

CAT opens 'Proof' in August

The Pulitzer prize winning play "Proof" will open at Class Act Theatre (CAT) on Friday, Aug. 17, and run for two weekends. This play was originally scheduled to run in 2017, but in keeping with CAT's commitment to quality, was delayed until the right actors could be recruited for each role.

Director James Wellington introduces Cara Beere in the lead role as Catherine, the daughter of Robert, a recently deceased mathematical genius and professor at the University of Chicago, and her struggle with mathematical genius and mental illness.

The role of Robert will be played by David Lauria, who veteran audience members will remember

received rave reviews when he played this role several years ago.

Big sister Claire is played by Polly Fleming, who played the unforgettable role of the dog in "Sylvia" at CAT two seasons ago.

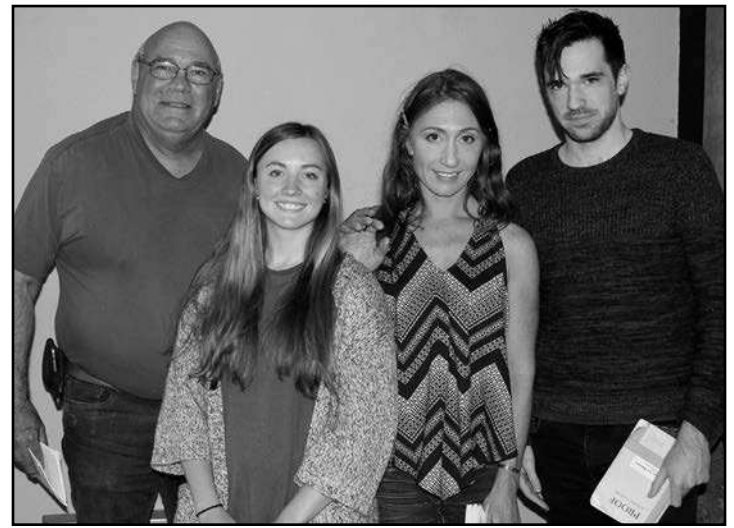
Alex Grady, who coincidentally was brilliant in two comedic characters in "Sylvia," returns to CAT's stage in the role of Hal, a former graduate student of Robert's and a new love interest for Catherine.

The play explores Catherine's fear of following in her father's footsteps, both mathematically and mentally, and her desperate

The cast of CAT's "Proof"

attempts to stay in control. The dialogue draws the audience in and the wit keeps the serious nature of the matter engaging.

Friday and Saturday performances will be at 7 p.m. and matinees will be on Sunday at 2 p.m. Seating is reserved. Tickets — \$18 for adults and \$16 for senior and military — are available online at www.catproductions.org. Tickets will also be available at the door one hour before performances,



subject to availability.

CAT is located at 509 Kingwood

St. For more information, call 541-991-3773.

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The musicians and actors will be recreating a live radio show, complete with a master of ceremonies, period music and biographical stories from area pioneers entitled, "The Siuslaw Pioneers: Yesterday and Yesterday."

Nin Bebeau is a strong supporter of KXCR and she is producing the benefit for the non-commercial station, which is completely staffed by volunteers.

Bebeau said she hopes that the event will draw individuals that are both interested in local history and in helping to support local radio.

"The Siuslaw Pioneers benefit

will include performances from the Heritage Players telling stories of the early settlers. It will be presented like an old-time radio show and in between pioneer stories, there will be musicians and singers," she said.

The hope is that attendees will learn about real people telling stories from the lives they led in this area a century ago, interspersed with music from that bygone era.

"Each member of the Heritage Players picked a person who lived in Florence, or in the vicinity, and then they researched each one. They dug up all the research they could find about the life of that person — how they dressed, what their interests were, what were some

of the important events in their lives and what were their conflicts and their loves," Bebeau said. "They take the original newspaper articles from the Siuslaw News and they digest them and interpret them and then they create the dialogue and the stories they share."

While the primary purpose of the benefit performance is to generate funds to support the operation of KXCR, there is also the added benefit of learning about the struggles and challenges faced by early white settlers to the area. There is also a recognition of the place native peoples occupied during this time.

"David Dumas plays Indian Dan, a native American that was a very important person at that time, as many of the settlers here had interactions with him, and David's performances are wonderful," Bebeau said.

She said the main source of entertainment during this period in the Siuslaw region's collective history was live music.

The musical component for the evening will incorporate traditional instruments and tunes from that earlier era into Thursday's show.

Steve McVay is one of Florence's talented musicians, and he will bring a number of traditional folk tunes to add to the show, along with an original

tune or two, based on traditional themes.

Also a longtime supporter of KXCR, McVay wanted to contribute in the best way that he knows, by playing music.

"Primarily, I want to support KXCR. I think they are a great alternative voice to those that do not have easy access to the internet or to alternative ideas in their day-to-day life," McVay said. "I am going to be playing a few fiddle tunes that go way back and are tunes that every fiddle player in the 1800s would have had in his repertoire for barn dances and weddings. I will also be playing one tune that I wrote, which is about the Oregon Trail and the battles they went through to get here."

Bebeau and McVay are just two of the 20 or so individuals that have committed their time and energy to coming up with a unique approach to sharing the history, music and people of our area, with current residents that may not be familiar with local traditions and culture, while generating funds for community-based radio.

Bebeau wants to bring two of her passions, history and music, to the public in way that highlights the importance of both.

"We go to the Pioneer Museum and we step through those doors because we want to step back into the past. We 'ooh' and 'aah' at the old photos and the objects that were part of their lives. And we do that because it's fun to look at Florence in its grandness and see where it was when it was just beginning and started becoming what it is today," Bebeau said. "When you plant a seed, it defines how the tree grows. Our past often defines how we live. We may rebel against it, but it remains the root of our being."

The "Siuslaw Pioneers: Yesterday and Yesterday" will be presented on Aug. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at City Lights Cinemas, 1930 Highway 101.



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120 Maple Street
Phone: 541-997-4435
Hours Open: Wed-Fri 11am-5pm,
Sat 10am-5pm, Sun. 11am-5pm

Classes, Workshops & Events

Spirit of Summer Artwork Pickup

Tuesday, August 28th, 9:30-11 am, at the FEC. If you have not been notified that your artwork sold, please pick up your artwork at the FEC on the 28th. Thank you for making the show a success!

FRAA is on Display at the Chamber in September

Artwork drop off is Tuesday, September 5th, 9:30-10:30 am, at the Chamber of Commerce. We would love your 2D artwork and some 3D but no jewelry.

Next Art Change-Out Day

Monday, September 10th, 9-11 am
Please pick up your artwork and bring something new to help keep the art at FRAA fresh to our visitors

Whimsical Hand Building

Ceramics w/ Alissa Clark
Wednesdays, 3-5 pm & Thursdays, 6-8 pm
Open Lab Ceramics on Saturdays
Drop in, work at own pace. Sat 12-5 pm
Call Alissa with questions, 503-957-5222.
All ceramics classes held at Alissa's Studio. 180 Laurel Street.

Big Wave Poetry 1st Tuesday Open Mic

Tuesday, August 7th at 6:30 pm.
Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

Poetry Writing Class with Jeff Lovejoy

Tuesday, September 11th, 6-8 pm. All levels welcome! Recapping a bit to get back into the swing of it. Short readings, exercises, why we write poetry! Contact Jeff for questions and registration: jlovejoy54@gmail.com

Painting with John Leasure

Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm
No painting experience required.
Contact: jleasure@hotmail.com or 541-991-2754 for details and fees.

Open Studio @ FRAA, Thursdays

No registration required. Drop-in, bring your materials, and create. All artistic mediums welcome.
Every Thursday, 1-4 pm
While the designated day is Thursday, please feel free to stop in and use our space and create any day/time that we are open and do not have a class scheduled.

For more information about classes, visit fraaoregon.org. To register for these classes, please call or visit FRAA at our Art Center on Maple Street.