

Meet the cast of LRP's 'Mamma Mia!'

"Mamma Mia!" will be the Last Resort Players fall musical at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., and it has a strong and deep cast. Much of the action in the play takes place at the Summer Night City Taverna on a remote Mediterranean Island that keeps it free from too many tourists, but it still attracts the discerning visitor.

Three young male characters in the play — Sky, Eddie and Pepper — are played by local talented actors William Owens, Christopher Keppol and Ramiro Ramirez. Sky is the fiancé of the hotel owner's daughter, Pepper is a barman at the tavern and Eddie helps Sky with watersports.

According to William, a Siuslaw High School student, he thinks his character Sky is much like him in that he also would move to a Greek Island. Although he doesn't have a British accent, he likes that Sky is a successful businessman. William is a fan of minimalism and says he's interpreted that love of design in his room. When not doing theater, you can most often find him practicing piano.

Christopher (Topher) says he's smart and a bit of a goof like his character Eddie. He really likes that Eddie helped build a website

for a place that nobody really knew about. Topher likes to play on his computer, as well as fantasy games like Dungeons and Dragons, and he can ride a unicycle.

Ramiro says his character is a bit different from him because Pepper is a little bit more of a risktaker when it comes to women, while he, on the other hand, doesn't have that much to lose. What he likes most about Pepper is the way he talks. Ramiro says the way Pepper handles his part of the dialog is something that he could employ when he finally has a love interest. When he's not doing theatre, he'll be producing his own radio show for 90.7 KXCR, writing articles for the Siuslaw News, making his own videos, playing with the Siuslaw High School Soccer team, helping his parents at ICM, or just preparing himself for the next step of life: College! Ramiro flew a plane before driving a car at the age of 15.

All three actors have experience on the stage in plays that have been very popular in Florence. Check out their bios at www.lrpproductions.org for a description of their experience.

"Mamma Mia!" will play at the Florence



PHOTO BY DAVE HANSEN

(From Left) Topher Keppol, William Owens and Ramiro Ramirez play three best friends in "Mamma Mia!"

Events Center the weekends of Nov. 1 to 3 and 7 to 10. Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows are at 7 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m.

Get tickets now at www.eventcenter.org.

Siuslaw Alumni All-School Reunion & Banquet

Help the alumni association raise money for Siuslaw scholarships and have fun doing it on Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Siuslaw Alumni Association Board Meeting and All-School Reunion and Scholarship Banquet.

Gather around the tables with your classmates to remember good times and make plans for future meetups. Win fantastic raffle prizes donated from local businesses and graduates. Bring cash to buy raffle tickets, t-shirts and hats.

The event takes place at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., with a happy hour at 5 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. that Saturday night. Everyone must be pre-paid/registered as there will be no pay-at-door for the banquet.

Following the banquet the Class of 1969 has arranged for music by The Intruders for the alumni's dancing and listening enjoyment, which is free with paid banquet reservation.

For more information, visit www.siuslawalumni.org/reunions-1.



CITY LIGHTS CINEMAS

Florence Events Center CENTERSTAGE SEPTEMBER 2019

6 • Florence Events Center — Center Stage • September 2019

FEC exhibit showcases oil paintings by John Leasure & students

Expect to see beautiful florals, stunning seascapes and more unique artistry during the months of September and October at the Florence Events Center (FEC) in Gallery One. Oil paintings on display are the work of local artist John Leasure and students from his Wallflowers and Wine classes at the FEC, as well as his oil painting classes at Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA).

A reception honoring Leasure and his students will be held at the FEC, 715 Quince St., on Friday, Sept. 13, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The Wallflowers and Wine classes repeat every four months at the FEC, and Leasure holds classes in oil painting every Saturday at FRAA. His teaching techniques offer a simple approach, enabling students to create polished paintings.

The exhibit at the FEC is a marvelous opportunity to showcase the students' work as well as that of the teacher.

Leasure is a leader in the art community of Florence. He's a board member at



FRAA, on the gallery committee at the FEC and very involved at Backstreet Gallery as a member/owner. His work can be seen at Backstreet Gallery as well as FRAA.

For more information about upcoming classes by Leasure, contact the FEC at 541-997-1994 and FRAA at 541-997-4435.

Strategic Fundraising in Rural Communities

On Thursday, Sept. 12, from 9 a.m. to noon, the Nonprofit Association of Oregon (NAO) will discuss Strategic Fundraising in Rural Communities with presenter Mike Westby. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with the presentation starting promptly at 9 a.m. There is a continental breakfast provided.

From top to bottom, this is a readiness workshop for nonprofits contemplating a fundraising campaign. This session is for nonprofit organizations of all sizes and would be ideal for executive directors, board members and development staff considering a large fundraising campaign effort.

In this interactive and engaging session, attendees will learn about:

- Navigating the board and executive director's roles, responsibilities and relationships.
- Embracing productive/creative friction.
- Understanding difference between governance and support roles.
- Leading from the middle.
- Aligning your campaign with your strategic priorities.
- Ensuring you've done your due diligence before launching your project.

• Best practices to plan and execute a successful campaign.

This workshop is made possible with support from The Ford Family Foundation.

The cost for the Strategic Fundraising in Rural Communities workshop is \$15 for NAO members and \$30 for nonmembers.

NAO Members must be logged in to receive the automatic discounted rate when registering at nonprofitoregon.org. People are asked to contact training@nonprofitoregon.org or 503-239-4001 ext. 123 if they are having difficulties registering.

Westby is the CEO and president of Westby Associates, Inc. More than 30 years ago, Westby moved into the development field and hasn't looked back. He places a distinct focus on major gifts and strategic fundraising campaigns, and over the years he's represented a diverse group of organizations and missions. Westby has represented projects that have generated in excess of \$250,000,000.

Through his career, he has formed an intimate and comprehensive knowledge of individual philanthropy, as well as foundation and corporate giving.

Always Something Happening at the FEC

September to October

John Leasure & Students Exhibit in Gallery 1
"Everything Odd-Umn" in Gallery 5

September 1

Florence Festival of Books
Registration Deadline
www.florencefestivalofbooks.org

September 6 — 1 p.m.

"Sparkling Your Connection" Workshop With Psychic Medium Daniel Monroe
Tickets on sale now

— 7 p.m. "Hello from Heaven"

An Evening with Psychic Medium Daniel Monroe
Tickets on sale now

September 12 —

9 a.m. to noon
Strategic Fundraising in Rural Communities
Nonprofit Association of Oregon
Tickets required

September 13 —

5 to 7:30 p.m.
Everything Odd-Umn & John Leasure Reception

September 21 — 5 p.m.

Siuslaw Alumni Association All-School Reunion & Scholarship Banquet
Tickets on sale now

September 26 —

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Good Life Boomer & Senior Expo
Free admission

September 27 —

3 to 4:30 p.m.
"The Ins and Outs of Publishing" Festival of Books Panel
Free admission

— 7 p.m. Festival of Books

Keynote Address By Bob Welch
Tickets on sale now

September 28 —

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Florence Festival of Books

Free admission

October 5 — 5 p.m.

Boys and Girls Club Auction
Tickets on sale now

October 16 — 7 p.m.

SEAcost presents Whipped Cream A Tijuana Brass Tribute
Tickets on sale now

October 19 — 7 p.m.

Disciple Concert
Sponsored by True Love Music
Free concert

Nov. 1 to 11 —

Last Resort Players presents "Mamma Mia!"
www.lrpproductions.org
Tickets on sale now

Every Tuesday — Noon

to 1 p.m.
Rotary Club of Florence Meeting
www.theflorence Rotary.org

Florence Area

DINING

1. 1285 RESTOBAR
1285 Bay Street
Florence, OR
(541) 902-8338
www.1285restobar.com

4. INTERNATIONAL C-FOOD MARKET
1498 Bay Street
Old Town Florence
(541) 997-9646

2. A&W FAMILY RESTAURANT
17th & Hwy. 101
Florence, OR
(541) 997-8124

5. Bridgewater Fish House and Zebra Bar
1297 Bay Street
Old Town Florence
541-997-1133
bridgewaterfishhouse.com

3. SURFSIDE RESTAURANT AT DRIFTWOOD SHORES RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER
88416 1st Avenue
Florence, OR
(541) 997-8263
1-800-422-5091

LODGING

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FLORENCE, OR.
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1-800-422-5091

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FLORENCE, OR
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170 HWY. 101
FLORENCE, OR
800 587-5879
www.old-town-inn.com

