

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Apple Box Children's Theater Produces Free Play for Kids

[Monmouth, Oregon] - Apple Box Children's Theater is excited to announce their upcoming performance of "The Magic Flute," a (non-singing) adaptation of the Mozart Opera by Steven Foggell. The performances are free, July 10-12, 6 PM, at the outdoor stage next to Rice Auditorium at Western Oregon University.

"The Magic Flute" is an opera about Prince Tamino who, aided by a magic flute and the bird-catcher Papageno, embarks on a quest to rescue Pamina, daughter of the Queen of the Night, from the priest Sarastro. There are many silly plot twists and turns as the story unfolds. This comic story has monsters, dragons, talking rats and quests.

Apple Box Children's Theater, which originally was active in the 1970's and 1980's, has been a staple in the community in this form for over ten years. Run entirely by volunteers and supported by grants, Apple Box provides arts opportunities to children who might not otherwise have access to them.

This year, Apple Box has hired Central High School's new theater director, Ally Warner, to direct. Ally is actually an Apple Box Student Director Alumna! She has directed many shows, including CHS's "The Lightning Thief." Apple Box also employs two Western Oregon University students, Serio Palomar Solis, and Grace Pedersen, to direct the show and oversee the high school students who are working backstage for the show. High school students are getting college credit for participating.

Part of Apple Box's mission is to teach all parts of theater, so the younger students learn from the older ones, many of whom are alums of Apple Box. Blake, a young actor in Apple Box, says, "I've been in and watching Apple box for many years. It's an amazing experience, pretending to be someone, dressing up and making new friends! It inspires my everyday life and everyone is really supportive. It's been an amazing program that I hope continues for long after I leave, and gives kids the chance to be an actor and have fun!"

The upcoming performances, which are scheduled for July 10, 11, and 12 at 6 PM, will be held at the outdoor stage at Leonard W. Rice Auditorium, 344 Knox St N, Monmouth. A special performance will be held at the Monmouth Amphitheater on July 3 at 12:30 pm as part of the 4th of July festival. ASL translated services will be available for the Friday, July 11th performance. Audience members should bring a lawn chair or blanket.

"The Magic Flute" is made possible in part by funding from the Polk County Cultural Coalition, fiscal sponsorship of the Humanities Division of Western Oregon University, and support from Central High School, the Western Oregon University Theater Department and local businesses.

For more information about Apple Box Children's Theater, including how to get involved or make a donation, please visit their website at www.appleboxtheater.com.

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