

Public invited to 'dance' with sea lions

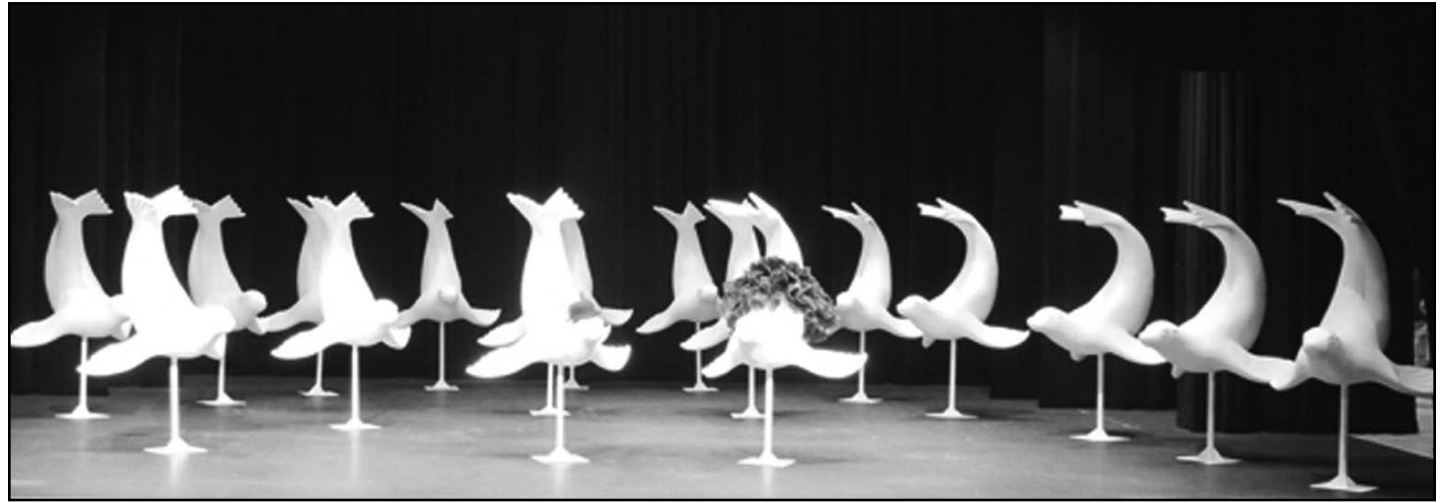
FLORENCE — “Porter” the Sea Lion will take the stage in her many artistic incarnations thanks to the work of 20 area artists, each of whom have created their own one-of-a-kind creation using a large fiberglass blank canvas of Porter.

The original 20 life-sized sea lion statues arrived at the Florence Events Center in February, and then were dispersed to each of the artists participating in the Dancing with Sea Lions project.

After submitting their ideas and acquiring their sponsors, the artists have spent the last two months preparing for their “big reveal” April 8 at a special VIP reception, followed by a public showcase April 9 at the FEC.

The statues are part of the FEC’s 20th anniversary celebration, “Dancing with Sea Lions.”

All 20 sea lions will gather at the FEC



COURTESY PHOTO

The individually decorated sea lions created by local artists will be revealed to the public April 8 at the FEC.

for display before being installed at locations in Florence, as well as spots between

Reedsport and Newport.

The Saturday, April 9, public showcase

will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the FEC, 715 Quince St.

City Lights Cinemas offering exclusive film preview series

FLORENCE — The New York Film Critics Series (NYFCS), a premiere screening company, has partnered with the nation’s leading independent cinemas, including City Lights Cinemas, to present live, in-theater events.

The evenings are moderated by Peter Travers, film critic for Rolling Stone Magazine and ABC’s Popcorn.

NYFCS offers screenings of movies before their theatrical release and presents interactive, big-screen and HD broadcast

with the stars and filmmakers.

“Instead of waiting for weeks for some specialty film releases, this series gives Florence the chance to be among the first in the nation to experience the film — and see interviews that won’t be seen any-

where else but inside a theatre,” says Michael Falter, owner of City Lights Cinemas.

Regular ticket prices apply: \$9 regular, \$8 for senior, \$7.50 for matinees and \$6.50 for City Lights members.

FRAA offering ongoing spring schedule of new writing classes

FLORENCE — The Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) is continuing its exciting literary arts program this spring with “Writers on the River” workshops designed for all writing levels and genres.

These classes will present different topics to inspire writers and enhance their skills on the following Saturdays: April 16, May 14 and June 11.

The next workshop, “Simple Steps to Improve Your Writing,” is on Saturday, April 16, from 9 to 11 a.m., at 120 Maple St. in Old Town.

Every writing style requires some polishing. This fun, hands-on workshop will show writers how to streamline their words and make them jump off the page, with easy steps from an Amazon book editor.

FRAA writing instructor Catherine J. Rourke will share professional revision and editing techniques from working at major publishing houses, national magazines and daily newspapers over the past 30 years.

No two workshops are ever alike and

each is geared toward the participants’ specific needs.

Classes fill up quickly, so pre-registration is suggested.

Cost is \$20 for FRAA members or \$25 for nonmembers, payable at the door on the day of each workshop.

Call 541-708-2120 or email CJReditor@gmail.com to register.

Rourke is an award-winning journalist, editor and columnist with more than 30 years’ staff experience at daily newspapers, national magazines and major pub-

lishers.

Educated at the City University of New York, Oxford University and the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism, she has also served as a book editor and jacket cover copywriter for Amazon and Random House, in both print and digital formats.

The former New Yorker now resides in Florence where she is writing a memoir about her adventures as an investigative reporter titled “And Forgive Us Our Press Passes.”

Special guests lined up for patriotic-themed Community Chorus concert

FLORENCE — The Siuslaw High School Chamber Choir, the Encore Dancers, CROW Kids and the Flotones will all be special guest performers at the May 1 Community Chorus Concert.

The spring concert, titled “Irving Berlin

Meets Uncle Sam,” will include a number of patriotic songs as well as old favorites that people enjoy singing or humming along with.

Irving Berlin wrote hundreds of songs, many becoming major hits, which made

him a “legend” before he turned 30. During his 60-year career, Berlin wrote an estimated 1,500 songs, including the scores for 19 Broadway shows and 18 Hollywood films, with his songs nominated eight times for Academy Awards.

The concert will be held Sunday, May 1, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Florence Event Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults and can be purchased at the FEC box office or by calling 541-997-1994.

Attendees under age 19 admitted free.