

ACT 1

Theatre



AD LIB

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Photo by CLIFF ROWE

Sophia and Jessica Carlson hang out at the Puyallup Farmers' Market to answer questions about ACT 1 Theatre Productions.

ACT 1 out to spice up Puyallup Farmers' Market

By Cliff Rowe

Visitors to the Puyallup Farmer's Market each Saturday this summer are regularly served a sizable helping from a traditional menu. But this summer they may have discovered a new ingredient stirred into the lively mix.

Puyallup's ACT 1 Theatre has pitched its pop-up tent along one of the market's pathways, stirring a little theatrical spice into the market fare each week this summer.

Emphasizing active involvement with children and their parents, the theater company's presence at the market adds another

dimension – both to the market and to the community as a whole, says Jerry Gintz, a member of ACT1's board of directors.

He envisions the market regularly

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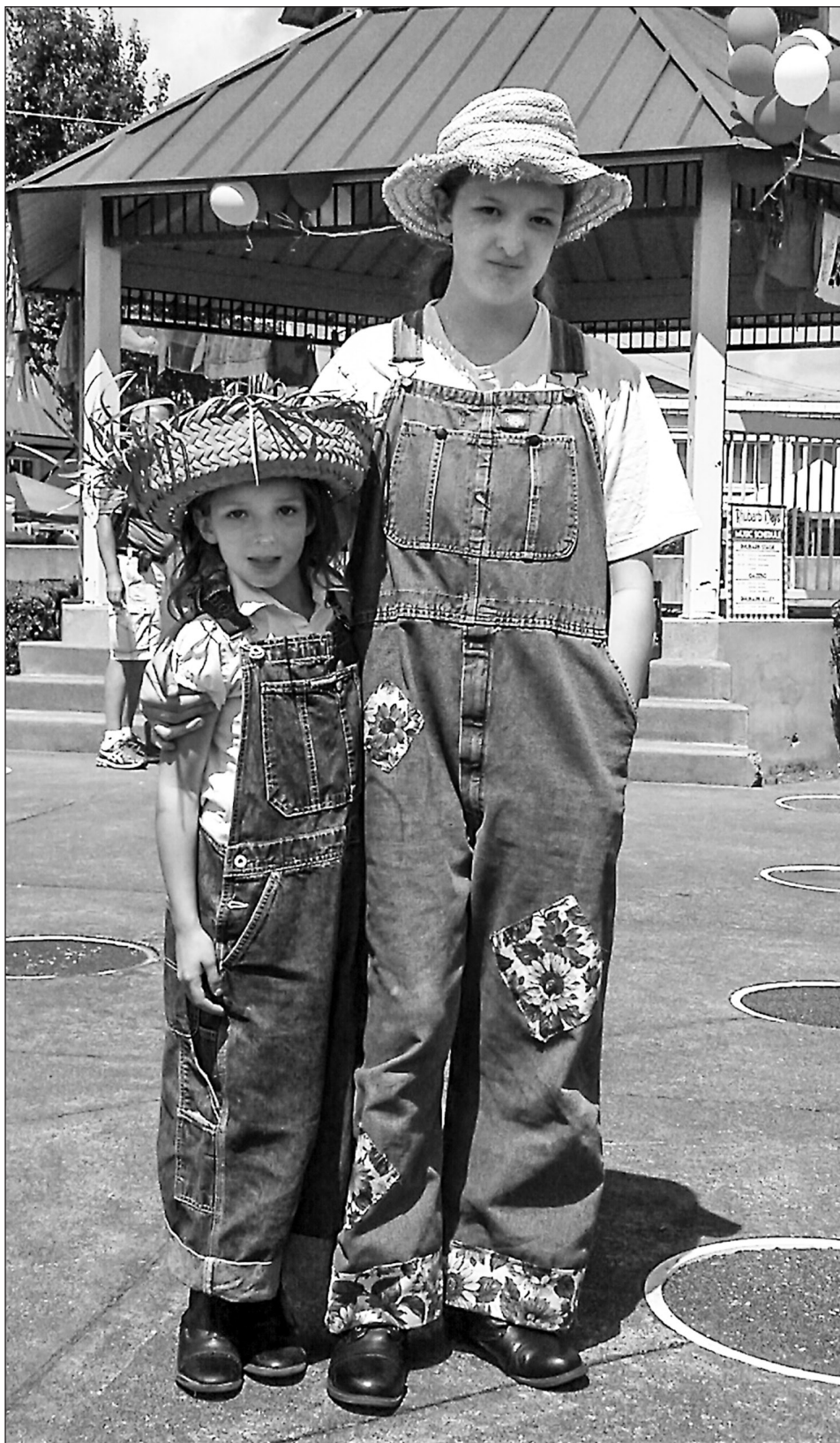


Photo by Stephanie Carlson
Elizabeth and Jessica Carlson are part of ACT 1 Theatre's new Dancing Farmers troupe.

Even more dancing in the streets

ACT 1's Farmers debut in advance of the Scarecrows

By Cliff Rowe

Everyone likes ACT1 Theatre's "Dancing Scarecrows." The troupe of shuffling humanoid mannequins-come-to-life have been frightening birds and delighting audiences for years now.

Not to be outdone by their agile-footed creations, the farmers themselves have slipped on their dancing shoes and are hoofing it around South Puget Sound venues.

If you took part this summer in Summer's Rhubarb Days or the Waterland Festival in Des Moines it's likely you saw the Dancing Farmers 2017 debut.

Actually, the Farmers first graced Pierce County streets three years ago for a one-time performance. And this summer the Summer Downtown Association wanted to switch from scarecrows to farmers for the Rhubarb Festival.

So, at ACT1, new costumes, new dance routines and—voila! —the Dancing Farmers were back to plow their way into the hearts of their audiences.

The scarecrows will re-emerge for the fall, beginning with an Oct. 6-8 road trip

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Photo by Vern Hagglund

The Dancing Farmers were Walking on Sunshine at the annual Waterland Parade in Des Moines on July 22. On hand to dance to the tune made famous by Katrina and the Waves were, from left to right: Nikia Martin, Toni Hagglund, Leo Hagglund, De Andre Martin, Andrew Arends, Destani Simmons and Josiah Cowart.

FARMERS

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appearance at Ridgefield in Clark County, for the “Bird and Brew Festival.” Then they head home for fall-festival performances in Orting and Sumner, both on Oct. 14.

Petra Karr, ACT1 Theatre’s artistic director, says she relishes the opportunity to enhance the traditional rural dimension of the area’s fall festivities. Plus, she says the street performances help prepare participants for live-theater involvement throughout the year.

Whether scarecrows or farmers they must learn to react to changes in physical settings, weather and audience all of which may benefit them in the future when faced with un-

foreseen developments on stage.

Karr cites their experience as they prepared for the Des Moines parade when the nine performers had to learn new music and its accompanying choreography in a 1 1/2 -hour rehearsal the weekend before the parade.

Working with the other performers also compels collaboration of those with varying levels of experience and ability, another desirable attribute in theater, Karr said.

The scarecrows, since their inception seven years ago, have drawn dancers ranging in age from 6 to 65.

Above all, she said, the dancers must learn to “sell it” (the drama and excitement of their performance) to those in the audience, whether they’re peddling images of scarecrows or the farmers who have created them.



ACT 1 Theatre

P.O. Box 1531
Sumner, WA 98390

info@act1theatre.org

253-447-4139

Theater:

Our performances
are held at the historic

Liberty Theater

116 W Main Ave
Puyallup, WA 98371

**ACT 1 Theatre is a 501(c)3
organization, and all
donations are tax deductible**



Donations are always
welcome.

Please visit us on
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The fate of local theater is in your hands

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Mayhem, love, greed, rivalry and relief: We've got it all in our upcoming season

The BEST Christmas Pageant EVER

Give your family the holiday gift of laughter with this hilarious Christmas classic, a couple struggling to put on a Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids—probably the most inventively awful kids in history.

You won't believe the mayhem when the Herdmans collide with the Christmas story head on!

Dec. 1 (7pm) • Dec. 2 (2 & 7pm)
Dec. 8 (7pm) • Dec. 9 (2 & 7pm)

Romeo and Juliet

When the children of two rival families fall in love, they must keep their new and budding romance a secret.

In this re-imagining of *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare's classic love story, the conventions of time and sequence have been manipulated to reposition the original dialog and plot lines to highlight new connections and themes for a modern audience. You will experience this love story as you have never before.

Feb. 9 (7pm) • Feb. 10 (2 & 7pm)
Feb. 16 (7pm) • Feb. 17 (2 & 7pm)

TICKETS

For season ticket and individual performances admission, please check out our website at www.ACT1Theatre.org

Charlotte's Web

Determined to save Wilbur the pig from the butcher, Charlotte the spider begins her campaign with the "miracle" of her web in which she writes, "Some pig."

It's the beginning of a campaign which ultimately ends with the now-safe Wilbur doing what is most important to Charlotte.

March 2 (7pm) • March 3 (2 & 7pm)
March 9 (7pm) • March 10 (2 & 7pm)

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

The 2014 Tony Awards winner for Best Play, *Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike* is a brilliant comedy written by Christopher Durang.

The story revolves around the relationships of three middle-aged single siblings, two of whom live together, and

takes place during a visit by the third, Masha and her young actor boyfriend.

They discuss their lives and loves, argue, and Masha threatens to sell the house.

April 6 (7pm) • April 7 (2 & 7pm)
April 13 (7pm) • April 14 (2 & 7pm)

Urinetown

Winner of three Tony Awards, three Outer Critics Circle Awards, two Lucille Lortel Awards and two Obie Awards, *Urinetown* is a hilarious musical satire of the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, municipal politics and musical theater itself!

In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets.

The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs.

Amongst the people, a hero decides that he's had enough and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom!

June 1 (7pm) • June 2 (2 & 7pm)
June 8 (7pm) • June 9 (2 & 7pm)

MARKET

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showcasing a variety of "local talents, productions and personalities that would not be as visible" if the market weren't there. As for ACT 1 Theatre's presence, "I would like to say we add additional color to the market and the community," he says.

Gintz, an accountant and financial planner in Puyallup for 29 years, and his wife Leigh have a long-standing interest in local area theater.

He sees participation in the farmer's market as an additional opportunity for the theater to be visible.

Most importantly, he says, it allows those with the theater, whether on stage or behind the scenes "to engage in conversations with

many community members, whether they be civic leaders or families out for a day at the market."

"It's a great place to connect and to tell our story," he says.

Gintz sees that story-telling process evolving as ACT 1 Theatre experiments with its market presence, perhaps including more live mini-performances as it blends in with the market's overall color and excitement.