



STEPHANIE BLAIR/Itemizer-Observer

Applebox Children's Theater will perform "Arabian Nights" Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Western Oregon University.

# 'Arabian Nights' hits Western Oregon stage

Applebox Children's Theater opens seventh annual production tonight with cast of 40

**By Stephanie Blair**  
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — Applebox Children's Theater is in its final week of rehearsal before taking the Western Oregon University Amphitheater for the seventh year, this time to perform an adaptation of "Arabian Nights."

The script was penned by Maren Bradley Anderson, a professor of literature at WOU and mother of two Applebox actresses. The production is directed by Rob Harriman.

The play is based upon the book known as "Arabian Nights," or "One-Thousand and One Nights."

The children's theater describes their version thusly: "Sheherazade marries Shahryar and has to entertain him with stories so that he will not kill her in the morning."

Sheherazade tells three

stories over the course of the show: "The Adventures of Aladin and the Treasure Cave," "The Son of Adam" and "The Hunchback."

Each story includes cunning characters, dynamic dialogue and comedic genius that only children can achieve, with floating castles, flaming fences and dead hunchbacks.

The cast is the company's biggest yet, with nearly 40 players whose ages range from third to eighth grade. The program not only provides a safe, supervised activity for kids each summer, but it's also free for both the performer and the audience, in part thanks to funding from the Polk County Cultural Coalition, city of Monmouth and the Ash Creek Art Center, but also due to the heavy community and parent involvement in the production, Harriman said.



STEPHANIE BLAIR/Itemizer-Observer

Actors listen to some guidance while rehearsing "Arabian Nights" on Thursday.

One example of this is the sets, which were designed and painted by Becca Mc-

Cannell, head of Western's art department.

This support makes it

possible for the actors and actresses to keep coming back each summer, but it's not the only motivation the children have.

"I really like the play because we get time to play, and it's not really strict and Rob (Harriman) is really fun," said Colleen Anderson, 9. "I just really like acting — and I think I'm really good. It's just really fun here. I hope to do it for many more years."

For Colleen and her sister, Vivienne Anderson, 6, this will be their third summer with Applebox.

"Once I was a fairy, then I was a pirate, now I'm a horse," Vivienne added.

The plays also help kids build acting skills and confidence on stage, as Applebox veteran Joseph Harriman explained.

"This is my first year not on stage, because I aged out and I'm in high school

now," said Joseph, referring to the age limit, which requires Applebox actors be between 8-12 years old. "And some people (like myself) age out, and they go on to become thespians for Central (High School)."

For many of the actors, this is their first play. The support of an excited audience could be what begins a lifelong career in the theater.

An open dress rehearsal will take place on Wednesday (today) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Official performances will occur Thursday, Friday and Saturday, also from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

All performances will be held at the Western Oregon amphitheater in front of Rice Auditorium at the corner of Knox and Powell streets. Admission is free, Audience members should bring their own chairs or blankets.

**capitol WEST VALLEY**  
CERTIFIED • PRE-OWNED • SERVICE



**FREEDOM FROM CAR PAYMENTS!**  
**120 DAYS TO FIRST PAYMENT**  
**ALL NEW & PRE-OWNED**

\*\*120 Days to first payment on approved credit only through SELCO Tier 1 600 or above credit rating up to 84 months. Interest accrues from date of purchase. Membership required. Cannot be combined with other offer. Other conditions and/or restrictions may apply. See dealership for details. Exp. 7/31/17.



**FULL VEHICLE SERVICE & MAINTENANCE**

- ✓ Knowledgeable Service Advisors to assist you.
- ✓ Full service car repair and maintenance by Certified Technicians.

**SERVICE OF YOUR CHOICE**

**20% OFF!**  
**ANY SERVICE!**

Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Max discount \$75. Must present at time of write up, no cash value, does not apply to prior service, cannot be combined with other coupons. Exp. 7/31/17.

**LUBE OIL & FILTER**

**\$700 OFF!**  
**Includes a Free Multi-Point Inspection!**  
**REGULAR OR SYNTHETIC**

Must present coupon at time of service. Valid at Capitol West Valley location only. Expires 7/31/17.



**2015 VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 1.8** **\$14,000**  
1.8L 4CYL • MP3 • HEATED SEAT



**2014 TOYOTA PRIUS ONE** **\$14,500**  
1.8L 4CYL • 50+MPG • MP3



**2006 HONDA ACCORD 3.0 EX** **\$6,400**  
3.0L V6 • LEATHER • LOADED



**2002 FORD RANGER** **\$8,500**  
4.0L V6 • 4X4 • 4TH PASSENGER DOOR



**2012 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA SPORT WAGEN** **\$9,300**  
2.5L 5CYL • HEATED SEATS • MP3

**PLUS!**

**2 Years or 24K Miles Complimentary Service!**

\*Must have services performed at any Capitol Auto Group location. See dealership for details.