

# REPartee

A Publication of the Ferndale Repertory Theatre

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ENGAGE • EDUCATE • EXCITE  
**FERNDALE  
REPERTORY  
THEATRE**

March 1-11, 2007

## HAMLET

### THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

BY THOMAS J. MCCORRY

The Ferndale Repertory Theatre's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual All Teen Production laughs it up with *Hamlet Through the Looking Glass*, written by Thomas J. McCorry, a North Coast premiere of the comedic spoof on the Bard's most famous play. *Hamlet Through the Looking Glass* is a look at the Prince of Denmark and the inhabitants of Elsinore as you have never seen them before!

David Moore directed the wonderfully talented ensemble of teens from all over the county. From Ferndale are Layne Stephens, Denim Ohmit, Louis Sterback, Roland Kosa and Jennifer Stannard. From Fortuna are Laureen Savage, Ashley Tackett, Alyssa Wheeler and Kelsey Crosgrove. From Rio Dell is Jessica VanBrackle. From Eureka are Jeri Johnson Myers, Chyna Dale, Jesika Galaviz, Patricia Landrum, and Amber Imrie. From Kneeland is Colin Smithers. From Redway is Cailun Quinn. Set, sound, and light design is by Daniel L. Lawrence and costume design is by Denise Ryles; stage management is in Jennifer Stannard's capable hands. Poster design is by Megan Griffiths and publicity, and lobby and archive photography is by Jessica VanBrackle.

*Hamlet Through the Looking Glass* opens March 1 and plays Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8PM, with one matinee on Sunday, March 11 at 2PM. Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, is the Actor's Benefit Night; all ticket sales go to the hardworking cast and crew. Ticket prices are \$10 general and \$5 for students. Discounts are available for school groups of ten or more.

The play's the thing, so come see what this thing is all about! We want to thank the sponsor of this production, The Bertha Russ Lytel Foundation.

For tickets and information, please call  
(707) 786-5483. Support our youth in theatre.

### ART FROM THE HART GALLERY

Featuring the works of  
Teen Artists  
from area high schools  
Artists' Reception March 2 at 6:30pm

## New Logo, New Look!

We're 35 & We're Having a Party!

Save this Date!

**Saturday, March 31**

Join Us as we celebrate the Rep's  
Extraordinary 35-Year History!

Your Invitation will arrive in the mail soon!

### INTRODUCING BOARD MEMBER

### DOROTHY SWENDEMAN

The newest member of the Rep's Board of Directors is Dorothy Swendeman, artist and arts patron. Dorothy remembers: "In the small (125 student) high school I attended, Drama was not an ongoing class but when an English teacher had a spare space and the inclination, it was offered and I took it. Usually, I did make up and costumes but sometimes there was a character role I could fill.

Many years and several careers later, we moved to Eureka to run a bed and breakfast, and discovered the Rep. We stopped going to Ashland for our live theatre fix. I have twice been a "character" in the holiday children's productions (*Little Red Riding Hood* and *The House that Jack Built*) and thoroughly enjoyed the experience."

Dorothy has served on the boards of two weaving guilds and is currently on the North Redwood Book Arts Guild board, so she is no stranger to the process. She adds, "The demands of the Rep's board will be a great challenge but I am looking forward to it."

Welcome, Dorothy, to the Rep family.

*(Editor's note: there are currently two vacancies on the Rep Board. If you would like to learn more about the operation of this extraordinary organization, call the Rep and get involved)*

### ANGEL OF THE MONTH

Open Door Community Health Centers  
Cheyenne Spetzler, COO

## EDitorial

### From the Desk of Executive Director

March is “National Theatre in Our Schools Month,” a time for teachers and students to “celebrate by sharing their enthusiasm, skills and talents with others.” Annually we present our Teen Theatre production in March (very serendipitous, don’t you think?), our 14<sup>th</sup> year!

Why is theatre training an important aspect to our children’s lives? Why are educators suddenly making such a big deal about it? Besides an overwhelming percentage of American parents (90%–93% surveyed) who say that exposure to the arts is important for their children and that they want more experiences than they did as children, research also shows that important and lifelong skills are learned through the arts, increasing grades, attendance rates, and test scores.

The arts provide students the opportunity to take in information through different visual, aural, and kinesthetic channels, allowing students to demonstrate self-expression and their most complex thinking skills in an exciting and unique way. Theatre is a marvelous tool for teaching and learning the embodiment of the work ethic. All the things that people say they want in the work community, students can learn in theatre. John Lithgow, honorary chair for Arts in Our Schools program, says, “I think it’s the only avenue you have to express yourself as a kid. Yes, you can express yourself as an athlete and as a scholar, but something about creative expression really does acquaint you with who you are. And, it’s such an essential part of the learning process. And it is the only thing you can do that is all yours, you own it.”

I am particularly proud of our teen program, now fourteen years old. I am also proud that the theatre has taken a firm stand by supporting all arts programs in the schools, providing opportunities for all Humboldt youth to be engaged, excited and entertained. I hope you too will take the chance to see some very talented youth on our stage in the comedy, *Hamlet Through the Looking Glass*, a North Coast premiere. It plays March 1 through March 11. Bring your children...and support our young people on our stage.

**Marilyn McCormick**

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447 Main St. • P.O. Box 892  
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786-5483

Vikki Young, Editor/  
Design/Layout

Contributors:  
Marilyn McCormick  
Carolyn Jones



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Carolyn Jones

The Board of the Ferndale Rep has been working to define and prioritize our goals for the next couple of years. As is often the case, we started by looking at, and ultimately revising, our mission statement.

When I first encountered the non-profit world, I thought that this whole business of mission statements and strategic planning retreats and such was just a bunch of management voodoo... a way to keep consultants busy and to keep boards and administrators from getting in to more serious trouble. But I’ve changed my tune. In an organization, like the Rep, that is guided by volunteers, it is incredibly important that everyone be on more or less the same page... that the individual efforts of the hundreds of volunteers be directed toward a shared goal, and that this goal be something that the larger community of Ferndale Rep patrons recognizes, values and supports. So we have a new mission statement, and I’d like to share it with you: ***The mission of the Ferndale Repertory Theatre is to provide quality live entertainment that engages, educates and excites.***

Sounds simple, huh? Nonetheless, this brief statement encodes our highest priorities. Consider... ***Quality*** is the first word and our highest goal. ***Live entertainment*** means more than just plays; music, dance, comedy, showcases, interactive film all appear on our stage, and we want to continue and expand this variety of live offerings. ***Engages*** means that our performances will individually engage each member of the audience, but, in addition, that our community will be engaged, the Rep will be a part of broader community activities and the theatre facility will be used for community and group functions. ***Educates*** means that we will continue and expand our efforts to link live performance and education (especially for young people) by offering study guides, school tours, special school matinees, young actors workshops, community service opportunities and educational scholarships. And ***Excites*** means that we will strive to create a feeling of excitement in our volunteers, our audiences and our community; our performances will excite the senses and the imagination, our volunteers will be excited about being part of The Rep, and our broader community will be excited about the many ways that the Ferndale Rep can contribute to the quality of life of the North Coast.

So there you have it. I hope that this statement is a good reflection of what you want to see in our future. Thank you for being part of the Ferndale Rep!

### ***Board of Directors***

Carolyn Jones, *President* • Vikki Young, *Treasurer*  
Kay Cohn • Demetrius DiStefano • Renee Grinnell  
Bruce Keller • Jenny Oaks • Patricia Stanley  
Dorothy Swendeman • Sarah O. Turner

## DOWNWIND OF UPSTAGE

35

### Assorted Rep Rap

**OPEN DOOR TO THE RESCUE!** Thanks to Cheyenne Spetzler, Chief Operations Officer of Open Door Community Health Centers, our Production Office has shed its Edgar Allan Poe atmosphere and now has a new conference table, cabinets, counter tops and work spaces. Cheyenne and Board president Carolyn Jones organized the effort, Vikki Young and Renee Grinnell painted the office, and Marilyn tried to find to where all her stuff was moved. Come by and take a look—or better yet, volunteer! You now have a wonderful place to work!

**PAINT IT!** Our very special thanks to Troy Land of Valley Lumber in Ferndale for the donation of two full pallets of paint. That's more than 150 gallon cans in a myriad of colors--enough to paint every set for the next five years. Our tech staff was overwhelmed by this generous gift. So are we all!

**ELECTRIFIED!** Our gratitude goes to Bob Shephard of Shephard Electric who donated his labor for the installation of strip outlets in the production office. For 35 years we have been working with one outlet on the right side of the room and one outlet on the left. Try plugging in three computers, two telephones, three printers, a clock, microwave oven, calculator, fax machine, and radio with only two outlets. Needless to say, we are happy!

**DONATIONS GALORE!** Our thanks to Kim & Mark Valenti (brownies), Valley Grocery, Dale Pifer (material), Homer Harlan 1960 vintage hair dryer), and all the ushers, ticket takers, concession workers and volunteers who make it happen!

Happy Birthday, Rep!

# REP FEST 35

Saturday, March 31, 2007

All Day Activities Including:

Historic Tours of the Theatre & Downtown Ferndale  
The Hunt on Main Street • Rep Reunion

Celebrity Auction & Dinner

Silent & Live Auctions • Raffles & Door Prizes  
Celebrity Guest Waiters • Entertainment  
Dinner • No Host Bar

## COMING 35 ATTRACTIONS

March 1 - 11

**HAMLET THROUGH  
THE LOOKING GLASS**

*see page one for details*

### • AUDITIONS •

March 10 • 1pm at the Rep

March 12 • 6pm at the Rep

**THE GHOST  
OF THE HART**

written & directed by Vikki Young

Wanted: 20 kids ages 6-17

Production Dates: May 3-13

and

*To Kill a Mockingbird*

(Auditions for Children's Roles Only)

directed by Renee Grinnell

Wanted: 2 boys ages 9-13

1 girl ages 9-13

Production Dates: May 24-June 17

March 11 • 4-6pm

March 12 • 4-6pm

At the Carson Bldg, 517 3rd in Eureka

*The Sound of Music*

Children & adult roles available

Must sing & dance

Call the theatre for more

information

Production Dates: Aug. 2 - Sept. 2

March 17 • 4-6pm

March 18 • 4-6pm

At the Carson Bldg, 517 3rd in Eureka

*To Kill a Mockingbird*

(Auditions for Adult Roles Only)

Director Renee Grinnell seeks

white & African American actors

12 men ages 40+

5 women ages 20+

Production Dates: May 24-June 17

Ferndale Repertory Theatre  
P.O. Box 892  
Ferndale, CA 95536

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Ferndale, CA 95536

*Hamlet through  
the Looking Glass*

35 Opens March 1



## WHAT'S INSIDE?



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Playing March 1-11

**HAMLET**  
**THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS**  
by Thomas J. McCorry

- Art from the Hart Gallery •

Playing Around  
Since 1972...  
*And still in the Act!*

- Assorted Rep Rap •

- **COMING ATTRACTIONS** •

## REP FEST 35

*Celebrating 35 Years!*  
Dinner & Celebrity Auction  
MARCH 31, 2007  
At Firemen's Pavilion in Ferndale