

# FOLLIES DECK THE HALLS WITH 'TWISTED TINSEL'

## 'Holly Jolly Follies 2017'

Review

By **BURNEY GARELICK**

What with Russian hacking, North Korean missiles, hurricanes galore, accusations of misbehavior and the Tweet wars, we could really use a little Christmas.

Hang on to your Santa hats! Florence has the cure for the glum and gloomy this weekend, Dec. 2 and 3, at the Florence Events Center with the 2017 Holly Jolly Follies.

Gather the Grinch, Scrooge, and the Griswold Family to hoist a cup of kindness as your friends, neighbors and local celebrities take the stage to sing, dance and act in seasonal splendor. Florence's longtime

holiday variety show is for the second time engineered and fine-tuned by the incomparable theatrical team of Ellen and Mike Jacobson and their daughter Melanie Heard.

Ellen, a Rose by any other name, wrote the script; Mike reprises his role as Amarillo Snowden, aging Latin dance master tripping the light fantastic on cruise ships; and Melanie directs, keeping about 85 ducks and CROWs in a row for a delightful two-hour romp.

The show is titled "Totally Twisted Tinsel: The True Meaning of Christmas," a meaning masked by an alliterative title that suggests felony and mayhem; sometimes you have to hack through the jungle to appreciate the goodness at the end of the rainbow.

The plot's premise is an audition for Florence's holiday show, featuring a wealth of local talent. At the end of the actual show, the producers

declare a spectacular audition!

Subplots include friction between the show within the show's producers, buxom blonde Dolly Dinkle (Genevieve Meltzer) and Amarillo Snowden, glittering in gold lamé. Do the rivals resolve their differences?

That would be telling!

Another subplot includes Santa's elves sent to Florence to bring back the holiday spirit when Santa hears that someone has stolen the show's costumes and a teacher (Kristen Owens) singing to her letter-writing students asks for a "Box of Rocks" for her brother.

Santa is disturbed by the lack of civility.

The tall elf in the sparkly white suit is Elfis, played by Siuslaw News editor Ned Hickson, making a Follies' return. Elfis and Elvis (Wayne Sharpe of KCST Radio) square off with a swiveling duet. The elves gin up some cheer with parents and children under a Bay Street sign set against a stunning small town backdrop.

Santa himself (Dorland Neale) makes a jolly appearance to ensure the magic stays

in Florence "Where the River meets the Sea," and a good time is had by all.

But that doesn't begin to describe the joyful noises of the singers, actors and dancers. Exceptional vocalists include mother and daughter Marijo and Nyah Vollmar, Denise Dee, Wendy Krause, April Miller, Melanie Heard and Sabrina Heard, Melanie's beautiful and precocious four-year-old.

Another vocalist could be Dolly's cousin if we didn't already know her as the singular Fanny Rugburn (Jason Wood), a "Santa Baby" scene-stealer if ever there was one.

As for actors, David Lauria of Class Act Theatre plays a Chicago mobster retired to a Florence with Lola (Tamara Szalewski) who gets whatever she wants. Jake Molano, Gomez in "The Addams Family" and multiple characters in "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," plays multiple characters including an Italian costume designer, a parent, a cowboy and a guitarist.

Dancers are plentiful and diverse including tap, hip hop,

line, chair tap (Peggy Smith), and ballet. Tinsel Fairies (Thelma Genry and Angela Palmer) dance as if they'd stepped out of "The Nutcracker."

Perhaps the most striking choreography is CROW's Flight Dance Team making its debut and soaring with elegance.

The Cowboys return, still not having found the cows and still full of beans, blowing eructating harmony.

Leapin' Lizards! Remember the stolen costumes? The thief turns out to be Mr. Rex, a large, lovable reptile whose first name has to be Tyrannosaurus.

There ends the folly of "Totally Twisted Tinsel," a totally enchanting tale of community kindness, a sweet holiday story that trumps the news of the world today.

Show times are tonight at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the FEC box office or by calling 541-997-1994. Ticket prices at \$18 for adults and \$10 for kids age 12 and under.

## KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS



Sponsored by  
St. Mary Our Lady of the Dunes  
Knights of Columbus  
Assembly 3656  
Florence, Oregon

### WEATHER DATA

DATE	HIGH	LOW	RAIN
Nov. 21	62	52	0.11
Nov. 22	62	56	0.74
Nov. 23	58	43	0.49
Nov. 24	54	37	0.00
Nov. 25	50	42	0.06
Nov. 26	60	41	0.96
Nov. 27	52	36	0.00

Rainfall Week: 2.36"  
Month: 11.18" Year: 93.10"

Courtesy of Roger Cunningham

## SWC public meeting, potluck set for Dec. 6

Celebrate with the Siuslaw Watershed Council us its upcoming December General Meeting and Potluck in the council office conference room on Wednesday, Dec. 6, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Find out who receives the coveted "Spirit of Siuslaw Award" for 2017, listen to a review of accomplishments and fundraising results for 2017, and hear from the council's president Wendy FarleyCampbell.

Get a glimpse of SWC's activities for 2018 and beyond.

The SWC office is located at Mapleton School District Campus, 10868 East Mapleton Road.

Bring a main dish or side to share. Plates, utensils, coffee, tea and soft drinks will be provided.

## Big Wave poetry to hold First Tuesday Open Mic

The Florence Big Wave First Tuesday Open Mic will be hosted this month by the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA), 120 Maple St., on Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Come ride the wave to this Florence Big Wave Poetry

sponsored event with your favorite poems, stories and prose.

It's free and everyone is welcome to participate.

For more information go to "Florence Big Wave" on Facebook.

## Special guests sing at Community Chorus Concert

A red-haired little girl will perform at the Community Chorus's "Christmas Classics" Concert this December at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw.

Schmidt, Patrick Rowels, Rhianna Hanes and the Presbyterian Church Bell Choir.

The concert will take place Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m.

The Presbyterian Church is located at 3996 Highway 101.

There is no fee to attend; however donations will be appreciated.

For additional information, call 541 997-3469.



Grace Dotson

## PREMILLENNIALISM A DEEPER STUDY

Countdown to Armageddon?? Let the Bible answer as we invite you to come as we study this and other related topics such as:

-Premillennialism: True or False? The Rapture, The Great Tribulation, Are You Afraid of the Antichrist? What is the Thousand Year Reign?

Classes to be held at:  
Florence church of Christ, 1833 Tamarack St.  
Beginns Thurs., Dec. 7 at 6:30pm.  
Contact us at 541-997-3133 or online:  
churchofchristflorence.org

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Friday Evenings - 6 p.m. SINGSPARATION  
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Bay Berry Square is 1.5 miles north of Fred Meyers' Store  
88906 Highway 101 N, Florence, OR (milepost 185N)  
For Info: Jack - 541-999-8278 + Ron - mccrary9483@gmail.com

### THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Located at Munsel Lake Road and North Fork Road  
Worship Services 10:00 AM Sunday  
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### COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

4590 Hwy. 101, Across from Fred Meyer -- 997-7418  
Sunday School, 9:30a.m. - Worship, 10:45  
Wed. Prayer - 6:00 p.m. -Wed. Ministries 1-8 Grade 7 p.m.

### CROSS ROAD ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Corner of 10th & Maple -997-3533  
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Family Connections  
Adult Bible Class, 9:30am on Sundays.  
Sunday Services, 9am and 10:45am.  
florencecrossroad.org • office@florencecrossroad.org

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SBC

1935 25th St. - 997-7660 • Pastor, Dr. Marvin Owen  
Series "People of the Bible." on Wednesdays 6 p.m.  
A friendly place to worship, vacationers welcome.  
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### FLORENCE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

2nd & Ivy - 997-2961 -Non-Denominational  
Worship Service: 9:00 am & 10:30 am  
Middle School and High School youth groups meet on Wednesday.

### FLORENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pre-Denominational (Romans 16:16)  
1833 Tamarack Street (2 blocks east of Hwy. 101 on 18th St.)  
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www.churchofchristflorence.org

### FLORENCE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

12th and Nopal -997-9020  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
10 am Wed., Women's Bible Study  
Saturdays, Mens' Breakfast @ 8 a.m.  
Online Worship Service@ www.florencenaz.com

### FLORENCE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

1318 Rhododendron Dr. -- 997-2523 - Worship at 11:00 AM  
-- Sunday School at 9:30 AM - Variety of Sunday evening activities - 5 PM  
Wed. Bible & Children classes at 6:00 PM  
Call for details.

### FLORENCE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

4445 Hwy 101 (South of Fred Meyer) - 997-3951  
Worship on Saturday 10:30 A.M.  
Adult/Children's Sabbath School 9:15 A.M.

### FLORENCE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

87738 Hwy 101 at Heceta Beach Road  
RUAUU? All are welcome to explore the answer.  
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### FLORENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Website:florence4square.com

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Sunday Services: 10am and 6pm  
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00pm

### NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A.

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www.lutheranchurchflorence.com

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To be included in this directory contact  
the Siuslaw News at 997-3441, or drop off  
information at 148 Maple St., Old Town, Florence.