

Meet William Shakespeare

Performances, workshops blend the Bard with modern topics

By Lyra Fontaine
EO Media Group



Kristin Hammargren, right, and David Huynh, actors and teachers with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, act out a sword fight in front of Seaside High School students.

In a nod to election-year tensions, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival workshop at Seaside High School tackled a play with divisive political themes.

During Oregon Shakespeare Festival's annual School Visit Program, six teams of two teaching artists perform and lead interactive workshops in Oregon, Washington state, California and Kansas. This year, the program combined Shakespeare's work with modern scenes to mark the 400th anniversary of the Bard's death.

Gathered in the wrestling room, in November senior students in an honors English class delved into "Julius Caesar," in which conspiring senators kill an increasingly powerful politician. Oregon Shakespeare Festival profes-

sional actors David Huynh and Kristin Hammargren, returning to the school for a second year in a row, led the workshop.

"Julius Caesar takes place during a very contentious and polarized time in ancient Rome," Huynh said.

As an exercise to get in the ancient Roman spirit, students played "assassins," in which certain students slayed senators with a deadly wrist tap. Huynh encouraged students to "be big and bold."

Students dramatically doubled over and fell onto the padded floor after their "assassination," crying out as they died gruesome "deaths" during the otherwise nonverbal game.

Next, students in six groups read and acted out "freeze frames" from three different takes on the same event: a fes-

tival where a character offers the crown to Caesar. To see how the point of view can alter a story, students performed the perspectives of Greek biographer Plutarch and Shakespeare characters Mark Antony and Casca, who have opposing opinions. Students then analyzed how each person felt about aspects of the story.

"I learned about what the people thought about Caesar," Mica Paranal said after the workshop. "It was interesting how we played the assassins game."

It was Paola Campuzano's first time participating in an Oregon Shakespeare Festival workshop. Certain classes, primarily English and drama, take part in the program.

"I liked it because it summed up the play," she said. "I read it sophomore year, but I don't really remember it."



Colorful floats and costumes were the order of the day.

Parade heralds start of holiday season

Weather takes a break for glittering event

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Everybody loves a parade in Seaside. Rain or shine. The rain took a short breather Friday, Nov. 25, for the city's annual Parade of Lights.

Michelle Barsness of Seaside said she and her family had come to watch the Thanksgiving storm and thought the parade would be "a fun addition" to their vacation.

They were among the thousands who lined Broadway for the event.

T.J. and Cheryl Jeffery came to the parade to Seaside from their home in Bellingham, Washington, "just for the joy of it," they said. T.J. has been coming to the parade for almost 20 years, and Cheryl even longer.

Locals enjoy

For locals, it's a chance to come out and catch up with old friends.

"Usually in the winter, I've been hibernating," City Councilor Seth Morrisey said, accompanied by family members. "I'm looking for some excitement."

Seaside's Amy and Clay Baughman brought their daughter Brooklyn to her first parade. She was among those waiting for a visit with Santa.

Kathy Luginbuhl of Gearhart said she hadn't been to the parade in years. "I used to come, then my kids grew up," Luginbuhl said. "Then they left home and they came back, and we're here tonight."

Seaside's Mark Brooks carried Bronson Brooks on his shoulders, the youngster celebrating his first parade.

Seaside resident and chamber ambassador Cynthia Miner was among those giving out cookies, hot cider and cocoa for guests to enjoy. The weather, on the cusp of a downpour, didn't faze her a bit. "We're excited," she said. "This is what we're used to."

Seaside's Visitor Information Specialist Ken Heman manned the loudspeaker in front of the holiday tree. "It actually stops raining just before the parade, and starts raining after," Heman said. "You can tell who the true Oregonians because they are standing in the rain with no umbrellas."

Parade procession

Lo and behold, shortly after 7, the rain paused and the

parade kicked off from First Avenue on Necanicum Drive.

In the lead were students from Seaside schools, wearing the Gulls' red and white and celebrating the passage of the bond to move schools out of the tsunami zone.

The procession stretched down Broadway, past Finn's, Zingers, Sharky's and around the bend.

Honking horns from Seaside Fire and Rescue heralded the convoy to follow, including the big trucks of the Clatsop County Sons of Beaches.

Thomas the Train, Snoopy and more cartoon favorites drew cheers, along with trucks from Pacific Power, FedEx and local businesses — about 30 in all. Miss Oregon Alexis Mather greeted the crowd, accompanied by local Miss Oregon scholarship program contestants. An ornate rendition of Santa's Workshop was followed by a manger scene presented by Seaside's River of Life Fellowship.

Seaside's Michelle Hughes marched in Seahawks' football fanwear with family members from Kennewick, Washington, to cheer on their favorite team. "They're going to go to the Super Bowl, of course!" Hughes laughed.

As the parade turned down Downing and the last floats moved through the crowd, onlookers gathered for the tree-lighting and carols. Voices rang out, singing holiday favorites including "White Christmas," "Winter Wonderland" and "Here Comes Santa Claus."

Santa time

Who were the luckiest kids at the parade?

Leilani, Leila and Keoni Durham were first in line for Santa Claus, accompanied by their parents, Mona and Brian Durham of Warrenton. Leila was looking forward to a new bed comforter and Keoni was poised to ask Santa for a toy train.

Sandy McDowall of the Seaside Chamber of Commerce estimated the parade drew about 2,000-3,000 people from "all over."

"I love the holidays in Seaside," McDowall said, joining the chamber ambassadors serving cider and cocoa.

"There's nothing like a little bit of 'sunshine,'" chamber President Brian Owen added.

The rain did hold through the entire length of the parade. And by its end, the holiday lights shined bright on Broadway.

Donors, volunteers make Festival a success

Trees from Page 1A

Nineteen trees bedecked in Christmas finery highlighted one of the North Coast's premier holiday events, Providence Seaside's Festival of Trees gala and dinner auction at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

"People look forward to this event every year; it really kicks off the holiday season," Ward said. "It brings magic and it brings the community together."

During the past 18 years, the Festival of Trees has raised more than \$1.3 million to benefit community health services and programs provided by the hospital.

The event was on its way to new records Saturday night as donors reached deep to help fund three-dimensional tomography imaging equipment, a state-of-the-art mammography technology that enhances early cancer detection and reduces false positive readings.

First responders

First responders were well represented, with two separate trees for charitable auction.

Katie Bulleset and Jamie Daniels, sponsored by Clatsop County fire departments and emergency responders, teamed to design "Where There's Smoke, There's Fire," a lighted, ruby red tree decorated with a fire and rescue theme. The winning bidder received a retinue of apparel, emergency tools and even a drill night with Seaside's Fire Chief Joey Daniels.

The Seaside, Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart and Cannon Beach police departments, along with the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office pooled together to come up with a memorial tree to honor the memory of former Seaside Police Sgt. Jason Gooding, who died in the line of duty in February. Funds raised from the sale of "Heroes in Blue," designed by Jennifer Schermerhorn and Cheryl Ham and sponsored by Clatsop County law enforcement agencies, will go to local emergency room services, including furniture and furnishings for a "safe room" dedicated to Gooding.

"The Sweet Side of Seaside" won the "People's Choice Award" when over 1,400 peo-



Cancer survivor Jennie Breslow Vinson made a special appeal to donors before they raised money for new cancer-screening technology at the Festival of Trees fundraiser for the Providence Seaside Hospital Foundation Saturday.

ple voted on their favorite at the open house. The "Sweet Side of Seaside" represented the dining and desserts of the community, and was designed by Sarah Dailey and Jorjett Strumme, sponsored by the Seaside Downtown Development Association.

Setting up

Committee volunteers moved into the convention center Tuesday, Nov. 29, to hang lights, event Festival of Trees planning committee chairwoman Laura Freedman said. "We hang the lights on Tuesday and it takes us from Wednesday through Saturday to get everything ready," Freedman said. "It's all good community people who want to make a difference."

Earlier Saturday brought in 1,400 attendees of all ages for crafts, cookie decoration and pictures with Santa.

Holiday trees, designed and decorated by individuals, teams and hospital staff, featured

everything from 60 bottles of wine to an opportunity to attend the Beverly Hills Kennel Club Dog Show with a behind-the-scenes tour with host David Frei, a Cannon Beach resident.

Frei, with his wife Cheryl and their two dogs, Angel and Grace, welcomed visitors in front of their tree, "Beverly Hills Best in Show," designed by Providence Seaside Hospital Volunteer Services and Mackenna Taylor, Providence coordinator for Healthy Smiles.

"It's very exciting," Frei said. "We were here earlier with all the children, and of course the dogs and children were a big hit all around."

The couple also hopes to raise awareness of the new therapy dog program at Providence Seaside, launched two months ago "It's going great," David Frei said. "It's everything we expected. The dogs walk into the room, just like they did here, and the energy changes. And we're seeing that



Berkley Sturgell at the Festival of Trees community event.

with patients. We're seeing that everywhere they go."

Special appeal

One of the evening's most emotional moments came in a special appeal presented by Jennie Breslow Vinson, diagnosed with Stage IIB triple positive breast cancer at age 37.

"To say this was a shock would be a complete understatement," Vinson said. "I had an almost 3-year-old son, had just begun a new dream job at a great company, and I clearly had no time for chemotherapy in my life."

During treatment, fear would grip her. "To be honest, sometimes it still does," Vinson said. "But now, instead of dwelling on what-ifs, I've chosen to focus on the gifts and the silver linings my cancer treatment and diagnosis have provided me and my family."

Living in the now, appreciating family and being able to laugh helped her through the experience.

"Perhaps the most profound gift I have received is the certainty and comfort that I am profoundly loved and that I will be missed when I am gone," Vinson said. "Chemo and cancer changed my personality by deepening my level of intention and integrity in life, defining my discipline, emphasizing my perseverance. My time is precious and I want to make the most of it."

The audience responded with a standing ovation and generous bids.

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