

'The King' lives again in latest Opal theater production

REVIEW

BY ANDREA HUMMEL
SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL



PHOTO BY ANDREA HUMMEL

Sometimes even the cast cracks up. Enjoying the moment are (from left) Dale Flynn (Royal Chef), Elaine Slatore (Royal Chief Engineer), Betsy Smith (Royal Steward), Charles Mattoon (Narrator/Bird) and Eliana Piltz (King Rupert's Messenger Boy).

This is, after all, a show that suspends reality and takes the audience into the world of a child's imagination. The children dressed as soldiers are brave and well-prepared, the Royal Steward (Betsy Smith) is graceful and dignified and the Royal Chief Engineer (Elaine Slatore as an iguana) brings great energy to the stage. Slatore, an experienced actress, brought her usual level of professionalism.

Both the kings, King Rupert (Paul von Rotz) and King Winifred (Rick Whitney) were appropriately regal and stalwart. Even though von Rotz was occasionally fighting his ram's horns, his smile made it all worthwhile.

This audience member noticed a few particularly memorable spots in the show: Charles Mattoon's bird/narrator moved about the stage with the grace of a really big bird. His tie

and his matching feather boutonniere were a perfect touch; the audience was totally silent during King Winifred's (Rick Whitney) poignant solo reflection about his decision to go to war, a clear sign they were hanging on every note; and King Rupert's Messenger Boy (Eliana Piltz) was delightful with her song and dance to "I Gotta Hurry."

Rounding out the strong cast under the direction of Carmen Dowell were Dale Flynn, the Royal Chef; Raven Foraker, multiple parts; Nyles Julien, multiple parts; Zoe McCartney, King Winifred's Messenger girl; June Smith, multiple

parts; Monica Venice, multiple parts; McKenzie Jarvis, multiple parts; Ricky Orendorff, multiple parts.

The projected backgrounds along with minimal set pieces completed the feeling of being inside a children's book. The audience was free to focus totally on the actor's expressions, broad gestures and delightful songs that were the heart of this show.

The play, like all good children's stories, even came with a moral: Be careful about spreading rumors.

The Sound and Light operator, Junior Rodriguez, handled his responsibilities smoothly even though he

had learned a new system very recently.

One of the most satisfying aspects of watching a show like this one is knowing that the youngest actors, the ones struggling to maintain character and keep their focus, are learning amazing theater lessons.

In five years these are the actors and actresses who will be taking the stage at the Very Little Theatre and the Cottage Theatre.

One great example of the collaboration between the author and the cast was the song, "Better Than Caviar." Originally this song was to be Brittany Dreier's song with the rest of the cast just joining in on the "Better Than Caviar" chorus line.

At one rehearsal, however, the entire cast was singing every word along with Brittany. The author, the director and the cast held a vote and it was decided: everybody would sing the entire song.

Now that's collaboration! Additional performances of "The King is Dead! The King is Dead!" will be on March 24, 25 and June 1 at 7 p.m. Matinee performances will be May 26 and June 2 at 2:30 p.m.

General admission tickets are \$12 or \$10 for students and seniors.

Tickets are available at www.brownpapertickets.com and at The Crafty Mercantile on West Main Street next to the Opal Center or at the door.



DRAIN:
HOPE U.M.C.
131 W "A" St. Drain, OR
541-315-1617
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
Fellowship & Song: 11:30am
Potluck Lunch: 12:00pm
Worship: 12:30pm

COTTAGE GROVE:
6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
10:00am
Christian Education:
Pre-K through 5th
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

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.cgbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center
33761 Row River Rd.
541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruett
www.cg4.tv
Full Children's Ministry available
Services: 9:00am & 10:45am

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 Baptist Church
301 S. 6th St • 541-942-8242
Pastor: David Chhange
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship Service 11:00am
Youth Wednesday 6:30pm
cgfirstbaptist.com

First Presbyterian Church
3rd and Adams St
541-942-4479
Rev.: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
fpcgrove.com

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
"FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"

Living Faith Assembly
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a
Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)
Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)

Non-Denominational Church of Christ
1041 Penoyer Ave
541-942-8928
Preacher: Tony Martin
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.penoyeravcecc.com

Old Time Gospel Fellowship
103 S. 5th St. • 541-942-4999
Pastor: Jim Edwards
Sunday Service: 10:00am
Join in Traditional Christian Worship

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches
1025 N. 19th St.
541-942-3420
Father John J. Boyle
Holy Mass:
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 PM
Sunday - 10:30 PM
For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCG.net
Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM
Saturdays or by appointment
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell
552 Holbrook Lane
Sunday 8:30 AM
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
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

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
umcgrove.org

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

CRESWELL:
Creswell Presbyterian Church
75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419
Rev. Seth Wheeler
Adult Sunday School 9:15am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
website www.creswellpres.org

Worship
With Us!

Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in this newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, contact us today!

Cottage Grove
Sentinel 541-942-3325
116 N. 6th Street
Cottage Grove, OR

Health, Happiness & Wellness

A guide to local businesses committed to helping our community thrive

Counseling & Mental Health

South Lane Mental Health

Serving Cottage Grove Since 1988

- Outpatient Counseling for Children, Adults & Couples
- Psychiatric Medication Management
- Crisis Assistance

541-942-2850 • 541-942-3939 • www.slmh.org

Dental Health

Delaying going to the Dentist?

Sedation Dentistry is a Dream come True... find out if its for You!

BIRCH AVENUE DENTAL



- Comprehensive General Dentistry
- Advanced Cosmetic Techniques
- Implants

1325 Birch Avenue, Cottage Grove
541.942.2471

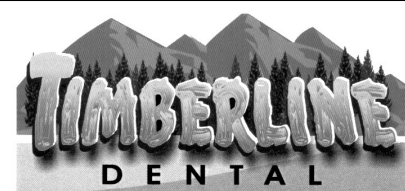
Park W. McClung, DDS & Tammy L. McClung, DDS

See Dr. Bitner D.D.S., P.C.

350 Washington Ave • Cottage Grove

(behind International Fitness)

Lumineers The Most Natural Veneer **541-942-7934**



Dr. Shane Parsons

605 Jefferson Ave.
Cottage Grove

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

Emergency appts. available daily

New patients welcome

2 Hygienists available • Same friendly and caring staff

Please call for an appointment at 541-942-9171

Pharmacies

BI-MART Pharmacy

OPEN at 9am Mon. - Sat. • Convenient Walk-Up Window
100 Gateway Blvd. • 942-9107