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Sugar-Coated Sensations

*CROW's Tutu Dads
return in Holly Jolly
Follies Dec. 6, 7 & 8*

Real Men Wear Tutus.

Perhaps when people think of the Florence community tradition known as the Holly Jolly Follies, a gaggle of 10 middle-aged, hairy men in candy cane leggings might not be the first image to come to one's mind. Rather, one might imagine choirs of angelic children, elegant vocalists and live musicians, Santa and his Elves or the fun and upbeat ensemble numbers.

But, as CROW Artistic Director Melanie Heard will tell you, "The amazing Tutu Dads are quickly building a humongous fan base, and they are back in this year's Follies to satisfy your sweet tooth. They even have their own Facebook Fan page."

Heard originally created the concept for the Tutu Dads when she noticed that so many of the CROW youth had fathers and father figures who were upbeat and had a great sense of humor.

She knew that these men would like to be more involved in their children's arts education, but perhaps didn't know how. Heard also recognized a general need for more laughter and light-hearted fun in the local community. Thus, out of sheer necessity, the Tutu Dads were born!

When asked "What are some things you enjoy about being a Tutu Dad?" several of

the dads
piped
up.

For
Mike

Potter, "It's fun and I enjoy the fellowship us guys have."

William Rose said he "enjoys making people smile at the shows."

Mike Smith said, "I love the silliness of it while still being an actual performance. I love that people enjoy it so much and laugh along with us. I love that the kids also seem to enjoy us doing it."

Several of the Tutu Dads commented that they joined the group by request from their child.

Chris Owens said he joined "to show the CROW kids that it's OK to get out there and be outrageous and over the top."

Mike added, "I also loved that by us guys getting up on stage and being utterly ridiculous, we could encourage everyone, adults and kids, to not take themselves so seriously. I wanted kids to see that they can take on something like this in life and be brave. Like if we can get up there doing what we do and have people love us for it, how much easier is it to simply audition for a role that doesn't require you to dance around in a tutu? If we can do this, then the sky's the limit for these young performers that might feel a

little timid."

When asked what their family and friends think of their involvement in the group, William said, "My wife and daughter love it, and my parents think it's great. Being a Tutu Dad shows support for what my daughter is into, which is dance."

Jason Houlihan said, "Everyone is super proud of my involvement, and I have so much fun dancing with the boys and acting like kids."

For Danny Morgan, his "family and friends are behind me every step of the way."

Mike continued, "My wife thinks it's hilarious and loves it. My son pretends it's embarrassing but I think secretly he's proud of me for doing it. He's had friends recognize who I am and asked if his dad was a Tutu Dad."

Chris said, "My family loves that I am a Tutu Dad, and sometimes people in the grocery store look at me strange but never say anything."

The Tutu Dads will be debuting a brand-new piece of sugar-coated choreography in this year's Holly Jolly Follies.

"The Tutu Dads do not just flounce around the



stage," Heard emphasized. "Rather, they learn complicated dance steps, wear full costumes and creative stage make-up, and they work really hard to polish their routine. These are some pretty awesome guys."

The Tutu Dads may be a very over-the-top comedy act, but there is also a lot of work that goes into creating and rehearsing their original pieces.

Tutu Dad fans can meet the dads in the lobby during Intermission and after the show, and have their photos taken with the group.

For tickets to "Finding Joy At Christmastime: The 2019 Holly Jolly Follies," which will be performed Dec. 6, 7 and 8, visit the FEC Box Office, or call 541-997-1994. Tickets can be purchased online at eventcenter.org, and additional information is available at crowkids.com.

"Don't wait 'tutu long' to get your tickets!" Heard added.

FEC Centerstage December 2019 November 30, 2019

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World-Famous Popovich Comedy Pet Tour

The most beloved family show in the world, the world-famous Popovich Comedy Pet Tour

features European-style circus acts, highly intelligent dogs and even house cats doing the craziest of tricks! All the pets in this show have been adopted from rescues and shelters across the country and are trained using positive reinforcement techniques to enhance their natural abilities.

Gregory Popovich is bringing his Comedy Pet Tour to Florence Events Center on Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Popovich has spent years as an advocate for homeless pets and is proud to be able to help improve the life of every animal he personally rescues. This sends a



clear message to children and adults that animals are people too.

In today's modern times where technology and an artificial world surround us and our kids, it is nice to be able to see a live show that is funny and interactive for all.

Popovich and his pets

were finalists on "America's Got Talent," were guests on TV shows with Jay Leno, David Letterman, Craig Ferguson, were featured on Animal Planet and have been part of many more shows. Their show was voted the Best Family Show in Las Vegas.

improvements

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under and free for toddlers 3 and under who can sit on laps.

Call 541-997-1994, visit eventcenter.org or stop by the FEC Box Office, 715 Quince St., to get tickets.

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Christmas on the Coast features Charles Suniga

Charles Suniga and the Angels come back to the coast for another special holiday performance at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m. Former Florence residents and Siu-slaw High School alumni Charles Suniga and Lonny Whelchel bring the sounds of the season back to the coast for a second holiday concert in December.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to see two-time Grammy nominated pianist, singer and composer Charles Suniga and The Angels for a special holiday concert. Coming back to the Florence Events Center for the second time in as

many years, Charles and the Angels will be performing traditional seasonal classics along with returning guest vocalist too.

"It's always great to come home to the coast, I just don't get to do it much anymore with my busy schedule, and coming home for the holiday's for the second time in two years is a blessing," says Suniga. "It's like a reunion every time with family, friends and former classmates from high school who come out to see the performance."

Suniga has been performing since the age of seven, and his "Moments of Peace" series of music has received critical acclaim by music

critics in the industry and also by the thousands of listeners and followers of his special brand of music.

From greeting global travelers at Portland's International Airport to bringing peace and calming to parents and children at hospitals, Suniga has carved a niche in the music industry with a very distinctive style of music.

He has been nominated twice for Grammy awards in the easy listening category,



but says, "My music is not about awards or accolades within the industry, but rather reaching as many people as I can with my music."

Reserved ticket prices are \$20 each and are on sale now at the Florence Events Center. Get tickets early for the best seats available by visiting the website eventcenter.org, or call 541-997-1994 for more information.

"Christmas on the Coast" is a Sure Hits Production in association with Moments of Peace.com.

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