



JUNE 2017

‘Master Class’

Siuslaw Jam



International renown jazz and soul performer Clairdee will co-host the Siuslaw Jam which debuts this July in Florence.

Last Resort Players (LRP) has assembled a “master cast” for its upcoming production of “Master Class.” The show opens June 9 with additional performances on June 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 on the Florence Event Center’s flat floor.

Cast members include: Annie Schmidt (Maria Callas); Sheena Moore (Sharon Graham); Joanie Schmidt (Sophie De Palma); Patrick Rawley (Tony Candolino); Mary Conley (Stage Manager) and Jennifer Weier (Accompanist).

In the play, opera diva Maria Callas is holding a voice master class at the Juilliard School. Alternately dismayed and impressed by the students who parade before her, she

Resident thespian Annie Schmidt will play the lead role of ‘Maria Callas’ in this month’s LRP production of ‘Master Class’ at the FEC.

retreats into recollections about the glories of her own life and career.

Included in her musings are her younger years as an ugly duckling, her fierce hatred of her rivals, the unforgiving press that savaged her early performances, her triumphs at La Scala, and her affair with Aristotle Onassis.

It culminates in a monologue about sacrifice taken in the name of art.

Master Class is a 1995 play by American playwright Terrence McNally, presented as a fictional

Three years ago, Florence resident and City Councilor Joshua Greene was introduced to the Siletz Bay Music Festival — a small celebration of music and education held each year in Lincoln City.

“Each time I attended, I came away impressed with the passion and spirit on display with each performance,” said Greene. “My relationship with the festival grew and I thought about how fantastic it would be to bring some of these world-class musicians to the Florence Events Center (FEC).”

Greene extended an invitation to Siletz Bay Artistic Director Yaacov Bergman and some members of the organizing board.

“After a tour of the FEC, they became excited by the possibility of the musicians performing in a theater setting,” Greene said, explaining how the Siletz Bay Music Festival is on a flat floor as opposed to a theater.

“The opportunity to play in a formal



Bassist and bass guitarist David Captein will be among the many performers July 7 and 8.

theater with real acoustics became an exciting prospect,” said Greene.

With the support of the Siletz Bay Music Festival, Greene pursued the creation of an annual event in Florence. Taking advantage of the fact

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