

Cottage Theatre stages a world-class 'Hamlet'

Timothy McIntosh's portrayal of the title character would complement any stage

BY JON STINNETT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

A few minutes into the Cottage Theatre's opening-night performance of the Shakespeare classic "Hamlet," I was forced to seek out an answer to a burning question — Who is this guy?

Consulting the evening's program, I was soon to discover that "this guy" is in fact Timothy A. McIntosh, himself a playwright, in addition to a provost and professor at Gutenberg College. For the rest of the evening, however, McIntosh was none less than Hamlet himself, tormented prince of Denmark, and if you're looking for a reason to see the Cottage Theatre's production of this timeless classic, his portrayal alone should more than suffice.

Which is not to say that McIntosh's spellbinding performance wasn't complemented by several others. Patrick Torelle, a longtime Shakespeare veteran, captivated as Polonius, the meddling, conniving but ultimately loveable father of Ophelia and Laertes, and the play sincerely missed him after Hamlet (spoiler alert) ran him through with a sword in his mother's chamber. Polonius' advice to his son to "neither a borrower or a lender be" rang out perfectly true, and it was the first of many instances in which audience members could be seen nodding and heard repeating such famous lines.

Kudos are also due Martha Benson, whose Ophelia rode the tide of misfortune that slowly enveloped her with stoicism and heart. Mark Anderson played a

stalwart, upright Horatio, and in his role as Claudius, Davis Smith came across as perfectly sinister. Smith's vocalizations as the ghost of King Hamlet were also a highlight.

A stark, spare set design allowed the action and dialog to unfold unfettered, and Director Tony Rust deserves much credit for direction that brought out the best in all involved with this play.

It may be difficult to find someone without at least a passing knowledge of "Hamlet," arguably Shakespeare's most powerful and oft-performed

tragedy, though the 16th century dialog can understandably be ponderous and even off-putting for some (comments heard during the play's intermission indicate as much.) Still, in the hands of an accomplished actor such as McIntosh, Hamlet's every word dripped with emotion, his every action supporting a plot that's even older than Shakespeare himself. As a playwright and educator himself, McIntosh clearly grasped the depth and meaning behind each word and phrase, going so far beyond merely reciting lines toward becoming his character that each

subsequent scene became a gift to behold. Still, apparently not content with merely delivering masterful speeches, McIntosh's Hamlet showcased an impressive physicality, his face often contorting, at times blabbing bits of nonsense that perfectly captured his character's descent into total anguish and madness.

Before Friday's performance, Cottage Theatre Executive Director Susan Goes cautioned the crowd that "Hamlet" runs about three hours, and the play's length was clearly a deterrent for some. But for those capable of having their bones and souls rattled by such a time-tested tragedy, there may not be a better way to spend those three hours.



photo by Matt Emrich

Two of the play's brightest stars, Hamlet (Timothy McIntosh) and Polonius (Patrick Torelle) discuss their strategies.

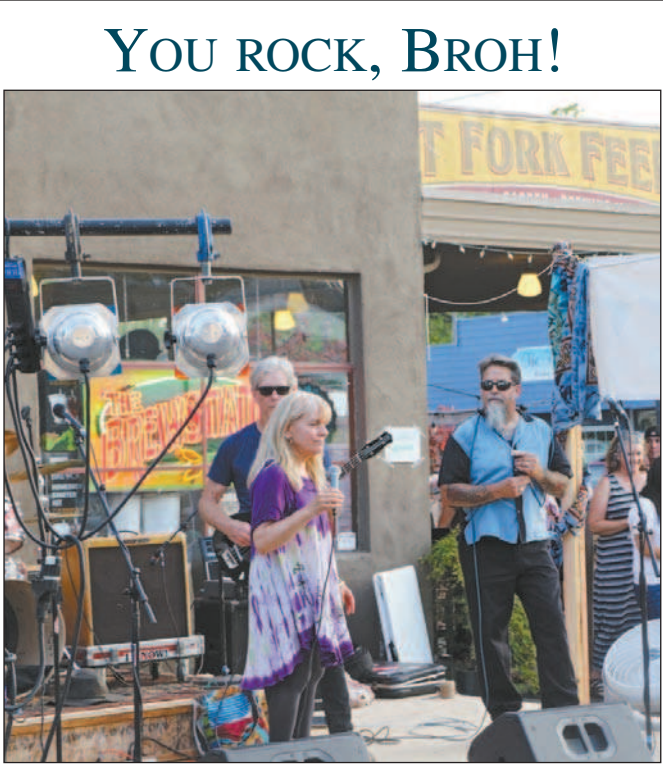


photo by Greg Lee

The Joanne Broh Band performs at the Rock the Block benefit at the Brewstation on Friday, an event that raised funds for South Lane Mental Health.



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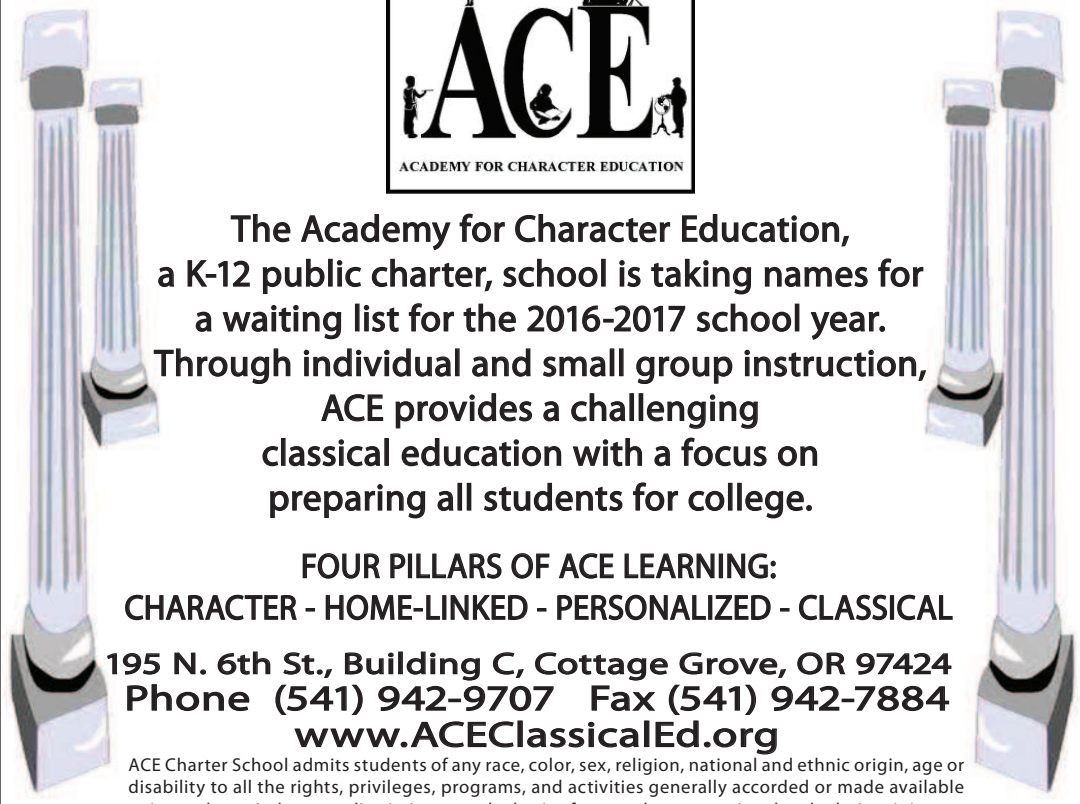
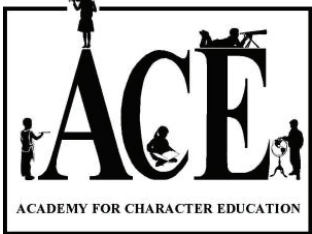
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Worship Directory



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Gateway Family Fellowship
Church of the Nazarene
337 "C" St. Drain, OR
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:45am
Living Hope Free Lunch
Wed. at 12:30pm
541-836-7051 www.drainnaz.org

HOPE U.M.C.
131 W "A" St. Drain, OR
541-315-1617
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Bible Study: 10:45am
Potluck Lunch: Noon
Worship: 12:45pm

COTTAGE GROVE:
6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
Pastor: Aaron Earlywine
Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey
Services: 9am and 10:30am
Christian Education
Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade
www.6thandgibbs.com

Calvary Baptist Church
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove
1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)
541-942-6842
Pastor: Jeff Smith
Two Services on Sun: 9am & 10:45am
Youth Group Bible Study
Child Care 10:45am Service Only
www.cgcalvary.org

Church of Christ
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am

Cottage Grove Bible Church
1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center
33761 Row River Rd. • 541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Isaac Hovet
www.cg4.tv
Summer Schedule: Sunday Service 10am
Full Children's Ministry available

Covered Bridge Nazarene Church
152 S. M St.
541-942-4422
Pastor: Cindy Slaymaker
Sunday School: 9:30am
Worship 10:30am

Delight Valley
Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711
Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium
First Presbyterian Church
3rd and Adams St • 541-942-4479
Pastor: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
www.cgpresbynews.com

Grove Community Church
77820 Mosby Creek Rd.
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
541-942-0123
Pastor: Bryan Parsons
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Nursery: Infant - Pre-K
Kid's Church: K to 5th grade

Hope Fellowship
United Pentecostal Church
100 S. Gateway Blvd. • 541-942-2061
Pastor: Dave Bragg
Worship: 11:00am Sunday
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
www.hopefellowshipupc.com
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Living Faith Assembly
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
Pastor Rulon Combs
Sunday School All Ages 9am
Worship & Children's Church 10:00 am
Sat Evening Service 6:00pm
Youth 180 Mondays 5:30-8pm

Non-Denominational Church of Christ
1041 Pennoyer Ave * 541-767-0447
Preachers: Tony Martin & Robert Evans
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.pennoyeravcoc.com

Old Time Gospel Fellowship
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999
Pastor: Jim Edwards
Sunday Service: 10:00am
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Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi
Catholic Churches
1025 N. 19th St.
541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712
Pastor: Roy L. Antunez, S.J.
Euch. Liturgies; Sat. 5:30pm
Sun. 10:30am
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell:
552 Holbrock Lane • 541-895-8686
Sunday: 8:30am

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
"Church with the flags."
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
All Welcome

Seventh-day Adventist Church
820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: Kevin Miller
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 am
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups
tlccg.com

United Methodist Church
334 Washington • 541-942-3033
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Worship: 10:30am
Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free)
2nd & 3rd Monday 5-6:00pm
cottagegroveumc.org

"VICTORY" Country Church
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
Message: 11:00am
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