

# DEATH BY DESSERT

*CROW plans darkest chocolate event of the year for Valentine's weekend*

**B**race Yourselves, Florence. On Saturday, Feb. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Three Rivers Casino Resort Showroom, things are going to get sinfully sweet. They might perhaps also get a little “salty” as local bakers, restaurants, caterers and purveyors of delicious treats vie for recognition and prizes at CROW’s first annual “Death by Dessert” fundraiser.

Sweethearts and singles are both encouraged to tickle their tastebuds at this Valentine’s Day weekend party. Guests will be invited to try samples of a large variety of decadently wonderful sweets and treats and then vote for their favorites, maybe kick up their heels a bit to the Rat Pack stylings of “Buck and A Quarter Band,” and participate in a fantastic Silent Auction and Wine Pull. And, all of this will be happening while attendees are supporting a truly great cause — local youth in the arts.

Last year, Children’s Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) raised about \$24,000 through auctions, pledges and donations, which put the nonprofit well on the way to finalizing it’s new

home: The CROW Center for the Performing Arts, located at 3120 Highway 101 in Florence.

“Events like this are made possible by countless volunteer hours, generous dessert donations by bakers, incredible silent auction donations from businesses and community members and lots of old fashioned hard work. We are so incredibly grateful to everyone who has helped us with coordination of this event, which is designed to shake up the fundraiser world,” said CROW Artistic Director Melanie Heard.

In Spring 2015, 501 (c)(3) organization, CROW, secured its new home through the help of an infusion of immediate funds from an anonymous investor. Since then, the nonprofit organization has worked hard to complete a series of crucial renovations, including upgrading ADA plumbing, completely redoing the electrical, adding a new roof, installing a new floor and an enormous list of other projects too long to include.

Through a flurry of grants and fundraisers, CROW has managed to beat the odds — staying fiscally



stable — while still providing high-caliber arts education to children every spring for free. This fact alone differentiates the organization from nearly all other youth arts programs in the nation, who rely on charging fees ranging from \$250-\$400 per child for participation. CROW doesn’t believe in that.

Now, partially on it’s way to paying back the initial \$220K investment, the organization seeks funds to complete the back third of the property, comprising a green room, dressing rooms for males and females, a small restroom and additional storage for sets, costumes and props.

As it sits, the building is about two-thirds complete, so this renovation will allow the property to operate at peak capability. For these reasons, this fundraiser is very important, and CROW is not shy in asking members of the public to make a difference in the lives of local children, simply by attending the event and having some sweet and tasty fun for Valentine’s Day weekend.

Last year’s CROW fundraiser was

nearly sold out, so it is best to reserve your tickets early. Pre-sale tickets are \$22 each, or \$40 for a couple. At the door tickets are \$25 each, and \$45 for a couple, upon availability.

Tickets include a large variety of dessert samples including cakes, pies, cookies, brownies and “unique” desserts, live music, the opportunity to pull a fancy bottle of wine and to bid on the amazing baskets, prizes and desserts up for grabs.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Heard said, “From the very beginning, CROW has told the world that we are not your usual children’s theater. Well, this time, we want you to know that this is not your usual fundraiser. I’m wondering how many of you can make it out — alive?”

The Death by Dessert theme goes hand-in-hand with CROW’s production of “The Addams Family,” a darkly comic musical.

To reserve your ticket for Death by Dessert, visit [www.crowkids.com](http://www.crowkids.com) and buy online, or contact Melanie Heard at 541-999-8641.

## CAM solo exhibit features Kipniss

COOS BAY — Until Feb. 4, the Coos Art Museum will be hosting a solo exhibition by the internationally acclaimed fine art printmaker Robert Kipniss.

The exhibition opens with a free reception for the public at the museum on Friday, Dec. 9, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The exhibition which takes place in the museum’s Perkins Gallery will feature prints in three different media, dry point, lithography and mezzotint. The exhibition will also include examples of the artist’s preliminary drawings and the copper printing plates.

Kipniss, now 85 years of age, resides in Westchester County, New York, and maintains a second home/studio in north-

western Connecticut.

During his long career he has had over 50 museum exhibitions in some of the world’s major institutions.

Of the works on display, nine are from the Permanent Collection of Coos Art Museum while the drawings, printings plates and six other works are on loan from the New York collector James F. White.

The subjects of Kipniss’ works include austere limbs of trees in autumn and winter, spare modest houses of simple shapes, and still life. Though his architectural depictions hint at the present of human life, Kipniss’ works are devoid of people. His artwork explores the effect of light



**Zoomed view of “Edge of the Village” by Robert Kipniss**

and shadow in muted tones. Kipniss said that he is trying to capture a moment, an atmosphere, a quickly passing experience, not just trees and houses.

Kipniss’ works are an expression of order and permanence.