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Youth powers CT's Narnia

Superb casting, performances shine throughout

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

“They must be having a blast.” Such was my first thought concerning the young cast of the Cottage Theatre’s production of “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” at the start of a second act that featured more than one fight scene, appearances by centaurs and elves, beavers that talk and act like humans and a warm, paternal and wise lion.

It was easy to see the attraction that the C.S. Lewis classic might hold for the large cast of performers — young and old alike — who brought the timeless tale to life for the first time in Cottage Grove Friday night. But to dismiss the play as mere fun is to ignore the obvious hard work and undeniable talent — especially of the play’s main protagonists — that took the production far beyond mere child’s play.

According to the playbill, the work for first-time director Kory Weimer, who did a magical job with a large cast, included weapons design and two weeks of weapons camp, where the actors learned to handle various weaponry onstage. Fresh from his role as Jesus in “Jesus Christ Superstar,” Weimer shows his versatility and a new aspect to his talents that should prove a major asset at the Cottage Theatre.

Set in 1940, “The Lion, the Witch



courtesy photo

Aslan the Lion (Randall Brous) counsels Edmund (Jacksen Lund), Lucy (Kenady Conforth), Peter (John Parker), and Susan (Megan Schneider) in CT's "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe."

and the Wardrobe” is the first book in the “Chronicles of Narnia” series and the most popular of Lewis’ publications. It tells the story of four siblings — Lucy, Peter, Edmund and Susan Pevensie, who are sent to the English countryside to live with a professor there and escape the German bombing of London. There, Lucy Pevensie discovers a wardrobe that leads to a land called Narnia, where it is always winter (but never Christmas). There, she and her siblings encounter fauns, witches, centaurs, and eventually Aslan, the rightful king of Narnia, who enlists their help to fulfill a prophecy about the coming of four humans (sons of Adam and daughters of Eve) and defeat the White Witch.

There is much to be said of performances by many of the adults in this production — Karen Snyder and Charles Mattoon are lovable, fun and often funny beavers; Janet Whitlow is by turns seductive and terrifying as the White Witch, and Davis Smith plays a sneering, un-

compromising and completely evil Fenris Ulf.

Still, as it no doubt should be, the play is carried by the power of its young cast, particularly the Pevensie children: Kenady Conforth as Lucy, Jacksen Lund as Edmond, Megan Schneider as Susan and John Parker as Peter. Conforth, in particular, deserves credit for a standout role that provides much of the play’s emotion and heart and ties its protagonists together in a struggle that audiences can support. Also particularly endearing was Schneider’s portrayal of Susan Pevensie. Already Cottage Theatre veterans, these are two performers that showcase a bright future for theater in this community.

“The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” runs through Dec. 20 at the Cottage Theatre. Tickets will be hard to come by, and it’s difficult to imagine any reaction except delight for those who manage to secure a seat.

LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

BY LIL THOMPSON
For the Sentinel

Many Christmas holiday events are coming up plus other activities you won’t want to miss:

This Friday, Dec. 11, is another half-day art class. Come enjoy holiday ornament and candle-making with Alyssa Shepherd. Call her at 541-556-

8151 or malysa2@yahoo.com. Adults are also welcome.

On Saturday, Dec. 12, the Rural Arts Council’s soup dinner and movie will start at 6 p.m. The feature, Charlie Chaplin’s “The Gold Rush,” begins at 7:30 p.m.

Lorane Grange has its Annual Christmas potluck dinner this Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The Grange provides turkey, dressing, gravy,

ham, mashed potatoes and beverages. Bring a side dish and/or dessert. All are welcome!

Even with all those events, there are more. The Applegate Elementary Winter Program is Tuesday, Dec. 15 beginning with dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by the performance at 7 p.m. Guests are asked to bring a can or box of food for those in need in the District.

The Crow High School drama class presents a winter program of two fantastic short plays and holiday carols. Come see “What, No Santa?” and “A Cowboy Christmas” in the CMHS Cafetorium. On Dec. 16, Applegate students will enjoy the performances from 9-10:30 a.m. On Dec. 17, all Crow Middle/High School students will see the plays from 1:30-3:15 p.m. It is FREE to all students. This is open to the public both days. Donations will gladly be accept-

ed for the Drama program, but is otherwise no charge.

Check out the Angel Trees at either CHS or Lorane Family Store. Participants can take a tag and help a child in the area have a better Christmas. Contact Marissa Cooper with any questions. With all these events at the Grange this weekend, please bring some non-perishable food items for the Christmas Baskets for those in need in the community.

Holiday Bazaar

CG Hospital Auxiliary CHRISTMAS GOODIES SALE

Homemade candies, cookies, and goodies

December 11th 9am - 4pm

Community Center Lobby
700 E Gibbs Ave
Free Gift Wrapping

Humane Society of Cottage Grove’s

5th Annual Christmas Bazaar

American Legion Hall • 826 Main Street, CG

Friday, December 11th 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, December 12th 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Meet the DJ/Program Host

CAMERON REITEN

I was born in the small town of Valley City, North Dakota on December 21, of 1986. I moved to Oregon in 1994 when I was seven years old. I graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 2005. In 2003 I came to KNND as an intern in the news department. My eight week internship served to reinforce my conviction that I wanted a career in radio. I was hired in 2005 after graduation and have been working at the radio station since. I have numerous duties at KNND, among them local news producer, host of the Rockin’ Oldies Morning Show, as well as the Round Up Classic Country and Western Hoedown, (Monday and Thursday 11:00 am - 3:00 pm) and the ever popular Swap and Shop show. As of June of 2013, I am also now the proud owner of KNND, and love the opportunity to carry on the tradition of service that has been the hallmark of KNND.

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