



NEWS . . WATERFRONT PLAYERS

Volume 6, Issue 1
April/May 2006

At last, the long awaited musical **Q U I L T E R S**

Inside this issue:

Quilters	1
Classes	2
Sketch Comedy Troupe	2
Things Seen	2
Romeo and Juliet	3
Company Restructuring	3
From the President	4

The dates for the musical Quilters are June 30 to July 30. Performances are set for Fridays and Saturdays at 7 pm and Sundays at 4 pm. We will not be offering a 'preface' for this production. Instead, there will be a 'talk back' with the cast, production crew and the audience following every performance.

Quilters is a heartwarming, emotional and joyful series of stories, vignettes and songs which tell the story of pioneer women who sacrificed their familiar comforts to settle the western United States.

Quilting provided a creative and emotional outlet for most of these women, and the quilts themselves became their personal statements as well as a kind of chronicle about their new life in this rugged and unforgiving environment. Although the quilts they made were prized for their beauty, quilts were also necessities of life for pioneer families, and, in addition to covering beds, also served as makeshift doors, windows and cloaks. This show is a tribute to those women.

Music Director for the Waterfront Players production is Jo Ann Reiersen. With more than twenty-five years as a voice and piano teacher, this is Jo Ann's first job as a Music Director. The regular directing chores are being shared by Associate Directors Judy McDonald and Canaan Raymer. Canaan has performed with the Company in three of the last four productions. Well known dance instructor Lauri Todd will serve as movement choreographer. Technical Director is Pat McDonald.

The acting, singing, dancing cast is comprised of Judy McDonald, Cheri Stuart, Amy Bryan, Karen Fowler, Erika Schultz, Beverly Gustin, Melissa Loudonbeck and Hilary

Clayton. Lighting and Sound operator Nolan Hofferber.

The major quilt which is the center of the story and winds its way through the production has been specially created by the ladies of the Thimblebeauties. The members include Sharon Arrant, Shirley Hammar, Barbara Jones, Pat Alvey, Bette Nelson, Suzy Peck, Grace Cox, Marietta Dickson, Marlene Fay, Marie Blecha and Sharan Thompson, with the help of Linnae Beechly and Pam Boatright.



Quilters Cast and Directing Staff—Back row from left to right: Canaan Raymer, Judy McDonald, Erika Schultz, Beverly Gustin, Melissa Loudonbeck and Amy Bryan. Front row from left to right: Jo Ann Reiersen, Lauri Todd, and Hilary Clayton. Not pictured: Cheri Stuart and Karen Fowler.

Will-call tickets can be obtained by calling the Players at 751-0708. If you would prefer to get your tickets in person, stop in to Tee Shirt Express in Pony Village. Some tickets may be available at the door. Group rates for over ten people can also be arranged.

Quilters is made possible through a grant from: Trust Management Services, LLC; the Mr. and Mrs. Michael Keiser Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation; and Modern Floors of Coos Bay.

Newsletter Sponsor

Fisherman's Grotto

Fish and Chips
Seafood
Clam Chowder
Oregon Wine
Beer
Catering

541-888-3251
91149 Cape Arago Hwy.
CHARLESTON



Sweet

are

the

uses

of

adversity.

Shakespeare
As You Like It

Notes on "Things Seen"

Company Artistic Director managed to sneak in two performances of the new season at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival when she made the trip to return the costumes used in the Waterfront Players production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

In the afternoon, I saw the opening performance of Lynn Nottage's *Intimate Apparel*. First let me say that I immensely respect and admire playwright Lynn Nottage. She is a true champion of women and black women in particular, and her work is thoughtful, scholarly and accessible. *Intimate Apparel* has won a ton of awards since it was first produced in 2004. Her *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* which was done at OSF about six or seven years ago, was brilliant and fresh. The opening performance of *Intimate Apparel* was very rough. Technical feats, which we have come to expect as perfect at OSF, were not quite smoothed out, and the pacing was awkward and slow. Those things will solve themselves, but I was expecting more from the play itself. I felt the characters were not very well developed and I didn't feel anything at all from the actress who play Esther, the protagonist. That said, I would be happy to see it again a little later in the season to see how it matures.

The same night I was able to get in to see *A Winter's Tale*, Shakespeare's last (or close to last) play. I could go on for pages about the play itself, but I really just want to say that the OSF production was stunning! From beginning to end, just a marvelous, breathtaking production. The set, the lighting, the costumes, the casting (with one or two reservations), the divine pacing, all the little directing choices that Libby Apple made—it was fabulous. The comic character, the pick pocket, was way over the top, but that is a very minor complaint for such an otherwise remarkable production.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Actors Boot Camp—August

The next *Actor's Boot Camp* will be held August 19 and 26. This is a two-Saturday course. This is an open class and anyone interested in theater can register.

Actors' Boot Camp is multi-level and suited for new actors, returning actors, and experienced actors and other performers who would like to refine their craft. Nonperformers who would just like to learn more about theater are also welcome. Participants will enjoy a combination of active physical participation, lecture, and individual coaching. Class size is limited, and pre-registration is required (deadline is August 15). Registration fee is \$45 per person and registration forms are available by calling the Waterfront Players at 751-0708.

Acting Master Class

Starts September 26

This is a new class with our Artistic Director Judy Elliot McDonald for experienced actors only.

The Master Class series is a unique program that gives emerging actors the opportunity to develop their craft. Students will have an overview of a variety of contemporary acting techniques. They will: find the methods that set them free to resolve problems with auditions and performance anxiety; learn to find their unique quality through self-discovery; learn to be public with private emotions; learn advanced voice production and speech techniques; learn to interpret scripts; and learn a multitude of other tips and techniques.

This is a six-week, twelve session class which will result in an on-stage production of actor-specific monologues and scenes following the completion of the class. Class size is very limited. Previous on-stage is required, and previous Waterfront Players classes (such as Actors' Boot Camp) or college level classes are a plus.

Dates: Series starts on September 26 and runs on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 for six weeks. Fees: Registration and tuition for the class is \$60. A certificate will be issued for those students completing the class.

AUDITIONS for the NEW

SKETCH COMEDY TROUPE

Auditions for this new troupe will be held on **Saturday, September 9 and Saturday, September 16 at 2 pm** sharp at the Waterfront Players in Pony Village Mall.

The Waterfront Players are looking for a few wacky people who would like to take part in developing a comedy troupe which will produce new work for the troupe and well as using Judy McDonald's *Abbreviated Classics* for a basis. The troupe already has engagements on the books.

If you are brave, smart, witty, unpretentious, open-minded, adventurous, and can learn fast, we want you. Men and women of any gender are welcome. Age, as well, does not matter, except of course, to you. Please come prepared with a memorized short comedy monologue. Political satire, women's issues, classics reinterpretation or Nascar are particularly welcome topics.

Information flyers and Registration Forms for all **CLASSES** are available at the display in the front of the playhouse in Pony Village, or by calling the office at 751-0708.

Romeo and Juliet an enormous success

The spring production of William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* had a number of bumps in the road on its journey to fruition.

However, it turned out to be a brilliant production with a stark austere set, complex lighting scheme, dazzling costumes, and stunning performances by the eponymous, Romeo and Juliet, played by Zyme Burris and the lovely Gwynne Shanks. Also notable for exceptional performances were Canaan Raymer as Mercutio, Don Moulton as Friar Lawrence, and



Carolyn Agee as Benvolio

Two actors came in at the last minute to replace other actors also deserve praise. Johnna Hickox replaced Judy McDonald as The Nurse, and Taylor Underwood replaced the actor playing Tybalt.

Many thanks to Kim Henderson and her staff, of the Henderson Shorin Ryu Martial Arts Studio for their dedication in teaching stage combat to the many swordfighters.

Thanks to Karen Rethman-Foll of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for her assistance in costume rental. And a big thank you to Ann Rakosi for creating three lovely costumes, and to Mary Ann Snow, Lori Shanks, Emilie Wilson, Rose Wilson and Lee Howeth for additional sewing.

Nolan Hofferber also deserves a large thank-you for taking over as lighting operator, and Hilary Clayton for taking over as Box Office manager.

Five of the nine performances were completely sold out for this excellent production. We apologize to those audience members we had to turn away on two occasions. (It is always a good idea to have reservations at the Waterfront Playhouse).

Waterfront Players Undergo Radical Restructuring



As the Waterfront Players approached their tenth anniversary, it became apparent that the structure of offering three fully realized productions per year on a regular basis was a little more than the infrastructure of the organization could maintain. Basically, for the past six or seven years, all WP shows have been produced by the same six to ten individuals.

Giving some thought to this situation, the Artistic Director brought the following idea to the board: that *Quilters* would be our last show in the three-shows-per-year cycle, and that the Players would cancel (temporarily) the late fall production of Ingmar Bergman's *Nora*, and that the Artistic Director would take some time to reconfigure the direction of the Players within the confines of the existing organizational goals and objectives.

You can read more about our future plans on page 4.

In the process of making this somewhat radical departure from what had become the norm, we have accepted the resignation of several long-term board members.

Collectively, this group represents a tremendous amount of time and initiative dedicated to the Players. Among this group, there have been approximately twenty-three performances in eight different productions, ten roles of stage manager, thousands of hours of Animal (set construction) nights, and all the other front of house and "extra" hours that dedicated volunteers offer, hours and hours of cleaning, painting, photography, research and computer work, and clipping and saving of published material.

We have great appreciation for these individuals who, in most cases, have served on the board for as long as seven to nine years. We hope that these individuals will find joy, satisfaction and camaraderie in all their new hobbies and activities.

A special Thank You to:

Lowell Kobrin
Ann Rakosi
Cory Smith
Emilie Wilson
Rose Wilson

Visa and MasterCard transactions for tickets purchased at the box Office are now available..

Just make your telephone reservation, and then charge your will-call tickets on the night of the performance.

WATERFRONT PLAYERS



Offices: 2159 Meade Avenue
North Bend, OR 97459

Phone: 541-751-0708
Fax: 541-756-2900
Email: wprc@uci.net
www.waterfrontplayers.org

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 59
North Bend, OR
97459

Notes about our future . . . From the new Board President

As the Artistic Director, I have been essentially the sole employee of the Waterfront Players for the past ten years. Since the Waterfront Players have undergone a recent reorganization, I have now been elected the President of the organization. Pat McDonald is the new Vice-President/Treasurer.

In this new position as President (maintaining the role of Artistic Director), it is my responsibility to guide the organization through the process of change as we refocus our energy on our initial mission which has always been "... to teach and explore theater, to perform classic and little-known existing work, to perform community-specific work, and to develop and provide opportunities for new work by Oregon writers, in a variety of traditional and non-traditional venues."

As many of you already know, as part of the restructuring, the last show of the year, Ingmar Bergman's *Nora* has been postponed. *Nora* was intended to be part three of a season of productions all having the theme of women's roles, or women's issues.

Three major efforts will replace the fall show.

First, Classes: The ever-popular Actor's Boot Camp is back on the August schedule. In addition, an Acting Master Class is now available for experienced actors. This will be a departure from previous classes in that it will be an in-depth course which will result in a public showcase production.

Second, Sketch Comedy Troupe: The Players are forming a sketch comedy troupe. This group of people will have three main objectives—to perform existing short comedy routines; to write its own material; and to perform the Abbreviated Classics Project. The Abbreviated Classics Project was begun in 2004 when Judy McDonald wrote the *Fifteen Minute Christmas Carol*. The group was invited to perform this piece several times during the New Year's Eve celebration at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort. In 2006, the troupe will perform the latest classic *The Fifteen Minute Scottish Play*, a parody of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The Waterfront Players may also host sketch comedy troupes from around the state.

Finally, returning to the concept of a season of productions based on women's issues, I will be organizing an invitational conference of women (working title for this event is the "**Outspoken Women's Conference**"). This think-tank will meet for an all day workshop to discuss the condition of women and the women's movement in the region and on the planet with the question for the conference - how can theater address women's issues in the 21st century. The outcome of the conference will form the basis for a Waterfront Players production in the spring of next year.

The Players are rich with ideas that involve making a major divergence from our past patterns. We hope you will all join us for this intensely creative and open-ended journey. If you have questions, call me at 751-0708.

Judy McDonald

The
Waterfront
Players
are
sponsored
by
**Pony
Village
Mall**
and
**Modern
Floors**

