

LRP opens auditions for 'Vagina Monologues'

The Last Resort Players (LRP) have announced they will hold auditions for "The Vagina Monologues" by Eve Ensler.

Variety called "The Vagina Monologues" "Spellbinding, funny, and almost unbearably moving ... a work of art and an incisive piece of cultural history."

The community is invited to join LRP in bringing this groundbreaking celebration of womanhood back to the Florence, Ore., stage.

All women are encouraged to audition. Previous stage experience is not required, but people should bring an adventurous spirit, a sense of fun, and the ability to speak honestly and from the heart.

The show features 10 wildly divergent monologues. Copies of the script

are available for preview. Those considering auditioning should look at the script and see which character or characters "speak to them."

Then they should come prepared to read from the script in a relaxed, warm and welcoming environment.

Auditions will be held Friday, May 14, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 15, at 2 p.m. at the Florence Playhouse, 208 Laurel St. Other audition times may be available by special arrangement.

Performances will be at City Lights Cinemas on June 24, 25 and 26 at 7 p.m. and June 27 at 2 p.m.

For further information, or to obtain a copy of the script, contact Director Jim Wellington at jwell.or@charter.net or Assistant Director Annie Schmidt at gdas39@charter.net.

People can view, raffle quilts in Rhody Quilt Guild show

The Rhododendron Quilt Guild is having a Quilt Show on Friday and Saturday, May 14 and 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Old School Furniture at Sixth Street and Highway 101.

There will be a variety of quilts shown using a plethora of different techniques, showing each quilter's individual style.

According to Quilt Show Chairperson Sandy Davidson, "This show will be a

little smaller than the last one, but there will be quilts for sale, as well as plenty of 'eye candy' for those who enjoy looking at a variety of colors and styles."

Raffle quilts are already hung at the store for those who would like to take a 'sneak peek' and tickets are available for purchase there at Old School Furniture.

For more information contact Davidson at Sandquiltinflorence@gmail.com or 541-991-0837.

OSHA adopts rule extending COVID workplace protections

Oregon OSHA has adopted a rule to maintain risk-reducing safety measures for workers across the state against the coronavirus. Although the rule includes several changes based on the public comments received since the rule was proposed in late January, the basic requirements are largely consistent with those that have been in place since Oregon OSHA adopted a temporary workplace rule in November of last year.

The rule – which will be repealed when it is no longer needed to address the COVID-19 pandemic in the workplace – takes effect today, at the end of a public process that included both stakeholder involvement and more than two months of public comment. As with the temporary rule it replaces, the rule includes such health protection measures as physical distancing; use of face coverings; employee notification and training; formal exposure risk assessment and infection control planning; and optimization and maintenance of existing ventilation systems.

One of the most significant areas of public comment concerned the lack of a specific sunset date or other trigger to automatically repeal the rule. As a result, the final rule includes considerably more detail about the process and criteria that will be used to make the decision to repeal the rule. Oregon OSHA determined that the ongoing pandemic required that the rule be extended to ensure workers receive basic protections from the workplace health hazard presented by COVID-19.

The rule went through the normal process, unlike the greatly abbreviated process

allowed for a temporary rule, because Oregon state law does not allow a rule using that temporary process to be in place more than 180 days.

"We reviewed all of the comments – including the many comments that opposed the rule – and we gave particular consideration to those comments that explained their reasoning or provided concrete information," said Michael Wood, administrator of Oregon OSHA. "Although we chose to move forward with the rule, the final product includes a number of changes based on that record."

"At the same time, we are keeping in place key protections for workers as part of Oregon's larger and ongoing project to defeat COVID-19," Wood said. "To allow the workplace COVID-19 protections to simply go away would have left workers far less protected. And it would have left employers who want to know what is expected of them with a good deal less clarity than the rule provides."

Because Oregon OSHA determined it is not possible to assign a specific time for a decision to repeal the rule, Oregon OSHA has committed to consulting with the Oregon OSHA Partnership Committee, the two Infectious Disease Rulemaking Advisory Committees, the Oregon Health Authority, and other stakeholders to help determine when the rule can be repealed. The first of these discussions will take place no later than July 2021, and will continue every two months until the rule has been repealed. The indicators factoring into the decision will include infection rates (including the rate of

spread of COVID-19 variants), positivity rates, and vaccination rates, as well as hospitalizations and fatalities.

While the final rule broadly reflects the temporary rule, it also includes some significant changes. Those include:

- Reducing the number of industry-specific appendices by six and limiting such requirements specifically to those involving worker protection (which reduced the length of the appendices, and, therefore, of the entire rule, by more than 50 pages)
- Dramatically reducing the K-12 schools appendix and removing all references to cohorts and square footage limitations, as well as physical distancing between students.
- Requiring employers to consider alternatives to transporting multiple people in a single vehicle and providing other guidance about reducing risk while sharing vehicles. The rule does not, however, require using multiple vehicles to transport multiple employees.
- Requiring employers with more than 10 employees – and that have existing ventilation systems – to state in writing that, to the best of their knowledge, they are running their systems in line with requirements. The final rule does not require the purchase or installation of new ventilation systems.
- Reducing required sanitation measures to reflect the most up-to-date Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance.
- Requiring employers to provide written notification to employees of their rights to return to work when employees must

quarantine. Requiring health care employers to provide respirators to employees working with known or suspected COVID-19-positive patients, unless such respirators are unavailable. The final rule also makes clear that the risk assessment, infection control plan, and infection control training completed under the temporary rule do not need to be repeated as a result of the adoption of the final rule.

The division offers resources to help employers and workers understand and apply the requirements. Those resources include consultation services that provide no-cost assistance with safety and health programs and technical staff, who help employers understand requirements.

Meanwhile, the division has also adopted COVID-19 workplace requirements for workers who rely on housing provided by employers, including as part of farming operations. Those requirements were adopted April 30, and will work in tandem with the comprehensive COVID-19 rule by providing specific guidance for situations involving such housing.

Learn more about the division's workplace guidance and resources related to COVID-19: <https://osha.oregon.gov/Pages/re/covid-19.aspx>

Oregon OSHA, a division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, enforces the state's workplace safety and health rules and works to improve workplace safety and health for all Oregon workers. For more information, go to osha.oregon.gov.

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BOTH MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY ON HOLD. WATCH SIUSLAW NEWS FOR RESUMPTION

- Tuesday Evening Group (2nd Tuesday) 5-7 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
- Urologist Dr. Bryan Melhaff attends.
- Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday) 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant
- Urologist Dr. Roger McKimmy attends.


Contact Bob for more information:
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