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The last show presented at CTC was the Teen Theatre “Declaration,” which closed just prior to the state’s “freeze” in November to curtail the surge in COVID-19 cases. While the theater was dark over the past five months, CTC kept the community engaged via theater classes and writing workshops.

Initially, instruction took place via Zoom, but “as soon we were allowed to open up again, we opened for in-person,” said Julee Vadnais, production coordinator at CTC. “It has been complicated, in the sense that, of course, all of our actors are rehearsing with masks and everything.”

The production will be presented three times over the course of the weekend — at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday — to small audiences. Tickets are being sold at the door on a first come, first served basis, Vadnais said.

“The first 30 people that get here, that we can socially distance throughout our auditorium, is it,” Vadnais said. “There are some adult actors doing these readings. There are adult actors in this film. I don’t think this is a performance that adults wouldn’t enjoy also, even though it is through our Teens programming.”

“We can distance everybody a few rows back, so we are going to have the kids, for the performance, not wear masks on stage. As soon as they get offstage, they put their masks back on,” she said. “It’s just so hard — you don’t get anything out of acting with a mask.”

A few of the original plays audiences will see were written by teens who studied with Bend playwright Cricket Daniel, including winner Rich.

“Cascades Theatrical Company opened up a contest to teenagers for 10-minute plays,” Daniel said. “Most of my students submitted, and they all scored really well.”

As winner, Rich’s “To Outscheme a Sister” is being made into a short film that will premiere after the live stage performances to wrap up the evening.

“It’s complete, and they’re in the editing process of that now,” Daniel said of the film. “I’ve seen cuts from the film, and I’m like, ‘Oh my gosh, this is like a real film.’ I was floored.”

On the whole, the emerging playwrights “have a lot of talent, and their plays are going to be read by real local actors,” Daniel said. “We’re opening this up to the capacity that we’re able to fill at CTC, and we’re really hoping that they get good turnout. They deserve it. The actors deserve it. The writers



Submitted photo

The teen cast of Agatha Christie’s “The Hollow,” from left: Talon Confer, Sofia Boone, Harper Ebersold, Grace Allardyce, Christian Gessner, Cohen Flanagan and Harper Hemstead.

If You Go

What: Cascades Teen Showcase

Where: Cascades Theatre, 148 NW Greenwood Ave., Bend

When: 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday

Cost: \$15 at the door (limited seating)

Contact: cascadestheatre.org or 541-389-0803

deserve it.”

Vadnais is directing the teen casts appearing in two short mysteries as part of the Teen Showcase: “The Case of the Dangerfield Diamond,” a 20-minute comedy reminiscent of a modern-day “The Maltese Falcon,” and an adaptation of Agatha Christie’s “The Hollow” set in the 1920s.

“You’re going to get one-acts, you’re going to get 10-minute plays written by teens, you’re going to get a film. It’s going to be a lot of fun,” Daniel said.

■ David Jasper: 541-383-0349, djasper@bendbulletin.com



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