



Bag&Baggage offers 'A Christmas Carol'

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The Hillsboro Argus

Hillsboro-based Bag&Baggage Productions will open an adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" this week that brings Dickens himself onto the stage .

The show offers slapstick, wordplay and audience participation suitable for the whole family, according to Scott Palmer, Bag&Baggage artistic director.

"A Christmas Carol" previews Wednesday, Dec. 9, and runs through Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 7:30, with 2 p.m. matinees on Dec 12 and 13, and Dec 19 and 20. Opening night is Friday, Dec. 11, at 7:30 and the production continues through Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

The Thursday, Dec. 10, preview will be a benefit for the Virginia Garcia Children's Dental Program and the Monday, Dec. 14, performance will be a benefit for Camp Erin.

Virginia Garcia provides primary healthcare with a special emphasis on migrant and seasonal farm workers, and their children and serves more than 30,000 people per year.

"In our 2009 fiscal year, we served 5,395 children in the dental program alone; that's a 23 percent increase over 2008, and a 74 percent increase over 2007," said Lisa Bozzetti, DDS, dental director. "Oral health is vital to a child's well-being. A toothache affects school attendance, concentration, self-esteem, nutrition and general health. Dental decay is the most common childhood disease - and it's 100 percent preventable. We use education, prevention and treatment to change these statistics in the communities we serve."

Camp Erin is a grief support camp for children ages 6 through 17 sponsored by the Moyer Foundation and Providence Health & Services.

It is a weekend summer camp that combines traditional camping activities with grief education and emotional support. Camp Erin is offered at no charge to the children who participate.

Bag&Baggage's adaption of "A Christmas Carol," written and directed by Scott Palmer, is based on a line in Dickens' journal in which he describes his experience writing "A Christmas Carol."

"Dickens wrote like a madman, often speaking aloud in his study as if he were in conversation with the characters in the story he was writing," said Palmer, who brings Dickens into the action of the play, where he argues, debates and flatters the characters.

Marion Rossi, who recently played Willy Loman in Bag&Baggage's "Death of a Salesman," plays Scrooge. Maggie Chapin, a regular member of the Bag&Baggage company, plays several characters. Tommy Cavanaugh plays Charles Dickens and Tiny Tim; and other characters are played by Tylor Neist, Jessica Cavanaugh and Maria Aparo.

Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$18 for students and seniors. Tickets are \$10 each for the Virginia Garcia and Camp Erin benefit performances.

Bag&Baggage performs at The Venetian Theatre, 253 E. Main Street, Hillsboro. Go to www.bagnbaggage.org or call 503-516-4840.

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