



photo by Autumn Carter

Lanny Mitchell has appeared previously in Cottage Theatre's 'Les Miserables' and 'Assassins', but 'A Chorus Line' marks his directorial debut in Cottage Grove. A simple stage offers a chance for more character and story development.

'A Chorus Line' brings another Broadway gem to CT

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

The Cottage Theatre opened "A Chorus Line" over the weekend, and it is a production that differs from recent plays held at the Theatre. The original play (by Michael Bennett) was a big hit throughout the late 1970s and 1980s, and once again the Cottage Theatre has successfully produced another famed Broadway gem.

Cottage Grove invited back Lanny Mitchell, a professional of the theatre business that has worked on and off Broadway and has appeared in previous Cottage Theatre plays such as "Les Miserables," and "Assassins." However, this was Mitchell's first

time as a director at the Theatre. He also choreographed and plays Zach in the show.

The play takes place entirely at the audition for a chorus line of a Broadway show and dives into the professional and personal lives of all the different auditioning dancers. The setting gives the show its first unique aspect. The stage is supposed to be a studio and is therefore empty except for mirrors lined in the back, and the costumes are simple rehearsal clothes. The simplicity of the stage allows for more focus to be on character development as each character gets a chance to explain who they are and where they're from. This leads to another unique aspect of the show.

While some character's stories are

more prominent and drawn out longer, there really are no main characters that steal the show. And while the characters are developed to the audience, their objective at the audition is to blend in with the chorus line and not stand out.

Characters' stories range from growing up in a wealthy yet neglectful suburban home to growing up in different boroughs of New York City struggling with poverty, abuse and in some cases, being accepted for their sexuality.

Some top performances came from characters like Bobby played by George Butterick. Butterick puts on a quirky persona to display the story of an outcast to his suburban family. Contrast that with the aging and

aggressively promiscuous Sheila, played by Marcee Shriver Long, and the cast brings the audience on an emotional roller coaster.

The play connects with the audience differently in that there is no protagonist and antagonist. The audience connects with different characters based on individual relatability which makes the viewer root for different characters to get the job on the chorus line.

The size of the cast makes Mitchell's directing and choreography all the more impressive and has proven he is a welcome sight at the Cottage Theatre, whether he's acting or directing.

COMING UP IN COTTAGE GROVE

Chainsaw Carving Expo at Twin Timbers Christmas Tree Farm

Twin Timbers Christmas Tree Farm, 82234 Hwy 99 S, between Cottage Grove and Creswell, is hosting its second annual Classic Chainsaw Carving Expo on Oct. 14, 15 and 16. Admission is free to the live chainsaw carving demonstrations and pumpkin carvings by professional carvers. Carvings will be auctioned off Oct. 15 at 4 p.m. with a Bad Bear Bonfire at dusk. Great food by local vendors and gift shop. For more information, call 541-915-2229.

912 Project

The next meeting of the Cottage Grove 912 Project will be Monday, Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at Stacy's Covered Bridge Restaurant, 401 E. Main. The guest speaker will be Anne Marie Gurney with Freedom Foundation, who will address the desperate need for labor reform in Oregon and how her organization can help candidates.

\$500 SHOPPING SPREE

at any of the following businesses.

Use all or part at one or several businesses
Contest Runs October 5 - October 26

Winner will be announced in the November 2 Cottage Grove Sentinel
To enter cut out the entry form and drop them off at the businesses for the drawing.

**One Entry per family per business per week.
Must be 18 years old to play.**

No purchase necessary. No copies of the entry form will be accepted.

Cottage Grove Sentinel Employees and their families, and previous winners are not eligible to enter.

<p>30% OFF ALL HALLOWEEN GIFT MERCHANDISE Purchased October 12-18</p>	<p>20% OFF any one regular priced item from our BOUTIQUE CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES Purchased October 12-18 <i>one discount per customer</i></p>
<p><i>The Flower Basket and Gift Boutique</i> 119 South 6th Street 541-942-0505</p>	
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GARLIC HAS ARRIVED!

In the maritime Northwest, garlic is best planted by the end of October so it has time to establish a good root system before cold weather settles in. Varieties and quantities are limited, so stop by today and get your garlic before it's gone!

Mon-Sat: 9AM-5:30PM
Sun: 9AM-4PM
(starting in October we will be closed on Sundays)

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