

Live theater to return to BMD with new melodrama

By Caitlyn May
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In a year of change, Bohemia Mining Days (BMD) is hoping to stir up nostalgia as it prepares to welcome back live theater to the city's largest festival of the year.

"In the past, Cottage Theatre has done live performances at Bohemia Mining Days to promote their summer production," said BMD Coordinator Cindy Weeldreyer. "When they moved into their expanded facility they began the children's summer camps, which produced the BMD melodrama that coincided with our annual theme."

However, scheduling ultimately scrapped the live performances from the festival's line-up until this year.

Weeldreyer put out a call to Opal Theatre and Cottage Grove Theatre for individuals interested in directing a play during BMD.

Jennifer Mandeville-Schulz saw the opportunity pop up on a Facebook group.

"It's said, 'We're looking for someone to direct a play for BMD' and no one was responding," she said. "I thought, maybe I need to do baby steps."

In the months prior, Mandeville-Schulz had been creating choreography for an Opal production, was in rehearsals for a Cottage Theatre production and was handling her daughter's theatre commitments as well.

"Originally, I'd been all pumped to write an original musical and I got it in my

brain as I was working with several people this year," she said. "These everyday people were saying they wrote a play or wrote a musical or wrote a book and I thought, 'Ok, this can be doable.'"

BMD had been hoping to find a director but when Mandeville-Schulz met with Weeldreyer, there was nothing to direct.

"They said (the script) wasn't quite written yet," Mandeville-Schulz said. In actuality, no script had been started.

That didn't deter Mandeville-Schulz.

"How delighted I was when Jennifer walked in the door and said she'd like to accept the challenge," Weeldreyer said.

Armed with the festival's theme, "Every trail has a tale,"

Mandeville-Schulz got to work on what would become three separate vignettes detailing the history of some of the more notable people and places in Cottage Grove's history.

"Gold, Grit and Guns: Locals who Left a Mark," will begin with the story of Bohemia Sharp and how the name became associated with so many areas and organizations in Cottage Grove.

It will then work its way through David Mosby's historic ties to the city and finish its 35-minute runtime with the trial over sheep and cattle grazing that christened what's known today as Row River.

"It's a 20-year feud between two families that were related through marriage," Mandeville-Schulz said. "It was ruthless and it culminated

in people being killed. It answers the question about why we pronounced it 'row' as in a fight instead of 'row' as in row a boat."

Writing the play, according to Mandeville-Schulz, was more research than writing. BMD provided her with piles of old files and facts as well as a suggestion to visit the county for more information.

"I went to the basement at the county and found microfiche written in old-style cursive of the transcript of the trial," she said. "I could barely read it but it was the only way I could find out what happened and who was involved."

BMD will welcome back live theatre beginning on Thursday, July 19 at 6 p.m. in what Mandeville-Schulz calls "the last dress rehearsal." And af-

ter several script re-writes and actors dropping out, she will perform several cameos throughout the play that she hopes to iron out during those rehearsals.

"The play, you can go in, get your history lesson, get entertainment and still ride the amusement rides and not miss anything else at the festival," she said.

Bohemia Mining Days will run from July 19 through July 21, signaling the first time in its nearly 60-year history that it won't see all four days of activities.

The play is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 19 and two performances, one at 3 p.m. and one at 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday in Bohemia City.

There is no admission cost.

Motorcycle Poker Run to benefit future home of Cottage Village

Motorcyclists throughout Lane County will gather in Cottage Grove from noon to 4 p.m. on July 14 to celebrate and support the future home of Cottage Village, an affordable housing project featuring tiny homes with tiny rents.

The benefit features a covered bridge poker run, where motorcyclists will first travel to Cottage Grove's world famous

covered bridges, receive a playing card at each location as if playing poker, and then gather at the future home of Cottage Village for an afternoon of music, Big Stuff BBQ and raffles.

Live music provided by local favorites Dennis Calvino and his Allstar Band. Winning poker hands receive cash prizes.

The ride is open to all motorcyclists and will be led by Twin

Rivers Harley Owners Group.

Riders will register and meet at Willamette Valley Harley Davidson (I-5 and exit 189) at 9 a.m. on the 14. The first group leaves around 10 a.m., with riders leaving in groups of 20 bikes at a time.

Registration and additional information can be found at: facebook.com/twinrivershog.

In addition to countywide motorcyclists, village neighbors and the community are invited to join the festivities.

This benefit is one of many being held over the coming months to celebrate and sup-

port the tiny homes project.

Cottage Village will include 13 self-contained houses, ranging in size from 200 to 300 square feet. Each unit has its own bathroom and shower and small kitchen.

The size of these homes make them very energy efficient. The village will also include a community center complete with a gathering space, commercial kitchen, library, workshop space and more.

Cottage Village Coalition, in conjunction with SquareOne Villages in Eugene, is nearly halfway to its goal of raising

\$1.2 million to construct the project on an in-town parcel purchased last year.

Cottage Village Coalition began its partnership with SquareOne in 2016. Since then the two groups have worked together to identify and purchase a 1.1 acre property on Madison Street in Cottage Grove.

The property also has a 4-bedroom home and a large workshop. The property was purchased thanks to a \$200,000 grant from the Meyer Memorial Fund.

The tiny homes proposed for Cottage Village are part of

a larger national movement to create efficient, low-cost housing for low income residents squeezed by high rents and low availability of rental units, especially in rural communities like Cottage Grove.

Potential residents have to meet strict criteria for living in the village, including a commitment to weekly work hours towards village upkeep.

For more information, visit www.squareonevillages.org/cvc.

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Fireworks, Fourth of July and Fido — keep pets safe this holiday

As fun as the 4th of July festivities can be for people, it can be equally as frightening for dogs and cats. Fireworks are already being heard in many neighborhoods and will likely become more persistent as we near the actual holiday.

Loud noises, especially over prolonged periods of time, can frighten and confuse animals. While some pets don't seem to mind, others hide, tremble, or run away. When they are in

that state of fear a screen door or fence might not stop a dog that is trying to get away.

Unfortunately, every year at this time, too many dogs and their people get separated.

"We've seen dogs run as far as five miles trying to escape the fireworks," says Greenhill Humane Society canine program manager, Katie Barnett.

In an effort to keep pets safe at home, Greenhill is offering these tips for pet owners:

- Do not bring your pet to fireworks displays.

- When fireworks are being used, keep pets indoors, including outdoor cats. Scared pets may dig under fences or break through gates when spooked by the sound of fireworks.

- Keep your pet in a quiet room, play calming music, or background noise to help soothe them.

- For pets that are extremely

stressed by fireworks, make an appointment with your veterinarian to discuss medications and other alternatives to help calm your pet.

- Make sure your pet is wearing current and accurate identification, even if they are kept inside. A tag with a working phone number can get your pet home much faster. Be sure to microchip your pet as well, in case their collar comes off.

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