

# LRP production of 'Anne Frank' is powerful retelling

The latest production of Anne Frank, being produced by Florence's Last Resort Players, is a retelling of the well-known play based on Anne Frank's diary, which was reclaimed by her father, Otto Frank, when he returned to the Annex following the end of WWII. He was the final survivor of the families that had hidden there. He released some but not all of the writings in the diary, as he thought some of the reflections she wrote about might offend the tenants of the annex — particularly Anne's opposition to her mother, which he felt didn't honor their memory.

Those newly released writings and survivor accounts have been interwoven into a powerful, intimate adaptation of Anne Frank's story. Audience members find themselves going back in time as cast members enter an era where human moral is shattered by horrific changes.

But somewhere in a small annex a little girl finds the courage to survive. During two years of hiding, Anne Frank



records daily activities and conversations with wit and astonishing honesty. The audience learns through a mature 13-year-old that the human heart truly can defeat the fear of death. In this drama, the Last

Resort Players invites the audience to witness what life may have been like for the Frank family — living a claustrophobic existence together, as eight people try to contain their fear of what is to come, as well as grief for what was lost.

And hope for a peace that allows them to return to their ordinary lives.

History plays out in front of the audience in this adaptation for those who know the story well, and for a new generation that has yet to understand the gift of what Anne Frank gave to humanity through her diary.

LRP is introducing three young actors to the stage for the upcoming production of Anne Frank. Memphis Gliewe will play the leading role of Anne Frank. Memphis is a talented 8th-grader who attends Siuslaw Middle School. She has been involved in several LRP productions, including "Our Town." Gliewe is also actively involved in Indian Education, and plays the trumpet in band. Her character in Anne Frank explores deep, intimate emotions throughout the play, and she is said to capture those moments with maturity and skill.

Brooklyn Cahoon is taking on the role of Margot Frank, Anne's older sister. Cahoon is also an 8th grader at Siuslaw Middle School and in her first role for LRP. Cahoon spends her extra time volunteering in her local church helping teach children. The young actress also loves playing guitar and singing all genres of music.

Cahoon says she enjoys the learning

process of theater and the opportunity to stretch herself beyond her shy comfort zone.

Kyle Hight plays Peter Van Daan. His character in Anne Frank is shy, quiet and clumsy, but Hight couldn't be further from those traits off stage.

A freshman at Siuslaw High School, Hight is an active, well-spoken and sure-footed student. He is active in his community and loves hanging out with friends, listening to music or playing video games.

Like Cahoon, this is his first LRP play and he has reached above and beyond to relate with his character.

These three young actors are in the midst of many talented performers, who have offered mentorship on and off of the stage.

Additional cast members include:

Otto Frank (Dana Rodet); Edith Frank (Kate Gibson); Mr. Van Daan (Jim Wellington); Mrs. Van Daan (Jackie Crave); Mr. Dussel (Grant Harmond); Miep Gies (Trudie Cahoon); Mr. Kraler (Paul Deemer); Nazi Officers (James Bonisteel and Jamison Smith).

The Diary of Anne Frank will be performed April 22, 23, 28 and 29, at 7 p.m., and April 24 and 30, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available now at The Florence Events Center, 715 Quince Street. Box office hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or visit [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org).

For more information, call the FEC at 541-997-1994.

