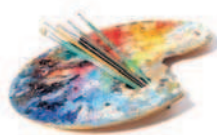
FEC to host Artistic Visions exhibit through February

Original 2-D, 3-D and photography works from local artists will be on display during the Artistic Visions Awards Show through January at the FEC. This awards show is sponsored by the Friends of the Florence Event Center Gallery Committee, and will be on display from Jan. 5 through Feb. 1, 2016.

Three out-of-town judges were selected for this show, each one respected in their field of expertise (2-D, 3-D, photography).

A cash prize of \$150 will be awarded for first place in each category, along with honorable mention ribbons, with each artist allowed to submit up to three works of art. Reproductions (ink jet prints, etc., with the exception of photography) of original artwork were not eligible.

A special artists reception will be held Saturday, Jan. 9, from 2 to 5 p.m., during the Second Saturday Art Tour.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Artistic Visions art reception — Jan. 9
Winter Music Festival Kids Concerts — Jan. 14
Winter Music Festival — Jan. 16 and 17
Siuslaw Awards — Jan. 20
Jesse Cook concert — Jan. 29
Jazz Kings — Jan. 30

FEBRUARY

Lane Blood Mobile — Feb. 8
Chamber Business Expo — Feb. 11
For the Love of Animals art exhibit — Feb. 12
CROW Share Your Heart — Feb. 13
Ballet Fantastique — Feb. 20
If Gathering women's conference — Feb. 27



ONGOING EVENTS:
Florence Rotary Club luncheon -
Tuesdays at noon

CROW auditions begin for spring production of Shrek the Musical, Jr.

In a faraway kingdom, the green ogre, Shrek, finds his swamp invaded by banished fairytale misfits, runaways who've been cast off by Lord Farquaad, a tiny terror with big ambitions. When Shrek sets off with a wise-cracking donkey to confront Farquaad, he's handed a task: if he rescues feisty Princess Fiona from the Dragon-guarded tower, his swamp will be returned to him.

But, a fairy tale wouldn't be complete without unexpected twists and turns along the way. Part romance and part twisted fairy tale, "Shrek The Musical, Jr." is an irreverently fun show for the whole family. CROW (Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops) has announced open auditions, Jan. 11 and 12, for the musical comedy with book and lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire, and music by Jeanine Tesori.

This marks CROW's fifth mainstage production at the Florence Events Center.

The show will be performed April 15, 16 and 17, and for invited school audiences on April 14. Local audiences may recall that last spring, CROW produced a main stage production of "Once Upon A Mattress," which dazzled and delighted local audiences. CROW is a Florence-based nonprofit organization dedicated to giving back to the community by providing quality performing arts experiences to local youth.

Artistic director Melanie Heard is a credentialed teacher, and founder of the program. "We are not your 'typical' children's theatre organization," says Heard. "There is no charge to participate in a CROW mainstage musical, and this differentiates us from 95 percent of all other youth theatre organizations in the nation."

"It's much more than just theatre. It's an opportunity to hone crucial life skills such as teamwork, motivation, dedication and self-esteem," says Heard. "We hope that these things will serve our kids well, no matter what life path they may select."

In addition to providing a very professional work environment for the cast members, CROW utilizes the highest caliber costumes, sets, lighting design, choreography, music, sound, stage makeup and more.

"Just wait till you see this year's fire breathing dragon," says Heard.

There are great roles for ages 6 to 22 and older, and all young people are encouraged to try out regardless of previous stage experience. Mature 4- to 6-year-olds may be considered for "Telegrammers." Auditions will be held at the Siuslaw Middle School cafeteria on Jan. 11 and 12, at 6:30 p.m. Invited callbacks will be held on Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

There are approximately 40 to 45 onstage roles,

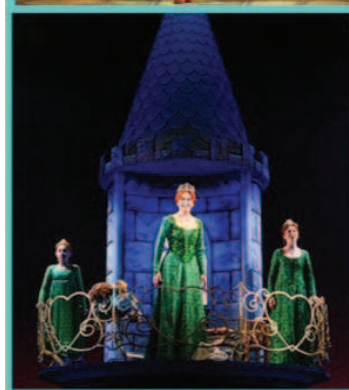
and several behind the scenes jobs for kids interested in technical theatre. To audition or participate backstage, kids must attend the audition. Onstage performer hopefuls will need to bring 16-32 bars from a song that they would like to sing (sheet music or a CD, MP3 track with no background voices is also acceptable), and a headshot and resume if available.

Prospective cast members will also be taught a short dance combination, and those asked to come to callbacks will read sides from the script.

No experience is required, so don't be afraid to come and give it a try. Interested families are encouraged to check out the CROW website for all of the information needed to prepare for the audition. Rehearsals will begin Jan. 25 and are generally held weeknights from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. A schedule will be available for perusal at the audition.

Heard stresses that performing in these productions is a big commitment.

"Performing in one of our shows is very hard work and requires dedication, but when the curtain opens in April, we know you will agree that it was worth it," Heard says. For a casting breakdown, FAQ's, and detailed audition information, visit www.crowkids.com, or contact Heard at 541-999-8641 or by email at crowtheatrekids@yahoo.com.



CENTERSTAGE

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