

# Climate films debut in Cannon Beach

## Haystack Rock Awareness Program volunteer hopes to make annual event

By Brenna Visser  
Cannon Beach Gazette

For two days in March, the Antarctic came to Cannon Beach.

Science and film enthusiasts came out to see the debut of the climate films “Guliya” and “Byrd 1933” at the Coaster Theatre.

The films, which center around scientific research done at the south pole and Guliya Ice Cape in Tibet, were the first in what organizer and Haystack Rock Awareness Program volunteer Cynthia Bryden hopes become the Rockdance Film Festival, an annual festival to encourage through the arts environmental awareness in the Pacific Northwest and improved health for the planet. All donations went to benefit the Haystack Rock Awareness Program.

“I am an oceanographer, marine biologist and geologist...climate change has been a continuous concern for me, our planet and all it’s living creatures. I first saw the film ‘Chasing Ice’ premiered at Sundance and wanted to screen that environmental climate film or something equally as good,” Bryden said.

Film Producer and Director Pamela Theodotou, based out of the Ohio State University Byrd Polar Climate Research Center, was at the showing and explained how she blended her scientific background with her passion for filmmaking. Theodotou, who has a background in both biology and law, got involved with doing film work for the center after she had just finished her masters’ degree in fine art in filmmaking. An



PAMELA THEODOTOU

Admiral Byrd in a scene from “Byrd 1933.”

ecologist friend at the time asked her to tag along to take photos of her while she was at the center, and Theodotou instantly was enthralled with polar research.

“I was enraptured with what they do,” she said.

“Byrd 1933” is a historic film following the expedition of Admiral Richard Byrd, who, with a large crew of men, sled dogs and other various livestock, explored the south pole for two years in the 1930s. What makes this film unusual, Theodotou said, is that everything viewers see is made from the original, salvageable footage. Before Theodotou’s project began, the old reels were slotted to be disposed of because of its deterioration and possibly safety hazards that come with decomposing film strips.

“It’s uncommon to make movies with such old film, mostly because it’s a treacherous process to work with it,” she said. “The cost is high to conserve and preserve old films.”

The other short movie, “Guliya,” was about the “third pole,” otherwise known as the Guliya Ice Cap



PAMELA THEODOTOU

Scene from “Guliya.”

in Tibet. Other than the two poles, it harbors some of the oldest ice in the world, as well as serves a source of water for more than 4 million people in the region.

While Theodotou was unable to go on the expedition herself due to danger and capacity, a research volunteer to take the footage that viewers see on their screens — all on an iPhone.

“You forget it was shot on a phone the footage is so beautiful,” she said.

This film centered around one dangerous expedition to

extract an ice core more than half a million years old. This unusual sample has provided dramatic evidence of climate change such as a recent and rapid temperature rise at some of the highest, coldest mountain peaks in the world.

“I hope (the audience) is inspired, because that’s whole reason I do work like this,” Theodotou said. “It might inspire them to embrace science. It might inspire them to understand climate change. It might inspire them simply to appreciate the aesthetic of this kind of film.”

# Lots of laughs in comedy at the Coaster Theatre

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another Coaster play, “Fit to Kill.”

“There’s no way to rehearse without the set in place,” said Mick Alderman. “It’s so physical — this is an action play. The challenge for the actors is that it all moves at a lightning pace. They don’t always have lines — they have to cue off stuff, listen and remember what they are supposed to be doing.”

He likened it to a crazy inventor’s work. “With nine people, it’s an amazing Rube Goldberg process. If one person is not where they need to be at that moment, the whole thing falls apart.”

## A play about a dying play

Frayn reportedly dreamed up “Noises Off” after watching from backstage in 1970 while Lynn Redgrave performed in another farce he had written. The title comes from a script stage direction. It won awards during its first five-year run in London and has seen three productions on Broadway, one winning a Tony for Katie Finneran. A 1992 movie version starred Michael Caine and Carol Burnett.

Roles include a director involved in a love triangle, a stuttering leading man, an actress who misplaces her contact lenses, a deaf actor with a drinking problem and the long-suffering stage manager who tries to fix everything.

Coaster cast members are Cathey Ryan, David Ridley, Daric Moore, Katherine Lacaze, Katrina Godderz, William Ham, Ann Bronson, Richard Bowman and Thomas Ryan; lighting operator Ryan Hull also appears.

“It is the most challenging rehearsal process,” said Moore, who has to race up staircases, cope with door handles falling off, and isn’t the only one who slips on a plate of sardines. “It’s like a giant choreographed dance — the whole thing depends on a



PATRICK WEBB PHOTO

**Three actors playing burglars, left to right, Richard Bowman, Thomas Ryan and David Ridley, cause consternation and some surprises.**

## IF YOU GO

**“NOISES OFF”:** A farce by Michael Frayn, directed by Mick Alderman. Some adult themes.

**WHERE:** Coaster Theatre Playhouse, 108 N. Hemlock St., Cannon Beach

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays: April 6-7, 13-14 and 20-21; 3 p.m. Sunday, April 8

**ADMISSION:** \$20 or \$25

**INFORMATION:** coaster-theatre.com

bunch of people, not just one or two.”

Thomas Ryan appears with his wife, Cathey. “This play is about a play that is dying, it’s never coming together,” he said. “At the ending of the play, it’s chaos. We are so familiar with it that it doesn’t matter what you say — you just keep going.”

The Coaster production features costumes by Judith Light, with each character having a color theme.

Alderman said friends who attended other productions have said it is the funniest play they have seen.

“If you like to laugh, you’ll like this,” he said. “At the first rehearsal, the actors had barely met each other and within an hour they were in stitches.



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