

'Grace and Glorie': Poignant comedy is CAT's meow

Theater Review

By BURNLEY GARELICK

Cherkov has his cherry trees, and Grace has her apple orchard. Sometimes life is the pits, and sometimes it's rotten to the core. Whatever it is, it's ephemeral and it's resilient, even at the approach of the Grim Reaper, whose scythe blade is dulled by the compassionate union of disparate personalities.

Class Act Theatre (CAT), Florence's newest stage for the performing arts, has begun its inaugural season, Aug. 5 through 7 and Aug. 12 through 14, with "Grace and Glorie," a play by Tom Ziegler.

CAT's first production is a dramedy or poignant comedy, a sad subject rife with emotion, balanced with laughter as crisp and sweet as an apple, especially the final words.

"Grace and Glorie" is a two-person play with tour de force performances by Sue Sweatt and Tamara Szalewski, who inhabit their characters with exquisite skill.

Grace (Sweatt) is a nonagenarian dying of cancer in her log cabin cottage deep in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. She has unwittingly sold her 500 acres for a pittance to a shyster developer



COURTESY PHOTO

Sue Sweatt as "Grace" (right) and Tamara Szalewski as "Glorie" in Class Act Theatre's "Grace and Glorie"

who is building a resort. The sounds of earthmoving machines are palpable. But Grace is happy to stay in her home as long as she lives. She is a hardscrabble, God-fearing, illiterate redneck who swears by a gospel quartet on the radio, except she doesn't condone swearing. Despite her terminal cancer, she's a feisty old girl who doesn't hesitate to speak her mind.

Glorie (Szalewski) is half her age, a sophisticated New York business consultant who doesn't hesitate to break glass ceilings. She and her lawyer husband have exchanged the fast lane for the rural hinterlands, where she is unable to find comparable employment and volunteers at the local hos-

pital. That's what brings her to a surprised Grace, who never asked for hospice assistance. But Grace wastes no time sizing her up and christens her "Glorie."

Grace is mellow and witty, compared to Glorie's fast-talking, supercilious, humorless hyperactivity. Glorie is an alien in Grace's country, but Grace is fairly patient and teaches Glorie the ways of her world — building a fire in the wood stove, fetching eggs from squawking chickens and improvising the best use of her mother-in-law's soup tureen. Sometimes it's hard to know who is caring for whom!

The women share their lives and their deepest secrets, question their beliefs, and after har-

rowing revelations, come to an understanding that, despite themselves, they've been enriched by one another, even though Grace will never comprehend the pleasure of prosciutto and brie.

When Eve bit that apple and Adam took her cherry, life was tossed in a turbulent whirl of war and peace, passion and grief, love and loss, and the joy of artful plays like "Grace and Glorie."

In addition to the noise of heavy equipment, incidental mountain music complements the terrific set across the expansive stage, revealing the interior of Grace's cabin home with walls of polished logs stacked like books in a library of folk aphorisms to keep those idle hands busy.

Kudos to Sue Sweatt and Tamara Szalewski and to accomplished director Paula Lindkugel-Willis for a grand show. Cheers to David and Rosemary Lauria for creating the Class Act Theatre, one CAT whose meow will purr throughout this season and for many more.

Enjoy this fancy feast Fridays and Saturdays, Aug. 5 and 6 and 12 and 13, at 7 p.m., and Sundays, Aug. 7 and 14, at 2 p.m. CAT is at 509 Kingwood St. in Florence. For more information, seek the website at catproductions.org or call 541-997-4815.

Master Recycler Program accepting applications

Lane County Waste Management Division is offering a free course that provides comprehensive training in local solid waste issues. Hear from local experts, tour local facilities and learn why things are (or are not) recyclable.

In Florence, classes will be held Fridays from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 13, 2017, and continuing through March 10, 2017, at Lane Community College Florence Center, 3149 Oak St.

The Waste Management

Division hosts this course to help Lane County residents and businesses reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink waste habits.

Applications are available at www.lanecounty.org/master recyclers or by calling 541-682-2059.

Completed applications may be submitted by fax, email or regular mail.

The Master Recycler training course includes 35 hours of classroom instruction: nine consecutive Tuesday evening

classes, a Saturday compost demonstration and two Saturday multi-site field trips to area solid waste and recycling sites. Instructors are local experts in solid waste from business, government and non-profit sectors.

The course is free for those who volunteer 30 hours to educate and assist their communities in the year following the training. Those who do not wish to volunteer may pay a small fee.

More than 850 Lane County

master recyclers have contributed more than 37,500 hours of education and assistance to local citizens and businesses since the program began in 2000.

In addition to attending class sessions and tours with local experts, all participants enroll in Recycling 101 online. The R101 course was developed for and by Oregon's recycling industry. Normally valued at \$50 to \$75, R101 is free for Lane County Master Recycler students.

Free Aug. 27 recycling event a 'black and white' affair

The City of Florence Environmental Management Advisory Committee is offering Florence residential households free recycling of tires, appliances and propane tanks at Siuslaw High School, 2975 Oak St., on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the annual Black and White Recycling Day.

People can recycle: tires of 22 inches or less, at a maximum of 10 per household; small and large appliances of all kinds; and propane tanks

of 5 gallons or less.

The Black and White event will not accept commercial waste, such as vehicle tires, commercial appliances or hot water tanks.

The event partners with Central Coast Disposal, County Transfer and Recycling, Lane County, Les Schwab Tires and Potters Tire and Automotive.

For more information visit the City of Florence Planning and Building at www.ci.florence.or.us/planning or call 541-997-8237.

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PRIME RIB SATURDAY
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Florence Food Share's first annual Summer Spirits and Brews Benefit Tour is scheduled for Saturday, September 10th. Buses will be leaving from the Food Share pantry at 9a.m. and will head up to Newport to visit the Rogue brewery, distillery and museum. En route to Newport, donuts, pastries and coffee will be provided from Big Dog Donuts. From Newport, we will be travelling to Corvallis to visit the Spiritopia and Vivacity distilleries. Subway Sandwich Shop will provide lunch en route to the next stop. After imbibing in Corvallis, we will make our way to Eugene for our last stop at Ninkasi Brewery, where dinner will be available for purchase.

You will have the opportunity of free tastings at a few of the stops during the day, and you are welcome to purchase additional libations. During our time on the bus, we will have raffle prizes, games, snacks and lots of frivolity. As an added bonus, transportation will be provided free of charge, if you feel that you should not be driving home.

Tickets are on sale NOW, \$75 each, and seating is limited, so be sure to call soon to reserve your seat on the bus! Thanks very much to Banner Bank and Peace Health for being the main sponsors of this event. All proceeds benefit our efforts to alleviate hunger in West Lane County. Call 541-997-9110 to reserve your seat today!

Western Lane Ambulance District Ambulance Runs July 18-24

Date	Time	Area	Type
7/18/16	0719	Sherwood Loop	Medical
7/18/16	0730	Ninth Street	Medical
7/18/16	1408	Evergreen Lane	Medical
7/18/16	1430	Kingwood Street	Medical
7/18/16	1430	Transfer to RiverBend	Medical
7/18/16	1605	Transfer to Coos Bay area	Medical
7/18/16	1951	Oak Street	Medical
7/18/16	2003	21st Street	Medical
7/18/16	2145	Willow Loop	Medical
7/19/16	0009	Buck Lake Drive	Medical
7/19/16	0321	Woodland Lane	Medical
7/19/16	0752	Levage Drive	Medical
7/19/16	1242	Willow Loop	Medical
7/19/16	1355	Transfer to RiverBend	Medical
7/19/16	1609	Dentons Way	Medical
7/19/16	1654	Bay Street	Medical
7/19/16	1834	Highway 101	Medical
7/20/16	0210	Spruce Street	Medical
7/20/16	0758	Clear Lake Road	Medical
7/20/16	0826	21st Street	Medical
7/20/16	1037	Ninth Street	Medical
7/20/16	1155	Transfer to RiverBend	Medical
7/20/16	1800	Highway 101	Trauma
7/20/16	2155	Transfer to RiverBend	Medical
7/20/16	1910	Transfer to RiverBend	Medical
7/21/16	0031	Maple Street	Medical
7/21/16	0729	Treewood Drive	Medical
7/21/16	1226	Ninth Street	Medical
7/21/16	1316	Ninth Street	Medical
7/21/16	1435	Greenwood Street	Trauma
7/21/16	1619	Village Road	Medical
7/21/16	1640	Ninth Street	Medical
7/21/16	2049	Bay Street	Medical
7/21/16	2148	Ninth Street	Medical
7/22/16	1047	Airport Way	Medical
7/22/16	1123	Sherwood Loop	Trauma
7/22/16	1143	Ninth Street	Medical
7/22/16	1159	23rd Street	Medical
7/22/16	1220	16th Street	Medical
7/22/16	1738	Clear Lake Road	Medical
7/22/16	1757	Pine Street	Medical
7/22/16	2015	Saltaire Street	Medical
7/22/16	2245	Lower Umpqua	Standby
7/23/16	0430	Florence Airport	Medical
7/23/16	0953	42nd Street	Medical
7/23/16	2157	18th Street	Medical
7/23/16	2306	North Fork Siuslaw Road	Medical
7/24/16	0435	Mariners Lane	Medical
7/24/16	1016	Ninth Street	Medical
7/24/16	1151	Spruce Street	Medical
7/24/16	1158	Highway 101	Medical
7/24/16	1454	Rhododendron Drive	Trauma
7/24/16	1525	Saltaire Street	Medical

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with BETH MOORE and Worship with Travis Cottrell

Please join us:
SATURDAY, SEPT. 17TH
(register by Sept. 8th)
8:30AM-3:30PM

Hosted by Cross Road Assembly of God located at 1380 10th St.

This event will feature Beth's dynamic storytelling and passionate Bible teaching. Join 150,000 women around the world for this live, global, internet streaming. It will challenge and encourage women to grow deeply in their faith.

Dove-award winning musical artist Travis Cottrell will lead worship.

Register by mail or at the church through September 8th.
Cost is \$20 pp with lunch and snacks included.
Church office: 541-997-3533 (M-Th, 9am-3pm)
office@florencecrossroad.org