

Bandon Playhouse to present 'Agnes of God'

BANDON — An intimate adult drama of mystery, murder, motherhood and madness describes the Bandon Playhouse's next production, "Agnes of God," which opened April 1 and runs weekends through April 17 at the Best Western motel in Bandon.

John Pielmeier's story of "Agnes of God" unfolds through the memories of Dr. Martha Livingstone, the psychiatrist appointed by the court to determine the competency of a novice nun named Agnes to stand trial in the death of her newborn child.

Mother Superior Miriam Ruth is determined to shield Agnes, who exudes a particular innocence. The interaction of these three women forms the heart of the play.

Johnna Hickox plays the psychiatrist, Cathy Underdown plays Mother Superior and Cynthia Mohorko plays Agnes in this version directed by Playhouse president Bobbi Neason.

The title is a pun on the Latin phrase *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God).

The play opened on Broadway March 30, 1982, at the Music Box Theatre. A film adaptation was released in 1985, starring Jane Fonda, Anne Bancroft and Meg Tilly.

Based on a true story, "Agnes of God" has enjoyed a revival among women's groups, who believe it examines important ethical and spiritual issues that women must face.

"Theater for thinkers" is how Neason



COURTESY PHOTO

Cynthia Mohorko as "Agnes"

describes the play's underlying themes. The themes and meaning emerge largely through the doctor's private reflections and the interaction of the characters and revolve around questions of faith and fulfillment, sanity and ecstasy, reason and religion.

"The beauty of this play is that it asks fundamental questions and gives you space to answer them yourself," Neason said.

This show represents a new direction for Bandon Playhouse for edgier, more serious productions with small casts that utilize a smaller venue.

That's why the show will not be performed at the Sprague Theater, but at the Best Western conference room. The room will be transformed into a theater space, with lights and a minimal set.

Refreshments will be available at intermission.

Neason, in order to give the audience background about the play, will offer a "preface" at 7 p.m. prior to each Saturday show, and a "talk back" for theater-goers to ask questions of the actors will be held following each Sunday production.

Show dates are April 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17.

Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m.

All tickets cost \$10 each and are available at Bandon Mercantile or Bandon Ace Hardware, by calling 541-236-5105, at www.bandonplayhouse.org or at the door.

'Vivace' quartet to perform live in Coos Bay

COOS BAY — "Vivace," a modern and thrilling combination of four unique and exceptional pop and classical singers, will be performing live at the Marshfield High School Auditorium in Coos Bay on Thursday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m.

A limited number of tickets for this performance are available for \$20 adults and students.

Based primarily out of Vancouver, Melody Courage, Tiffany Desrosiers, Marc Devigne and Michael Ciufo first merged their talents in 2010 performing at the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games. Since then, they have gone on to tour extensively through the

United States and Canada, captivating audiences everywhere they go.

Their stirring combination of powerful male voices and emotionally driven female vocals come together to create a sound that is exclusively their own.

With a rich and diverse repertoire ranging from pop, to arias, to their own self-written material, Vivace undoubtedly puts a fresh new take on the classical and modern music of today.

For more information please contact Mike Gordon at 541-269-1272 or visit the Coos County Community Concert Association's website at www.cccca.com.

The Coos County Community Concert Association (CCCCA) has been presenting world-class entertainment to the Coos Bay area since 1937.

The CCCC is an all-volunteer, subscription-based organization offering an affordably-priced concert series each year.

Styles and genres include ensemble and solo instrumentalists, Chinese acrobats, jazz and dance troupes.

Live On Stage, Inc. provides excellent, affordable, entertainment attractions and support services to an American community of concert presenters.

'Wallflowers and Wine' returns to FEC

FLORENCE — Come create your own wall art with artist John Leasure while enjoying a glass of wine Saturday, May 14, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

All the paints, canvas and art instruction are provided to create your own sunflower masterpiece.

Tickets are \$40 per person and include a free beverage (one glass of wine or non-alcoholic choice) and a multitude of delicious snacks while participants are given professional, step-by-step painting instruction.

Space is limited, so reserve your spot by visiting www.eventcenter.org, stopping by the FEC box office at 715 Quince Street, or by calling the box office at 541-997-1994.

This fun event is sponsored by the Friends of the Florence Events Center.