

Experience 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

FLORENCE—On Feb. 2 at 7 p.m., be whisked away from winter's cold to the warm, lush green forests of "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Shakespeare's adored comedy of love, magic, fairies, mixed up lovers and the mischievous Puck comes alive in Toni Pimble's delightful choreography set to Felix Mendelssohn's spirited score performed by Orchestra Next.

A new EBC-commissioned ballet, "Wandering On," set on the Company by award-winning choreographer Stephanie Martinez, will open the program.

Chicago-based Martinez, winner of the Joffrey Ballet's 2014 "Winning Works: Choreographers of Color," brings her acclaimed talent to the Eugene



Eugene Ballet presents Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Ballet, stretching the creative minds of its dancers and audiences

Martinez's ballet is supported by The Hult Endowment of The Oregon Community Foundation.

The Surrounding Third, a new work

choreographed by EBC Company Dancer Suzanne Haag and set to Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings, will complete the program.

Founded in 1978 by Toni Pimble and Riley Grannan, the Eugene Ballet Company has grown from a community-based dance group to become one the West's busiest and most versatile professional dance companies.

The Eugene Ballet Company has set a high standard in the performing arts and has gained a loyal following of dance fans everywhere the company has performed.

Tickets can be purchased at the Florence Events Center box office, 715 Quince St., by phone at 541-997-1994 during regular business hours and online at www.eventcenter.org.

ARTIST LOFT GALLERY HOLDS REGIONAL 'SPRING HAS SPRUNG' SHOW

COOS BAY—The Artist Loft Gallery, now at its new home at 367 Anderson Ave. in Coos Bay, will be hosting an area-wide open art show in March and April. The theme is "Spring has Sprung."

Artists are invited to submit 2D or 3D artwork.

The Artist Loft Gallery, founded in 2003, is inviting artists of any level who work in any medium to enter. There will be three cash prizes and several Honorable Mention ribbons. The first place winner will also have a one-month show at the gallery. Up to three items may be entered; fees are \$10 for the first item and \$5 each for the second and third entries.

The show will run from March 14 to April 29. Entries must be brought to the Gallery by March 11. For details, email CoastArtOregon@gmail.com, stop by the gallery or call 541-756-4088.

Bandon holds first Gorse Blossom Festival

BANDON—The City of Bandon is gearing up to host the first annual Gorse Blossom Festival during President's Day weekend, Feb. 17 to 19. As you can tell from the name, this isn't your typical festival. Gorse?

Inside the farmer's market building you'll find three incredible days of beer and wine samples from across the state, tasty bites from local restaurants, live music from the southern Oregon coast's best bands, and some quirky entertainment that you won't find anywhere else. Tickets for the festival are \$15 a day and include a commemorative glass to be used for your beer and wine sampling.

If you find yourself in need of a break from the festival proper, take a stroll through Old Town and shop, check out the Oregon Coast Film Festival, or squint the tiniest bit for some stellar views of the ocean and remember that we are so lucky to live on the most beautiful coast!

When the festival ends at 6 pm each night, the fun continues with winemaker and brewmaker dinners at local restaurants. Pairings include The Loft and Arch Rock Brewing, Edgewater and King Estate Winery, Billy Smoothboars and Pelican Brewing, and Alloro and Abacela Winery. On Friday night you'll even find a Presidential themed pub crawl!

One of our favorite events is a Bloody Mary Stroll on the morning of February 19th starting at 9 am. For \$20 you get a

glass and a t-shirt and start your journey through Old Town, customizing your gigantic beverage with a variety of spices and sauces, over-the-top garnishes and even prawns. Finish your Sunday morning exercise with our locally made vodka from Stillwagon Distillery.

You might be wondering though, "why are we having a festival celebrating gorse?" Well, if you don't know, gorse is a nasty invasive seen throughout our area that is highly flammable, painful to the touch, and nearly impossible to remove. We don't like it. We would even say we hate it! But, it's here, it's part of our heritage, and we often get visitors who know nothing about it. We like to think about it as making lemonade from some of the ickiest lemons we've ever seen.

Luckily, Bandon has some incredible resources for dealing with this plant, including the Gorse Action Group. They'll be at the festival along with others providing some not-so-fun facts about the plant, education about what it is and what to do with it, and, most importantly, will teach you how to stop the spreading of it. We hope in addition to leaving the festival with full bellies and great memories, you'll also leave with a new-found disgust for the invasive villain!

This festival is presented by the Bandon Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Bandon Association.

For more information, visit the web-

site at: www.gorseblossomfest.com or send an email to info@gorseblossomfest.com.



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