



PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN WENZEL

# CROW presents deathly desserts

*Children's theater group targets sweet tooth at darkest chocolate event of the year*

**W**hat a way to go! Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) presents *Death by Chocolate*, an evening of decadent dessert samples, fine wine and entertainment on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Three Rivers Casino Resort Showroom.

Things are going to get sinfully sweet 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 sweets and treats and then vote for their favorites, 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.

"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.

Now, 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.

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 from a wine wall 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 coming Spring 2017 to Florence Events Center's main stage.

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.

*Death by Dessert* — and what a way to go.

## 'Steel Magnolias' portrays strong women and friendship

**Bandon Playhouse presents the play over 3 weekends starting Feb. 24**

BANDON—"I'm not crazy, I've just been in a bad mood for 40 years!" says the colorful character of Ouiser in Robert Harling's iconic comedy-drama "Steel Magnolias."

Bandon Playhouse brings the close-knit group of women in "Steel Magnolias" to life when it presents the play over three

weekends, Feb. 24 to 26, March 3 to 5 and March 10 to 12, at the Sprague Community Theater, 1202 11th St. SW in Bandon. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

The play centers around the women who gather regularly at the female sanctuary of Truvy's Beauty Parlor in Louisiana and how they cope through the emotional triumphs and tragedies of their lives by using razor-sharp humor and a stalwart, affectionate support for each other.

The dynamic cast includes Deb Holmes

as Truvy, the outspoken beauty shop owner; Amanda Morton as Shelby, a young diabetic bride-to-be; Bobbi Neason as Clairee, a wise-cracking widow; Sarah Sinko as Annelle, a recent beauty school graduate; Bobbi Wilson as M'Lynn, Shelby's rock steady, strong-willed mother; and Perri Rask as the cantankerous Ouiser Boudreaux.

The play is directed by Jeff Norris with Paul Hay as producer, Cindy Hay as stage manager and Peter Braun as acting coach.

"Steel Magnolias" gives an intimate look

at gossip, laughter, love and the strength in female relationships and friendships.

A local beautician will lend her expertise to create the ambiance of a home beauty shop. Another hair salon owner donated equipment to give the set a real-life beauty shop feeling.

Tickets cost \$14 and are available at Bandon Mercantile, 541-347-4341, or can be reserved online at [www.bandonplayhouse.org](http://www.bandonplayhouse.org). Tickets will be available at the door for \$15. For more information, call Paul Hay at 541-236-5105.